

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER April, 2008

Our mission is to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others.

Office: 610-828-3098

Fax: 610-828-3232

3025 Church Road

Lafayette Hill PA

E-mail: revtodd@stpetershl.org /

info@stpeterslh.org

19444-1707

On the web: www.stpeterslh.org

PASTOR'S CORNER

1 Kings 9:3 The Lord said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you made before me; I have consecrated this house that you have built, and put my name there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

These are the words to Solomon when he finished building the house of the Lord. We have prayed to God and pleaded to Church members, the architect, the builders and the township. We are *finally* entering into our new space and enjoying these blessing which God made possible through the many people involved in this process. The Church staff who have had to work around the mess. The Building Committee who have attended early morning meetings since the first day of construction, the Council who has had to keep the ministry moving forward during this time, and you - the members of St. Peter's. Your patience during these past 16 months of construction have been appreciated. Some of you could not attend worship once we had to demolish the bathrooms on the worship level. Many had to deal with the daily dust and dirt. Some programs such as our Fine Arts Series had to be put on hold. But we are now at the point of completion.

As God said to Solomon, he also says to us, *"I put my name there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time."* All of the inconvenience we have dealt with is worth it when we remind ourselves that it was done to honor God. God's eyes and heart *will* be here for all time. What we have done will be a blessing to a congregation that will worship here long after all of us are in God's Heavenly Kingdom. You have helped be a part of St. Peter's continuing history. I thank God for his blessings, and I thank you for your ministry in this project. Now we can move forward to continue to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others.

Gratefully Yours,

YOUNG FAMILY GROUP NEWS.



Palm Sunday began on a beautiful note with the Children's Choir singing with the "Grown-Ups" Choir. The Lord's face was definitely shining down upon us as St. Peter's was filled with such a joyful noise. Thanks to Pastor Todd for leading the children's choir and to the kids for doing such a great job!

The day then ended on a sweet note with our annual Easter Egg Scramble held in the sparkling clean Fellowship Hall (kudos to Charles Skutches and Bob Blundin). Thank you so much to everyone who donated candy, prizes and plastic eggs, especially Linda Wargo who donated 3 Webkins. Also, big hugs to everyone who worked so hard stuffing over 900 eggs, bringing in food, setting up and cleaning. The event ran smoothly due to Robert "The Voice" Guzik and Chef Extraordinaire, Kristen Guzik.

Super special thanks to Anne Santaniello for keeping up the family tradition of making the Egg Scramble such a special and memorable day for kids of all ages.

The staff of Silver Springs was so appreciative when we delivered 6 huge shopping bags of toys, books and toiletries. Thank you to everyone who donated the items most especially Amy Pezzano who gave 3 bags of brand new toys.

Silver Springs needs new toys, gently used books and kid-friendly toiletries year 'round. Please place any donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you_

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ♥ALEX'S LEMONADE STAND, APRIL 13TH BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP
- ♥MUFFINS FOR MOTHERS FUNDRAISER FOR LAUREL HOUSE, MAY 4TH
- ♥DONUTS FOR DADS/UGLY TIE CONTEST, JUNE 15TH



**St. Peter's Childrens Choir
prepare to sing on Palm Sunday.
A DIFFERENT TYPE OF STEWARDSHIP: St.
Peter's is Having a Car Show!**

In a new venture for St. Peter's, we will be hosting an antique and classic car show on **June 14th** this year—the day before Father's Day!

What a great way to show off St. Peter's by participating in a festive environment where some 120 cars, all over 25 years old, will adorn the parking lot amid food provided by the SPY Group, a disc jockey and

prizes for the top thirty entrants.

John Lewis suggested this idea to the Council some months ago, and a core committee was formed to get things underway—they have been meeting regularly. Donations will support the effort to advertise in some collector publications and websites, as well as the prizes for the winners. John says, "The collector car hobby appeals to almost every age, and this event is more than a great way to promote the mission of St. Peter's and to help in our stewardship efforts at the same time. Registrants will pay twenty-five dollars each; hopefully, we will have a full parking lot for this first-time effort!"

It is planned that parking for our members and guests from the community and surrounding neighborhoods will be behind the Barren Hill Fire Company and at Lowne's Funeral Home parking lot. A shuttle bus will be available. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the trophies being awarded at 3 p.m. to the top thirty entrants. Registrants will be advised to be in place no later than 9:30.

If you are interested in showing a car (or know someone who might have one to show), please call 215.482.4628 or e-mail oshaacom@att.net for a registration form. If you are interested in helping out on the 14th, call or e-mail at the same address, and we will have a job for you!

**Seminarian Farewell Potluck
& China Presentation**

May 4 will be Joe and Katy's last Sunday at St. Peter's! In addition to saying goodbye at the worship services that day, we will also host a farewell dinner that afternoon. Dinner will be from 5:30-6:30, after which Katy and Joe will make a presentation about their trip to China and their experiences with the Christian church there.

Preschool Pages

Registration is OPEN! We are hoping to fill new classrooms for next year and will offer more 5 day classes for 4 and 5 year old students. We are also introducing a toddler program but will only have one class, so tell your friends to register early! Check the narthex for a pamphlet to take with you and share with families with preschoolers! The nursery school is gearing up for the end of the year extravaganzas! Parent Teacher Conferences will be held the first week of April before kindergarten registration. We enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny as Easter was in March this year and now we are getting ready for the Nursery School Sunday and the Art Show for Autism, April 27th and 29th. Our spring fund raisers include candle and flower sales. You can see Mrs. Graham or call the school at 610-828-1461 at any time if you want to participate by purchasing these items. Happy Spring!

Spy news!

Thank you to Scott Thomas, Corey O'Brien, Kyle & Ian Blundin, Sam Silbiger and his friend Ben, Kyle McGarry, Lauren Daneke, Alexis Hyczko, Kayla Kirshchenmann, Maddie Griffin, Sarah Silbiger and her friend Stephanie for presenting the Good Friday drama. Once again it was a moving experience for all attending. The youth enjoyed pizza and chips after rehearsal and talked about the National Conference in 2009! Kyle McGarry and Corey O'Brien had recently seen "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Keswick Theater and especially enjoyed King Herod's solo sung to "JC" We all agreed to meet the same time, same place next year!

If you are interested in being a part of "Helping Hands Day 2008" we must register by April 4th- Please let Mrs. Graham know asap! This years theme is Shine Like Stars in the World and we will meet and then drive to our service work. Last year we helped all afternoon at a local thrift shop and despite some navigational challenges had a great time.

Youth Sunday is coming up in April and we will be writing a dramatic dialogue to illustrate the message in Matthew 25:31-46 *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Please email Mrs.Graham, djjk0099@aol.com if you are interested in participating. We will also need ushers, readers and greeters as that day will be OUR Sunday to "run" things.

PARENTS: We would like to offer a brunch to the youth presenting on Youth Sunday, between the 8 am and 10:00 services. Please contact either Deb Graham or Danielle O'Brien to help out with food and/or services.

- Spy meeting – April 6 following 10:00 a.m. service!
- Return to church to help as servers for the Building dedication!
- YOUTH SUNDAY Rehearsal – April 12th at 4p.m
- YOUTH SUNDAY – April 13th both the 8 am and 10 service
- SPY – It's not too late to be a Sunday School teacher. It is a great experience and the younger kids really look up to you as a role model and example for them.

The SPY groups will be participating in the Car show to provide food as a fund raiser for their trip to New Orleans in 2009! Look forward to supporting all their efforts to offset the cost for that important mission!

Thank you to the Young Families Group for the Great Egg Scramble!! The children at Sunday School could barely contain their excitement. But Mr. Guzik and Mrs. Pezzano did a good job coordinating the orderly "scramble" for eggs! The children made a wonderful poster under the artistic direction of Kelly Graham. On Palm Sunday we all made Easter Cards for the shut-in and decorated the poster with palm leaves to welcome Jesus!

Lessons coming up for April include;

"Standing up for what we Believe, Jesus is Alive, Peace be with You! Called to do an important job and Jesus is with Us." We always have a cool project to do after our lessons and a snack too! Bring your children and give them the wonderful experience of Sunday School! If you have any questions or want to volunteer let Mrs. Graham know! You can leave a message on her church/school number 610-828-1461!

Thank you Nancy Barr for offering these heart warming "Children in Church" anecdotes!

A little boy was overheard praying, "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

One particular four-year-old prayed: "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

Look for Vacation Bible School info soon! This year's dates are July 14-18, 2008!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY - APRIL 20, 2008
11:00 a.m.

Download copies of the
Constitution & By-Laws
from the Website at
"www.stpeterslh.org"

Agenda:
Approve recommended
Constitutional and
By-Law Changes

Copies also available from the
Office.

During its March meeting, the Congregational Council devoted most of its focus on a discussion of stewardship, conducted by John Lewis. John and other members of the stewardship committee have worked hard to define the outlines of a campaign using a variety of practical steps for building a solid commitment and foundation for the financial and spiritual support of St. Peter's. The stewardship committee and Council are dedicated to improving stewardship ministry.

The newly formed interior design committee is underway to help guide the design of the new spaces available in church. Youth Sunday has been scheduled in April. The dedication of the new building is to be held on April 6, 2008 at 4 p.m. Bishop Claire S. Burkat will be our preacher at this worship service. Our Young Families Committee has been busy...with the recent Easter egg hunt featuring 800 eggs. Other upcoming events are muffins for Mom in May and doughnuts for Dad in June. A special Congregational meeting has been scheduled for April 20, 2008 to allow the members to vote on the proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws. Copies of the proposed changes are available for viewing at St. Peter's web site. Additional copies are available in the church office for viewing.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The social ministry committee recently met for planning session for their 2008 campaign. In April, they will collect bath towels, soap, and other toiletry items to be distributed to the needy. In May, the committee will undertake a campaign to collect telephone calling cards to be distributed to the members of our armed services. Members of the congregation will be encouraged to buy these cards from our script program which will also benefit St. Peter's. A blood drive has been scheduled for Saturday, June 7. Also, in June, the social ministry committee will be conducting a food drive for Colonial Neighborhood Council. And, during July and August, we will kick off a "backpack" program collecting backpacks and other school items for children. More details will be given as we kick off each event.

FAREWELL JEAN MATTHEWS

After 15 years of serving as St. Peter's Secretary, Jean is retiring at the end of April. She *emphatically* stated that she does not want a luncheon or a dinner or any sort of fuss. We tried to twist her arm and torture her into submission, but apparently 15 years as a church secretary has toughened her up to the

point that she would not give in. So we are respecting her wishes. However, there will be a short presentation at the opening of the Congregational Meeting on April 20th to express our appreciation for her 15 years of service. Please make it a point to attend and show your appreciation.

NEW SECRETARY / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Bernadette McMeans will begin her duties part-time during the month of April, working on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Jean Matthews will continue working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during the month of April until she retires at the end of the month.

Bernadette will be familiar to any of you who had children attending the Shawmont Elementary School in Roxborough, since she served as their office secretary for over 30 years. She was also an active member at Epiphany Lutheran Church serving on their Worship & Music Committee, Sunday School Superintendent, and on the Altar Guild. Her combination of office skills and church background made her an excellent person for this position.

Beginning on May 1st, Bernadette will begin working Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. We look forward to having her as a part of our staff.

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

April 6th 3rd Sunday of Easter
8:30 & 10:00 Communion at both services.
4:00 p.m. Building Dedication Service
Open House & Dinner

April 13th 4th Sunday of Easter
8:30 & 10:00 Youth Sunday

April 20th 5th Sunday of Easter
11:00 Congregational Meeting

April 27th 6th Sunday of Easter
Nursery School Sunday

NURSERY SCHOOL SUNDAY

April 27th - 10:00 a.m.

This Sunday is always a treat. The sanctuary is always decorated with festive artwork done by the children and staff of St. Peter's Weekday Nursery School. The Children will be singing during worship and there will be a group activity during Sunday School. Following worship the entire congregation is invited to a party in the Fellowship Hall. This is the Nursery School's way of saying Thank You to St. Peter's for allowing them to have such a wonderful facility to have their school. Be sure not to miss this un Sunday!

Dear Pastor Todd,

We would like to thank you, Sarah Cohen, and all of our friends at St. Peter's for the fantastic assortment of gift items for the boys and girls of Silver springs-Martin Luther School. We thank you for remembering the children with an array of child friendly items like the young art set, six-sided play cube, personal crawl mat, remote control truck, board games, socks, personal care items, and all the other items. We are grateful to you and the St. Peter's Community for your exceptional support of the children. Best wishes always.

Joan Piasecki
Gift Coordinator

RUMMAGE SALE

May 9th & 10th

Okay! It's finally time to be all of your stuff in for the Rummage Sale. We appreciate you keeping it at home until now. Anytime from April 7th (*after* the Building Dedication - Open House) until April 30th you may bring your treasures to the Martin Luther Room. That is the room at the bottom of the main stairs and to the right. Follow the signs that will be posted. Items will be stored their until the Rummage Sale group sorts it and begins to put in on display. They are looking for clothing, household items, White Elephants, Books, Jewelry and other special treasures you would like to donate. Be sure to mark your calendar so you can come to the sale and secure someone else's treasures.

Dear Members of St. Peter's Church,

I wish to express my appreciation to everyone who sent me get well wishes following my automobile accident. The many heart warming messages definitely warmed my heart and sped my recovery.

My sincere thanks to everyone who sent me a card, called me, and kept me in his or her prayers.

Sincerely
Jane Schultz