



The Spire

The Newsletter of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Smyrna, Delaware



"A Community of Faith Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing"

September 2019

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Rector's Reflections...

Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being. When we read Jesus' actions in the Gospels, he healed and resuscitated people because in the Kingdom of God there is no illness or disease. Sickness is part of what is fallen in this world.

Jesus didn't heal everyone because that wasn't his primary mission. He came to proclaim the Kingdom of God now, model how individual people can choose the Kingdom on earth, and witness to the fact that God is non-violent. If he would have healed everyone in his area while he walked on earth, then sickness and death continuing could have become an argument for Jesus either not being the Messiah or not risen.

Through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection the powers and principalities in this world were defeated as was the power of death itself. Our God reigns supreme and won the ultimate war, for us and on our behalf, against everything that is fallen in this world.

However, the powers and principalities in this world can still wreak havoc through decisions that choose power, ego, money, etc. rather than God, love, and relationships. We know in faith that Jesus Christ reigns as Risen Lord, so we live in both kingdoms—this world with sin and unfairness and the Kingdom of God—simultaneously.

The Kingdom of God on earth is the presence and grace of God rather than the Garden of Eden where life is perfect. We choose the Kingdom of God on earth the same way Jesus did—one decision and experience at a time. One of those decisions is the words we use about God—most especially when we talk to ourselves.

During the long recovery ordeal with many medical setbacks of a well-beloved parishioner, people—in frustration and helplessness—would question why God wasn't doing something to help or how much more God was going to give this person.

While on vacation I started reading the book *Setting Captives Free: Personal Reflections on Ignatian Discernment of Spirits* by Fr. Timothy M. Gallagher, OMV. Fr. Gallagher has spent his vocation helping people understand the fourteen spiritual rules that St. Ignatius of Loyola included in his *Spiritual Exercises*. These rules help discern the spiritual movements of God from the spiritual movements that are not of God.

In reading this book I was reminded that throughout the rules, Ignatius is clear that God is always working for our good and that all spiritual desolation for those actively seeking to follow God is to be resisted, as it is not from God but from the enemy of human nature. It's also noted that spiritual desolation, brought on by negative events, is a part of life that cannot be escaped. However, these moments can be discerned so that in identifying and naming our spiritual desolation, we can actively work against it, which keeps us in conversation with God.

Ignatius does include a rule that addresses when we are in spiritual desolation and reasons we may not feel God's consolation. Yet even in these circumstances, God never abandons us; but gives us the grace needed to move against the spiritual desolation. These situations do require us to use our free will to choose spiritual habits that will empower us in the moment.

Just as Jesus was not protected by God from being unfairly hurt or negatively affected by the actions of others, so God does not protect us. What God provides is relationship. It was Jesus' relationship with God that guided and empowered him in his ministry. Relationship is what our Risen Lord and the Holy Spirit provide to us.

Our well-beloved parishioner referenced earlier has a great relationship with God and felt the presence and grace of God throughout most of his ordeal. Prayerfully walking alongside this person made me see the brokenness of our healthcare system, which added to his difficulties more than once.

These rules are the foundation that enables me to discern whether an action or inaction is God's or the enemy of human nature. The spiritual fruit of living these rules is always knowing that God is always with me and empowering me.

These fourteen rules do not protect us from what is fallen in this world. Instead, they help us stay connected to God even in the midst of fallen circumstances. They teach us where to look to find God when we feel lost and alone due to the burdens of life.

I highly recommend this book for your reading pleasure and relationship with God!

In Christ's Love and Service, *DJ+*



Outreach for 2019

Thank you for supporting our monthly Outreach Projects in 2018. We had a busy year and it is our hope that we have made a difference in our community. Our monthly schedule for 2019 will be the same as in 2018 and we will continue our on-going Outreach projects as well. The project for each month is listed below. If you have suggestions for Outreach projects, please contact me.

May we all have a giving heart in 2019!

Mary Sanders (302)-659-1466

Matthew 25:35-45

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- January – P.I.C. (Personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell~St. Paul's Church, Clayton
- February – "Souper Bowl of Caring" (funds collected), Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium
- March – Food of the Month - Food Pantry at Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna
- April – PIC (personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell St. Paul's, Clayton ERD Episcopal Relief and Development -ERD (funds collected) Lent Project
- May – Food of the Month - Food Pantry at Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna
- June – Home of the Brave Veterans Home, Milford (wish list items)
- July – Food of the Month - Food Pantry @ Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna
Alex's Lemonade Stand at the 4th of July Event, funds for Children's Cancer Research
- August – Back Pack Project for North Smyrna Elementary School
- September – Kent County Animal Shelter, Camden (wish list items)**
- October – Thanksgiving Dinner, Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium (funds & breakfast food items)
- November – DHCI Christmas for Residents, Smyrna (wish list items)
- December – Veterans United Outreach of Delaware (Gift Cards)



**September Harvest Sharing
First State Animal Center and SPCA**

During the month of September, we will be collecting items needed for God's creatures residing at Frist State Animal Center and SPCA in Camden. The center provides loving care for animals who are in need of forever homes. The mission of the center is to protect animals from people and to protect people from animals. No animal should live in an environment where cruelty and suffering exist. The center works to remove animals from these environments. And, the center strives to place well-adjusted animals in a loving home where they will be a good match for their forever family. Many of us share our homes with animals we love, care for and treat as members of our family. What precious gifts they are to us!

Until, these little guys and girls find a family to love them, the center takes good care of them and some items are needed to help with this work. The items listed below will help the center provide for the animals and keep the center clean. Your donations will be delivered to the center the week following the October 6th Blessing of the Pets Service.

Thank you for caring and sharing!

Mary Sanders



Wish List

- Can Cat food Pate
- Kitty Litter
- Cat toys
- Can Dog Food
- Hard Chew Toys
- Dog Treats
- Clorox Wipes
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Any size Trash Bags
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Dish Sponges
- Stamps



Harvest Sharing – August Follow-up
“Back to School – Backpack Project”

Dear St. Peter’s Family,

A very special “Thank You” to each of you that participated in the backpack outreach project. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, Chris and I delivered 56 backpacks to North Smyrna Elementary School. The Assistant Principal came out to our car and personally helped to unload all the backpacks and take them into the school. He was totally in “awe” at what our church family had donated. He said several times how much they were needed and also how very nice that the backpacks were. I told him that they were filled with all kinds of school supplies, lots of love and good wishes, and prayers that hopefully we could make a positive difference in the little ones school year and life. I felt very proud to say they came from St. Peter's Episcopal Church!

Your kindness to this cause is truly outstanding! We are not only reaching out to the children in our community, helping to get them off to a positive beginning of the school year, but also, we are reaching out to parents, grandparents and other caregivers by helping to lighten the financial burden of getting these much needed items.

Your kindness, love and support to this and all of our wonderful outreach projects we do at St. Peter’s is truly a blessing. May God bless each and every one of you.

A heartfelt Thank You!
Terry & Chris Merrill



♪ **Choir Notes** ♪

We welcome back the choir for the new season.

Choir Members:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Yvonne Belle | Tom Campbell | Ray DePhillis |
| Dawn Edwards | Lisa Embert | Wendy Lampe |
| Muff Meyers | Bill Walker | Duane Young |

Choir rehearsal will start back up on Thursday, September 5th, at 7:00pm in the Church. If you would like to be part of the choir please come and join us. All are welcome ☺

Phyllis Moses, Music Minister



RIVERDANCE Bus Trip
The 25th Anniversary World Tour
Only 15 Tickets still available!!

Where: American Music Theatre (Lancaster, PA), after first arriving at Shady Maple, @ 10am for shopping then @ 11:30am eating lunch

When: Saturday, January 18, 2020 – 2:00pm Show
Departing St. Peter’s – 7:30am
Arriving Back – 6:00pm

Price: Adults (18+) = **\$104.00**
Youth (11-17) = **\$104.00**
Children (4-10) = **\$ 92.50** (meal is lower)

For tickets or questions see Mo. Donna Jean or contact the office.



St. Peter’s Preschool Wish List

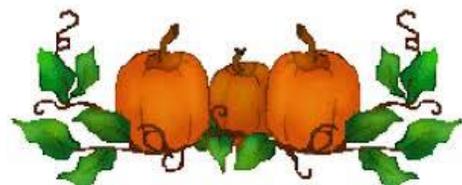
Vinyl Bean Bag Chairs – Would like 4



Toy Bin Organizer - 1



Book Shelf - 1



First Day of Autumn

September 23rd!!

**“WHAT’S HAPPENING”
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

September

- 9/3 Patty Murray
- 9/4 Tom Campbell
- 9/8 Wendy Lampe
- 9/12 Stan McIntyre, Jason Triviets
- 9/13 Jennifer Margavage
- 9/14 Judy Sbarra, Kathy Steele
- 9/17 Jim Cronin, Terry Villanueva
- 9/18 Doug Miller, Juan Rodriguez
- 9/20 Evy Jacobs
- 9/21 Mitch Gauge
- 9/24 Allison Embert
- 9/26 Sandy Margist

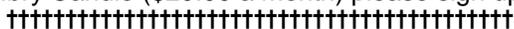
Anniversaries

- 9/10 Kathy & Smoke Steele
- 9/10 Jake & Lauren Steele
- 9/21 Jim & Becky Correll
- 9/27 Dave & Evy Jacobs
- 9/28 Robb & Patti Davies
- 9/30 Paul & Paula Buckley



If anyone would like to brag about a milestone birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement, birth of a child or grandchild or any major event in your lives, this is the place to do it!!! Call the office and we'll make sure to get it into the Spire so we can all enjoy your news!!

If you would like to have the Altar flowers put in Church In Memory of or in Thanksgiving for someone, please sign your name next to the date on the charts in the Parish Hall (next to the kitchen). **The florist will bill you** (Note: the price for both vases is \$40.00) or if you would like to have the Aumbry Candle (\$20.00 a month) please sign up.



ALTAR FLOWERS – September

- 1st Paul & Paula Buckley
- 8th Kathy Eichler
- 15th Cheryl Thornton
- 22nd
- 29th

AUMBRY CANDLE – September

Paul & Paula Buckley

September Parish Cycle of Prayer:

- 1st Abraham, Nancy, Daniel & Abraham, Jr. Saamoi
Mary & Jim Sanders
- 8th Jim & Judy Sbarra
Rachael Singleton
- 15th William & Linda Slicher
Bill & Kathy Spanarelli
- 22nd Millie & Jerry Spencer
Kathy & Smoke Steele
- 29th Larry & Cheryl Thornton
Jason Triviets, Mhargo Bachtel & Scarlett Rose



Patter from Preschool

With the days getting shorter and the air getting cooler it can only mean one thing, Preschool is Back!

The voices of 23 children (between the 2 classes) will fill the Parish Hall with songs, laughter, and the sounds of moving feet. We still have one vacancy in the 3's to fill. We had a very successful "Meet and Greet" on Wednesday, August 28th and "Parent Orientation" on Thursday, August 29th. The children return back to school on September 3rd for our 4 year old class and September 5th for our 3 year old class. The children will learn all about our school and all that our building offers other than school, as well as all the people that work in our school and help keep our school as wonderful as it is.

The month of September offers the children a chance to celebrate Grandparents, with Goodies for Grandparents and school pictures.

Enjoy the last few weeks of Summer,
Tina Morris
Director/Teacher



Important/Fun Dates for September:

- 9/2 Labor Day
- 9/6 Read a Book Day
- 9/8 Grandparents Day
- 9/11 Patriot Day
- 9/13 National Peanut Day
- 9/18 U.S. Air Force Birthday
- 9/18 National Cheeseburger Day
- 9/19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 9/20 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 9/22 Elephant Appreciation Day
- 9/23 First Day of Autumn
- 9/28 National Good Neighbor Day



September 3rd & September 5th



Welcome Back St. Peter's Preschooler's!

