

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2008

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

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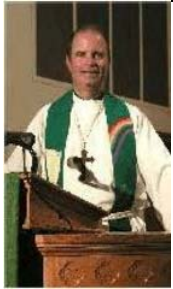
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PASTOR'S CORNER

GOING ON VACATION!!!! It's no secret that I like to travel. Whether it's to visit friends across the country or across the world, it's fun to travel. It's nice to have a period of time where my responsibilities are put on Hold and I don't have to wear a watch and keep track of a schedule. It gives you a chance to let your brain shut down for a while and read something simply for the sake of enjoyment. When you're hungry it's lunch time; tired it's nap time; you can simply relax.

We all like those periods of recreation, or perhaps we should call it "Re-Creation". When God created humanity they were placed in a garden with everything they needed. Then that "sin" happened and they were banished and life became complicated. God never intended for it to be complicated, but we managed to make it that way. Things haven't changed much over the years. Our lives become complicated because of things we do. Yes, we try and say it's due to things that happen to us. But it is usually because we put ourselves into complication situations or uncomfortable positions. Then we want God to take away the consequences and are making our lives complicated. So it is good that we have times of "Re-Creation," times when we can get away, pray, reflect, and try to get ourselves back into the type of person God created us to be.

As much as it is nice to go away, it is also nice to return home. Home to your own bed, familiar surroundings, and yes, even back to the normal routine. So maybe you have been taking a vacation from Church and that normal routine of coming to worship on Sunday morning was broken. Summer is a good time to get back to doing what God's wants us to do – Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Work on your Re-Creation in becoming the person God wants you to be. There are friends here waiting to welcome you home.

God knows that we need time for rest. God sees us in our struggles. But sometimes we forget that it is God who said, "Come to me you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Bring your burdens to church with you, but leave them here when you depart.

So enjoy your vacation. Take God with you. We'll look for you in church when you return.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. R. Bruce Todd

From Vicar Jim Goodyear...



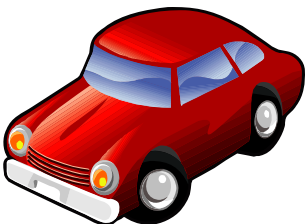
As I begin my internship at St. Peter's I am filled with awe as I look at the life of this congregation. A ministry that began *before* the American Revolution and continues to serve God and the community surrounding Lafayette Hill over 250 years later. A ministry that is welcoming, sharing and experiencing the love of Jesus Christ with one another.

You may wonder what is a vicar? The easiest definition is a "pastor in training" under the leadership of a Supervisor/Pastor (Pr. Todd) and a committee. It is a time as a student I can try out and further develop my ministerial role with a congregation. There will be opportunities for me to learn, practice and experience what it means to be a pastor of a congregation. There will also be opportunities for me to share in the ministry of this synod's ministry and the greater church. I will assist in all related aspects of ministry, specifically with St. Peter's.

I will also work with an Internship Committee who will help prepare me for pastoral ministry. These persons act as my 'eyes and ears' of the congregation. We meet monthly to discuss my pastoral experiences and suggestions for further development. In addition I will be developing a Learning Covenant that outlines a plan for growth and development. The following persons are serving in this capacity - Celeste Chamberlain (chair), Ellen Daneke, Jack & Carolyn Hanel, Keith Hokanson, Rod Lockard, and Bob Wentz. Keep these people in prayer over the coming year. Pray the Holy Spirit be present in all we do. If you have any questions about the Internship process, see any of these persons.

You can visit the church's website www.stpeterslh.org to read my biography. I look forward to getting to know you and discover how we can continue to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others.

Vicar Jim



CAR SHOW SUCCESS

On June 14, 2008 St. Peter's Lutheran Church held its first Annual Antique Car Show! From all preliminary reports, the event was a success!

Thirty-five participants brought high-quality collector cars to display from across the region and shared stories and fellowship with one another and several of the St. Peter's community. The SPY (St. Peter's Youth) Group sold hot dogs, ice cream and sodas, and the hungry participants and spectators cleaned out much of the inventory!

The final report for Council will be prepared and submitted soon. The Committee will meet to discuss what we have learned from this first venture. John Lewis, the show director and chair of the SPLC committee, thanked everyone on the committee and all those who volunteered to make the event successful. This effort is indeed a different kind of happy Stewardship



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Our June AT&T campaign continues. Please consider buying a telephone card for our men and women in the service. It's only \$10 and St. Peter's will get \$2 for every card purchased.

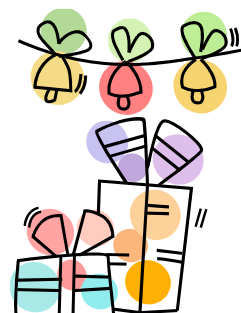
We are also continuing to collect the tabs from aluminum cans. Please collect them and drop them off in our jar in the narthex.

We hosted a blood drive for the Red Cross on June 7th and collected 24 pints of blood. Thank you St. Peter's for hosting this important function and thanks to all our donors.

EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thank you to everyone who participated in the "Everyone's Birthday Party" The tables were beautiful. Special thanks to Wayne Goshen for all his help with the set-up.

January- Kaner Rauscher & Eleanor Rankin
February- Linda Trembath & Anne Santanello
March- Jodi Ash & Sue Walton
April- Claire Riggs & Ursula Schwartz
May- Durrell & Mary Reichley
June- Joanne Kirschenmann & Mary Mellor
July- Libby Griffin & Pat Bradley
August- Meg Huber & Family
September- Kristen Guzick & Karen Lorence
October- Sarah Cohen & Kristen Hokanson
November- Sandy Silbiger & Partner
December- Jean Matthews & Marge Guldner



If you are interested in signing-up for a table next year, contact Stacey Levins @ 610-272-9262



CONGRATULATIONS to our 2008 Graduates

Ryan Wendler from Villanova Nikole Stever from Drexel
Nolan McMahon from PW High School and going to Penn State Smeal School of Business
Ryan Anderson from Fordham University, B.S. in Finance
Becky Molotsky from Temple University, Highest Honors in Sociology & Spanish

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers are an example of God's creation and help To enhance our worship services. They may be placed in memory, or in honor of someone special. Call the Church Office to sign up for a week. Each bouquet cost \$25.

JULY/AUGUST Changes

Transfer: Donald Koonta June 9, 2008

Deaths: Charlotte Lees June 4, 2008



SPY (St. Peter's Youth)

Calendar

Next SPY meeting- Sunday July 12th following 10 am service

Thanks to everyone who participated in our "Kid Sitting" night in May. The kids put on an incredible Talent Show for Mrs. Graham with solos by Gemma Cohen and Caroline Melillo. Carlin Ash did amazing tricks with a hula hoop and Jamie Ash and Sydney Melillo were gymnasts extraordinaire. But they saved the best for last as Alex Gera and Kayla Kirschenmann sang a Jazz number fit for any coffee house in Philly. Beginning in August look for monthly "kid sitting" nights with themes planned by SPY for the children

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Bring the kids for a Christmas party on Saturday July 19th. The fun starts at 2:00 pm. Santa will be visiting on vacation and we invited him to join us for a cool party! The elves have promised games including Christmas cooking decorating, face painting, Christmas cards and photos with Santa. This would be a great way to get a jump on your Christmas card pix.

JESUS JUSTICE & JAZZ

We are all excited about The National Youth Gathering in 2009. So far we have about 8 youth who have confirmed interest and the SPY groups will be working hard to raise \$ to support this effort. Please contribute however much you can to help the youth of St. Peter's! SPY have several fund raising ideas including travel coffee mugs, scratcher coupon cards and will coming to you soon for your support. Please say yes when they ask.

For more information on the National Youth Gathering you can check out the website at <http://archive.elca.org/youth/gathering.html>

REVELATION GENERATION 2008!

A Christian Rock Concert is planned at Revelation Farms in Frenchtown New Jersey during the weekend of August 29-30th. Bands include Newsboys, Chris Tomlin, Tobymac, Skillet, Flyleaf, The Myriad, August Burns Red and many more! Ticket prices start at \$25 general admission for Friday night up to \$90 Premium viewing for the full event if purchased by July 30th. If you are interested in attending let Mrs. Graham know and maybe we can get a group together to carpool. Look in the narthex for information cards & posters.

You can also call 908-483-2203 or visit www.RevelationGeneration.org or myspace.com/revelationgenerationorg

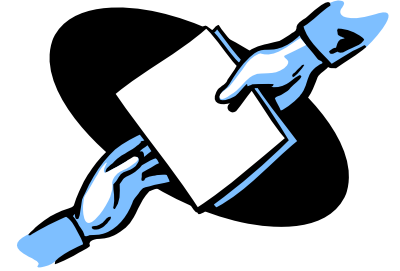
PLEASE LET MRS. GRAHAM KNOW IF ANYONE FROM SPY CAN VOLUNTEER AT VBS DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 7TH-11TH IT'S LOADS OF FUN AND WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP.



REPORT FROM COUNCIL

Give, and it will be given to you

During the June Council meeting, we learned that our congregational giving is behind and we now need to borrow money from our endowment fund to pay our bills. As a result, Council considered several options. We will continue our discussions next month but until then, we unanimously voted to have the entire church staff work a modified work week, closing the office on Fridays, so that we can turn off the air conditioning and reduce our utilities by 20%. All staff members will work the same number of hours, either working additional hours Monday through Thursday, or work at home on Fridays. This is not the answer to our budget challenges, but it is one step we can take to immediately reduce expenses.



This is a serious problem, but it looks like one that can be solved with your help....and it's painless.

It seems that many of us, on those Sundays that we are away or just don't make it in, don't remember to send in our giving envelope. If everyone just remembered to write out a check every week and send it in, we'd be in much better financial shape. One way to solve this problem is to sign up for "Simply Giving". It's easy to do. "Simply" bring a voided check to the church office and ask our Business Manager, Hal Schwartz for the proper form. Next month your offerings will automatically be transferred from your account to the church's account. Then, if you are away, or forget, you're covered.

We all know that today's economy presents a challenge. Fuel prices are literally double what they were just two summers ago. Unfortunately, St. Peter's has to pay those same increased bills. Jesus makes the promise that if we give, we will receive in return from the Lord.

Please sign up for Simply Giving, by bringing a VOIDED Check to the office and give it to Business Manager Hal Schwartz. He will take the appropriate information of when you want the transfer to take place. It can be weekly, monthly, semi-monthly and put into the General Offering and the Building Fund as you designate. This is especially important during the summer with vacation season.

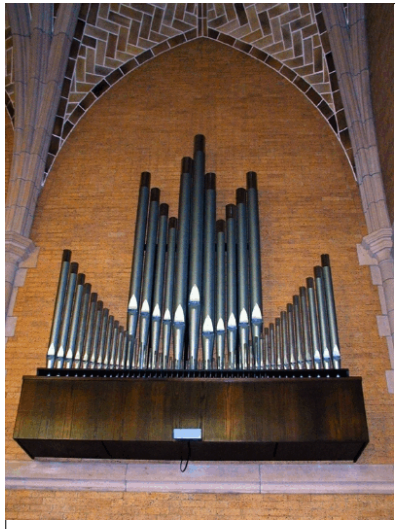
HUMAN SEXUALITY SOCIAL STATEMENT STUDY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) would like some feed-back on their proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality. They are sending a team from the ELCA's National office in Chicago to conduct this survey. Interested parties from throughout the synod are invited to attend this session, which will be held on Saturday morning, August 2nd from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. right here at St. Peter's. To download an advance copy of this proposed Social Statement, go to website www.elca.org/faithfuljourney .

PIPE ORGAN ENHANCEMENTS

When our beautiful Pipe Organ was installed back in the 1960's it was only 85% completed. Two row2 of 32' Pedal pipes were never built, as well as several manual stops such as an oboe, solo flute, principals,

and some harmonic pipes. The cost in addition to the limitations on space cause the final stage of the organ to be postponed until a future date. Well that future date has arrived



Marion Graham served on the original Organ Committee as was always disappointed that the instrument was never completed. Her love of music and dedication to her church always kept this project in her heart and mind over these many years. She would always sit toward the front to receive the full effect of the organ sound.

The family of Marion Graham knew of her disappointment in this project being unfinished. Since Marion's death, they were thinking of ways to honor her memory. As they gathered around the dining room table for Easter dinner, they made the decision to use money given in Marion's memory to finish the construction of our fine organ. This financial gift took care of the problem of not having the funds to complete the project. However, there was still the limitation of space for additional pipework.

Walker Technical is the company that rebuilt our Organ Console a few years ago. Another of their tasks is adding digital electronic enhancements to existing pipe organs. They will be installing the electronic equipment to finish our organ specifications without taking as much space as would be required for pipes to be installed. This work should be completed in time for our July 4th celebration.

ANTIPHONAL DIVISION INSTALLED

As you sit in various seats throughout our Sanctuary you can't help but notice that up front you are overwhelmed at times by the sound of the organ. If you walk from the front to the rear, about 40% of that sound drops off as you pass the cross-aisle.

In order to get sound to the back half of the church, the organist often has to over play so that sound from the front can go to the rear and support hymn singing. How can this problem be solved?

An Antiphonal Division is being added to the organ. This is also possible through the family of Marion Graham. You will notice speakers in the rear of the church mounted high on either side of the stained glass window. This new division will help balance the sound throughout the church. It also gives the organist the option of providing a sort of echo in the rear of the church, answering music from the front. This installation would have exceeded Marion's expectations as well as the rest of the members of the Organ Committee. We give thanks to the family of Marion Graham as well as those who gave to her Memorial Fund. We look forward to hearing these joyful sounds praising God For years to come.

DEDICATORY RECITAL

There will be a Concert of Dedication in Fall to demonstrate the new installations to our fine instrument. The date and details are yet to be determined. Announcements will be made in the September newsletter.