

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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A newsletter for and about
the people of
St. Peter's Church

October 2018

Onward



Dates To Remember

October

- 6th Li
- 7th Blessing of the Animals
- 9th Kni
- 14th Family Church
- 21st SPY Mission Trip Presentation
Youth Communion Class begins
- 27th Trunk or Treat

November

- 4th Preparing for the Future
All Saints Day

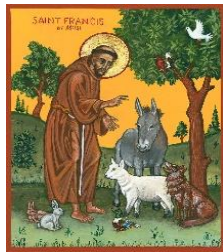


Stewardship is central to the life of a Christian disciple

The purpose of our lives is to grow in relationship with God. God designed our bodies and souls to be naturally calibrated to seek union with God. We, however, tend to resist this instinct. The whole point of religion and all our spiritual practices is to help us on our journey toward union with God and in the practice of *letting go into God*. This October, we will focus on one of the most important of these practices ó the Christian practice of Stewardship. Stewardship is the catalyst that spurs growth in Christian discipleship and in our relationship with God. It does this by our practice of letting go of the anxiety that surrounds our relationship with money. A recent collect prayed, "Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly and to hold fast to those things that endure."

Jesus teaches a great deal about how concern for money can cause us worry. Jesus' parables often show that the accumulation of riches can lead us to trust in wealth for our own security and can diminish our relationship with Jesus and our faith in God. The solid, intentional and generous practice of stewardship is a strong antidote to our tendency to trust in ourselves. For this reason, our 2019 stewardship theme is "Growing our faith through generosity." This week you will receive your stewardship packets. I invite you to prayerfully consider the contents as you reflect on this very important spiritual practice and invite you to give generously, not only for St. Peter's sake, but also for your own faith journey as a Christian disciple.

We are not only called to be stewards through our financial gift but also through the giving of our time and talents. In October, there will be other ways to express our stewardship as followers of Jesus:



Sunday, October 7 ó **Blessings of the Animals**. All are invited to bring their pets (or a picture of their pets) to either the 8am or 10am service for a blessing. (Yes, that is right bring your pets to church!) This tradition honors St. Francis and his deep lived conviction of the blessedness of creation and the Divine Presence that is underneath and a part of all things. This belief reminds us, too, of the responsibility we have as stewards of all of creation.

- Sunday, October 14 – **Family Church**. Our children will model for us joyful service as liturgical ministers, lay readers, choristers and active members of our community.
- Sunday, October 21 ó **SPY (St. Peter's Youth) Mission Trip Handback**. Come, listen and watch a video of our young people's stewardship on this past summer's mission trip.
- Saturday, October 27 ó **Trunk or Treat for the Nursery School**. We are looking for parishioners to bring their cars to the parking lot to host a Trunk or Treat for the families of St. Peter's Nursery School. Please arrive at 10:30 a.m. The children will be parading at 11:00 a.m. and the Trunk or Treat will end at 1 p.m. Please contact Serena Watkinson at hop26@yahoo.com.



In case you missed it
FALL FESTIVAL WAS A BLAST!!



SPY

St. Peter's Youth

Jr. SPY

Oct 14 and 21 4:00-5:30 pm

Sr. SPY

Oct. 13-14 Camping Trip
Oct. 20 Mission Trip OpShop
Fundraiser 10:00am
Oct. 21 Bi-Weekly meeting
5:30-7:00pm

Youth Confirmation 2019

St. Peter's will conduct classes in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation beginning Sunday, October 21. For those baptized at an early age, Confirmation is the Church's invitation to express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 860).

Though Confirmation is open to all, these classes will be geared toward youth. As determined by the Diocese of Newark, candidates must be in the eighth grade or older. Youth candidates must participate in the duration of the program (Oct-May) in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Please contact Father Anthony for further details and to register: fr.anthony.saintpeters@gmail.com

Peace,
Father Anthony+

Sunday School

Remember, new time 9:45

What a fantastic Welcome Back Sunday! We had 34 children in Sunday School, a record breaking 16 of which in the 4th-6th grade class! It's going to be a GREAT year!

We are doing pretty well with the new start time of 9:45, but please remember to make every effort to arrive on time so the children get the full benefit of our time together. As we press into fall both of the Godly Play classes will be spending time in the Old Testament. Some of the lessons are even in the desert which the children LOVE (ask them)!

The 4th-6th grade use Living the Good News, a curriculum especially for their age group. They read a lesson together, often the Gospel, discuss it and do a related activity. Their maturity and foundation from Godly Play allows for this type of exploration of the Bible and it is amazing what they uncover! Sunday School is a very special ministry and I'm feeling so blessed to have some new faces helping this year.

ALWAYS room for more, however. In a perfect year we'd have about 15 volunteers. If you'd like more information please reach out!

Faith & Peace,

Dana Leach, scottdanaL@aol.com,
973-364-7544

Family Church

Our first Family Church of the year will be on October 14th. I can't wait!! Family Church is such a special service with the children ushering, reading and carrying up the elements. They do a fabulous job and take these roles, usually done by adults, so seriously. There is also a children's sermon which all enjoy and the amazing and quickly growing Children's Choir will sing!

If your child(ren) would like to participate please let me know. Sadly, because of Teacher Convention there will be no November Family Church :(but we'll be back December 9th!

Faith & Peace,

Dana Leach, scottdanaL@aol.com,
973-364-7544

Thank You...

We would also like to give a huge THANK YOU to Toby West for all his help with the flooding in the Sunday School classrooms and Chris Corso, Christina Doyle and Scott and Ryan Leach for helping with the new shelves! We wouldn't have been ready to go without them!!



Playgroup September 2018

Littlest Parishioners Play Date!! Saturday, October 6th, 9:30-11:30

Playgroup in the fall!! Definitely ready for cooler temperatures! Our September playgroup was SO FUN! We had 7 families and 12 children (7 2 & 3 year olds, 3 babies and 2 older siblings)!! Our Littlest Parishioners' Playgroup meets the first Saturday of each month from 9:30-11:30 in the nursery school playground (or upper room if bad weather). It is for children 3 and under and their families and siblings. The children are learning to interact (a little) and parents are enjoying visiting and comparing notes on toddlers & babies :) Please join us! If you have questions contact Nat Bernardo at nathaliabernardo23@gmail.com or Dana Leach, 973-364-7544 or email scottdanaL@aol.com.

All Saints Day Sunday, November 4th

If you would like the name of a loved one read during the Negrology on All Saints Sunday, please send them to Eileen Andersen (eandersen.stpeters@gmail.com or 973-226-6500) no later than October 29th.

St. Peter's Weekly E-Newsletter

If you would like your St. Peter's-related event highlighted in our weekly e-newsletter, please send an email to Christine Corso at eblast.stpeters@gmail.com by noon Wednesday of the week you'd like it to appear. *Life at St. Peter's* is distributed to our parish family on Thursday mornings. Not receiving the blast? You may email Chris or subscribe using the link on our website.

Thanks, and happy reading! *Chris Corso*

Join us for a Special Night of Fellowship and Knitting! Tuesday, October 9th, 7-9 PM in the Church Office

Come enjoy fellowship with the special people of St. Peter's while knitting, or learning to knit, or just visiting with the knitters! Bring your knitting needles as we continue to work on the creation of mini prayer shawls and BIG prayer shawls. We will have supplies for those who are just starting out and experienced knitters to help you learn. The mini prayer shawls are a small investment of time with a big impact on those who need to be lifted up.

Did you know there is a basket of mini prayer shawls in the church office as well as one in back of the chapel and the main church? If you have a friend or family member who is in need of extra support for any reason you are welcome to pick one out for them and deliver it along with our prayers. Each mini prayer shawl has a tag which reads: *This mini prayer shawl is a symbol of God's Grace, Peace, and Love. Keep it in your pocket, reach in and touch it when you are lonely or need comfort. Let it remind you of God's presence. You are never alone.*

Whether you are a knitter or not we'd love for you to come! RSVP to Dana Leach (973) 364-7544 or scottdanaL@aol.com if you plan on attending so we can be sure to have enough food and drink for all or just show up!!!



Thank you everyone for volunteering to make the Saint Peter's Street Fair a huge success! We raised over \$13,000+ due to all your help!

Saint Peter's really shined to our community through your service and efforts! Many thanks for all your commitment of time, energy and hard work!

Pam Au

Thank you for all you do and give. Scripture also promises that God sees all that is done in secret and will reward each for their generosity. As St Paul reminds us: "God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Fr. Mike

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

On Sunday November 4, Health and Healing will present the first of two workshops to be held on planning for the future. Many parishioners have expressed an interest in looking at types of funeral liturgies including music and readings to help their families make informed decisions. Also covered will be funeral details to prepare, and the introduction to Five Wishes. Five Wishes includes: the person to make care decisions when you can't, kind of medical treatment you want, how comfortable you want to be, how you want people to treat you, and what you want your loved ones to know.

Michele Spell, a lawyer in our congregation, will also discuss estate planning. This workshop is beneficial for any age; please try to attend. We will be meeting in the Undercroft after the 10 am service and will last approximately 1 – 1 ½ hr.

Please call Susan Negrotto 201-637-2962, email sgnegrotto@yahoo.com with any questions.

Milestones

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| Baptisms | Hunter Keith Minges, grandson of Diane & George Waitts |
| | Noah Geoffrey Stern, son of Erin & Mitchell Stern |
| | Reid Andrew Swanson, son of Amber & Bryce Swanson |
| | Lila Diane Simko, daughter of Sandra & Joseph Simko |
| | Liam Patrick Duffy, son of Laura & Sean Duffy. |