

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER June, 2008

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

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PASTOR'S CORNER

*"No one can serve two masters; You cannot serve God and wealth.
Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life. Look at the birds of the air;
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father
feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? If God so clothes the grass of
the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not
much more clothe you--you of little faith?"*

This text from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the sixth chapter of Matthew is especially appropriate at this time of year when we are all worrying about gas prices, rising food costs, and an unstable economy. We worry about things when we know that the worry will not do anything to change the situation. And yet - we worry. But we say we are people of faith. We agree that God will take care of us *more* than the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. And yet - we worry. Why? Don't we believe God?

This text is from the appointed lessons for the Second Sunday after Pentecost. As I am preparing my sermon for that Sunday, I came across this little poem.

Said the robin to the sparrow,
I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush around and worry so.

Said the sparrow to the robin,
Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.

Now we know this isn't true. But to the sparrow, the robin, and everyone else who sees us worry as we do, it must *look* like that is true. It seems interesting that Church attendance is down, when you would think we would be coming to Church to pray more. Offerings are down too? Is that because the gas in our tank is more important to us than our faith in God? I don't really think so, but we worry - worry that God isn't going to continue to supply for our needs like he has always supplied for our needs and will continue to supply for our needs.

We are people of faith. We need to live like people of faith. Okay - these *are* times to be concerned. But our God tells us they are not times to worry. We are God's people - more important than the birds in the air and the flowers of the field. God *will* take care of us. That's a promise!

In His Service,

Everybody's Birthday Party Sunday, June 8th - 11:00 a.m.

There will be a table decorated for each month of the year.
A special Birthday Cake will be on each table.
You are invited to sit at the table of your Birth-Month and
ENJOY THE PARTY!!!!



Social Ministry is Collecting "pop tops" for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House®

The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House® has collected over 141 tons of tabs which translates into more than \$109,320 since the program started eleven years ago. Because of the community support for programs such as this, families can stay at the Ronald McDonald House for no more than \$15 a night. **St Peter's can help!** Save tabs from food and beverage cans. Bring them to church and drop them in the glass container in the Narthex. Let's fill it up and when we deliver them, let's fill it up again! Thanks for your support.



YOUNG FAMILY GROUP NEWS.

THANK YOU FROM LAUREL HOUSE: Melissa Firman, Director of Development for Laurel House, extends her thanks for our ongoing support. Muffins for Moms raised over \$180.00 for the organization! Thank you to everyone who baked muffins and worked at the table. Big hugs to everyone in the congregation who made so many generous donations. God bless you all!



GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS: The *good news* is that on **Sunday, June 15th** we will honor the men in the congregation during our annual Donuts for Dads celebration. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for donuts and coffee.

The *bad news* is that, sadly, this is the final official event for the Young Family Group. However, we will be supporting the other ministries throughout the summer. We meet in August for a planning session for the 2008/2009 season. So start thinking about what you would like to do next year.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for all of your help and support during our monthly activities and fundraisers.

♥Special thanks to Pastor Todd for his endless amount of care, support and humor during all of our projects.♥

Here's to a happy and safe summer...and many blessings to our graduates_

NEW MEMBERS JOIN JUNE 8th

The following people have indicated interest in joining St. Peters as new members on June 8, 2008. If you know of anyone interested in joining St. Peter's should please contact the church office or Ursula Schwartz, Evangelism Chair.

VERNA, Edlyne "Lynn"
2125 Medora Avenue
Philadelphia, PA. 19138
267-973-7439

GRAHAM, Robert
307 Buttonwood Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-239-1915

MAYER, Robert & Mary Lou
2125 Bishop Hollow Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-355-0906

HOFFMAN, Elsa
349 Oxford Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
610-275-1369

PAWLO, Kathryn
7700 B. Stenton Avenue Apt. 107
Philadelphia, PA 19118
267-297-6171

HUGHES, Derry
105 Progress Drive
Conshohocken, PA 19428

TOTTEN, James & Anita
Taylor, Paige
3164 Colony Lane
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462



I want to express my gratitude, to my St. Peter's family, for their prayers, cards, delicious food, well wishes, and phone calls, during my recent illness. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is much appreciated. I am happy to say that I'm on the road to recovery.

Thank you, sincerely,
Nancy Bogdon



St. Peter's extends a BIG THANK YOU to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in matching our Rumänge Sale dollars in the amount of \$1,600. We appreciate their support.



Have you remembered the Church in your Will?

Better yet - do you even *have* a Will? Too many people neglect planning for the distribution of their estate. If no plans are in place, the State will make those decisions for you, and be assured that they will tax it heavily. St. Peter's has been blessed over the years by those who *have* remembered us in their Will. Thanks to the Frankenfield Estate we are able to fund this year's Internship Program. Ethel B. Straub remembered us in her Will which helped the Building Fund and Altar Flowers several times a year. Please consider adding St. Peter's to *your* Will.

THE BUILDING FUND KEEPS ON BUILDING:

SCRIP NEWS: During May, Social Ministry is highlighting our Men and Women serving overseas in the military by collecting and distributing AT&T, 100 minutes, prepaid Calling Cards. In using the AT&T calling cards, our service personnel will benefit with reduced rates. You are able to purchase AT&T Calling Cards through St. Peter's SCRIP Program. The SCRIP Program will receive a 20% return on each \$10 Calling Card --- which benefits St. Peter's Building Fund. Social Ministry has decided to extend the collection of the AT&T Calling Cards through the end of June because of the holidays -- Flag Day and Father's Day! The SCRIP table is located in the vestibule; Karen or Meg will help you between services and/or after the late service. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!** The SCRIP Program will be on Vacation the month of August. The last ordering day is

Sunday, July 20. Sunday, September 7, the SCRIP Program will start up again.



**American
Red Cross**

**SAVE A LIFE
AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE
JUNE 7, 2008
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL...

1) Bob Blundin resigned from both Church Council and as Chair of the Property Committee. Following discussion, a motion was made and Sean McManus was elected to fill out the vacant seat until the next election. Sean has graciously agreed to also chair the Property Committee.



2) Council hosted a guest speaker from the ELCA on a deferred giving program. The Stewardship Committee and Church Council both agreed to roll out this program in the coming months as another way in trying to meet the financial needs of our congregation.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship Committee Has Job Openings, Adopts a Mission, and Gets New Members!

The Stewardship Committee has chosen this statement to represent its mission:

“The goal of St. Peter’s stewardship ministry is to help God’s people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.”

So, we will be focusing this year on all three of these contributions to our church life. It will be exciting to engage in fun activities, to share our talents inside and outside our building, and to focus targeted giving efforts toward where we have ever-present needs.

The Stewardship Committee at St. Peter’s has grown in both members and mission! This year, in addition to Sarah Cohen, the Committee Chair, and John Lewis, the Council Representative, the Stewardship Committee has been fortunate to add Meg Huber, Claire Riggs and Linda Wargo! There are some vacancies here, too. If you can help, let us know. We will welcome your willingness to serve.

Recognizing that St. Peter’s Lutheran Church has a virtual gold mine of talent among its members, the newly augmented **Stewardship Committee is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator** who will “take you up” on your willingness to serve in some of these many different activities. The Coordinator will help committees follow up on those who have expressed interest to the Pastor, during the Ministry Fair, and in other ways. If you would like to *volunteer* to be the Volunteer Coordinator, just let us know by contacting any member of the Stewardship Committee. There is no pay, but the benefits are both real time and deferred!



Stewardship is much more than just the Committee asking for your financial support, although St. Peter's *cannot* operate without it on a continual basis. It will be our effort in the coming months to communicate exciting events from all the committees, and the status of our finances as the year goes on. Everyone knows that giving has "peaks and valleys," *but the expenses are constant.*

Look for announcements of special events, find ways to use your time and talent, and for information right here that will help us all "share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others."

God doesn't take a vacation - so take him on yours!!!

God's work in the church continues throughout the summer. Unfortunately, many of your offerings do not. *PLEASE* do your best to remain current in your offerings throughout the summer so we can avoid the Summer Slump. Consider the "Simply Giving" program to have your offerings automatically deposited into the Church's account each month. Contact the office to sign up. Then - enjoy your vacation!



SPY-Calendar

Next **SPY meeting-** Sunday **June 8th** following 10 am service

The youth will participate with the Car show scheduled for Saturday June 14th. We will be selling food and refreshments to begun fund raising efforts for our trip to New Orleans in 2009! We will need as many volunteers as possible to man the tables.

Another "**KID**" **SITTING NIGHT** is set for **Friday evening May 30th from 5-10 p.m.** to fund raise for Youth events. We will entertain your children ages 3+ for a good will offering. Please contact Mrs. Graham to reserve a spot for your son and/or daughter!Dijk0099@aol.com or 610-825-9622. Congratulations to our youth who were Confirmed in May!

We have a tentative head count for Jesus, Justice & Jazz National Gathering 2009 in New Orleans LA . Let Mrs. Graham know if you are hoping to attend. Also, Mrs. G will be attending a planning meeting for the conference on May 21st in West Chester, 7-9 p.m. Let her know if you would like to go to that meeting with her-the more the merrier!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday - June 1st - 11:00 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Location: The Gazebo, weather permitting The Fellowship Hall-if weather is uncooperative_ Please sign up in the narthex if you can offer side dishes and/or desserts for a hamburger-hot dog main dish. We rescheduled our picnic so it would not conflict with Father's Day or the Everybody's Birthday event. Sunday School classes will continue through to the end of June.

VBS!!!! It's a RainForest Adventure!! July 7th – 11th Registration forms are in this Newsletter and the narthex. Sign up today! Let Deb Graham know if you can volunteer! We won't turn anyone away and many hands make light work. Consider joining the fun! Let Debbie know by email at dijk0099@aol.com or call her at home 610-828-1461 or the school office 610-828-1461, ext 17.



PRESCHOOL PAGES

Closing programs and Graduations were held during the second week of May and we closed another year of fun and learning. This year ended with some special fund raising events to begin financing our new playground. The art show theme was Outer Space and once again we used the event to money for Autism Awareness. The outcome was a grand total of \$2,900 raised to support the special playground planned in Whitmarsh and a local Autism Awareness family walk-a-thon that our families are participating in. Registration is now open for the 2008-2009 year, brochures to take and share with your friends and neighbors are available in the narthex.



Did you know..... that our historic Cemetery still has over 400 graves available for purchase? Members of St. Peter's receive a special rate if they purchase a grave site in our cemetery. There is also a section for the interment of ashes as well as our Resurrection Garden in front of the Church under the stained glass window. Contact the Church Office for further information and costs.



2008 - 2009 Catechism Class Registration

Catechism Program leading up to the time of Confirmation, when the young person assumes the adult responsibilities of church membership for themselves. Young people who are in grade 7 or above may be enrolled into this two year program. The class meets regularly on the third Sunday of the month, October - May, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The first meeting of the year takes place at the Catechism Retreat in Wildwood, New Jersey, September 12th - 14th. Please fill out and return the Registration Form below if you have a new student entering the Catechism Program or a student beginning their second year of instruction.

At the time of Baptism the parents Promise to *see to their instruction In the Christian faith.* To help you fulfill This promise, St. Peter's offers a full

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Catechism Student Registration Form 2008-2009

Student's *FULL* Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Baptismal Date: _____ Not yet Baptized: _____

E-mail address: _____

Screen name: _____