

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September 2008

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

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Okay – it's here. September. Autumn is just a few weeks away. We look at the trees and the flowers as they begin to die for another Winter season until Spring. Some people find this depressing. They go into a slump. They mourn the loss of the beauty of the summer. Nature is getting ready to go to sleep.

Well knock it off! Nature is just as busy in autumn as it is in *all* of the seasons. Leaves changing color and falling to the ground. They dry up, turn to mulch, and replenish the nutrients to the ground under the blanket of Winter snow. Flowers turning to seeds which fall to the earth to grow in the Spring. Sap comes out of trees as its energy returns to the roots for the Winter season. Nature is *not* going to sleep. It's as active as it ever was. We just don't always see it at work. But because of what we do not see, the earth uses this time to prepare for the beauty of Spring – which we *do* see.

This whole process is what helps nurture my faith. Because as I see the leaves die and fall to the ground, I have faith that in the Spring, new life will come forth. This has happened since I was a little kid, and I expect it will continue until I die. But just as new life comes through the death in Autumn, I have the assurance that I will also experience new life after my death. But there is a lot of work to do between that birth and death period.

Our schedule appears to be opposite of nature. In the Summer, we see the trees, flowers, birds and insects bustling around doing what they are suppose to be doing. And all this time we want to lounge around enjoying the lazy days of summer – read a book – float on a lake – jump waves at the beach – relax. We use the Summer months to rejuvenate because we know that in the Fall – it's back to work! Yes, it would have been nice to see all of you every week at worship in the Summer. But that doesn't usually happen. It would have been nice if our offerings kept pace over the Summer, but that rarely happens either. But now it's here – September – time to get back to work! Christian Education programs begin, Choirs start their rehearsals, Youth programs become active, and Worship remains a constant priority in the life of the Church.

So if facing the coming Autumn season makes you depressed, we can help you get over it. In the midst of all this dying around us from trees and flowers, we can gather, sing praises to God, and give thanks for the hope in the promise of new life – Eternal Life! Vacation is over. It's time to get back to work. We'll be looking for you.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. R. Bruce Todd

From Vicar Jim...



Just as I am settling in, (can't believe it is three months already) I am told the many ministries of this congregation are about to go into high gear. Although we go on vacation to refresh our minds, bodies and spirits, the work of the church is never ending, continuing every day. We may not see results, but that is how the Holy Spirit works in and through each of us. God's grace and mercy is many times a silent experience; often coming in the form of a touch, eye contact, or just being present for someone in need. Results are expected in the world; God's presence is never ending.

The church is not a building, rather a congregation coming together to worship God with praise and thanksgiving, a community that loves and cares for each other in the many circumstances of life, and a people that goes out in the world to share with others the joy of having God in your life.

It is not easy being a Christian in a world that encourages individualism. Coming together in God's name provides an opportunity to form a relationship that gives life to each other. I prayerfully invite you to practice your faith by becoming involved in the various ministries of this congregation. God gifts each person with unique treasures to share. Some are called to teach, others to heal, others to exhort, others to listen, etc. Together, with God's help, we touch the lives of many others. Some we may never meet. What treasure do you have to share?

To learn more about our ministries checkout our website (internet access required) at www.stpeterslh.org. For further information about the greater church, the church beyond St. Peters explore the following web sites:

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
SEPA Youth Ministry
ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

www.Ministrylink.org
www.sepayouth.org
www.elca.org

I look forward to doing ministry with you in the coming year, discovering where God is calling us in His kingdom on earth. I can be reached by calling the church (extension 11) or by email jgoodyear@stpeterslh.org.

Mutual Ministry 2008

Did you know that St. Peter's has a committee that acts as a sounding board for the Congregation? The Mutual Ministry Committee is in place to hear and address the Congregation's concerns and presents these issues to Council if warranted. The committee of seven men and women meet quarterly, or as needed, to discuss topics that any member of the Congregation presents for review. If you have concerns or positive comments, that you would like to share, feel free to place your signed comment card in the locked box labeled "Mutual Ministry" in the front stairwell, or contact Jan Gera, 610-941-6636 - Committee Chair.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE
2008 – 2009 Choir Season Begins



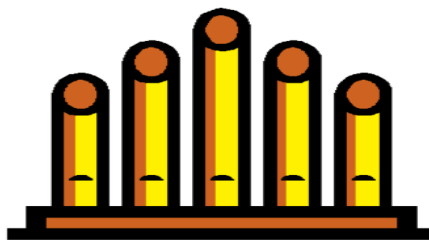
ST. PETER'S ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The first rehearsal of the season will be September 4. If you have not sung with our choir, but thought I might be a fun thing to do, come join us because it is fun. If you can read music that makes it much easier, but many of the choir members do not read music – that is why we have rehearsals. If you are interested, contact Music Director Al Kammerle

ST. PETER'S HANDBELL CHOIR

Our three-octave Hand bell Choir will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 9. We are presently in the rare position of having some positions open; so we are able to welcome some new members this year. Ringing hand bells is a great way to be involved in the church's music program, especially if you are not a singer. If you would like to ring, contact Al Kammerle, Music Director.

**ORGAN DEDICATION OF THE
ENHANCEMENTS AND ANTIPHONAL DIVISION**



SUNDAY - OCT.19, 2008
4:00 P.M.

**Organ Dedication of the
Enhancements and Antiphonal Division
Sunday - Oct.19, 2008**

Mr. Al Kammerle and Pastor Bruce Todd will join forces to highlight the new features installed on our Pipe Organ. Thanks to the Memorial Gifts of Marian Graham, a member who served on the Organ Committee when the present instrument was installed, the uncompleted stop list of the instrument is now complete. To help balance the sound more evenly throughout the church, a digital Antiphonal Division was installed in the rear of the church.

The program will include hymn singing, duets, antiphonal pieces and a varied repertoire. Thanks to the volunteer services of our musicians, the offering from this concert will go toward the Organ Enrichment Fund. A complete re-leathering project is anticipated within the next year or two with a cost of quite a few thousand dollars. Please come, enjoy the concert, and support our efforts. The concert will begin promptly at 4:40 p.m.

Stewardship Committee: Two New Events Coming Soon!



The Stewardship Committee and Council this year will be working toward helping our committees maximize their time and talent! Toward that goal, we are encouraging all of our Committee Chairs to participate in the First Annual Core Committee Day (CCD). On this day, **September 7, 2008**, right after the 10:00 service, the Chairs are asked to meet together as one group for about an hour to share plans, ideas, and goals and to participate in the development of a common calendar for the year! This meeting will help us to improve communication and avoid time and date conflicts, and will enable our committees to know how best to interact with one another. So, if you are a Committee Chair or representative, we hope you can join us on the 7th!

AND, October 18, 2008, will be a special day at St. Peter's as well! On that day, we are planning to have the first *St. Peter's Service Day* (SPSD). That Saturday morning will enable committees and their volunteers to devote about 3 hours to contribute their efforts in such activities as kitchen cleanup, special projects, general maintenance and other committee planning and hands-on efforts to help. We can all find something to do at the church from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; (or however long you can stay that morning). We will even have coffee and doughnuts on hand to fuel the staffs!



Watch for notices in the narthex or from your committee chair regarding what might be accomplished in this first St. Peter's Service Day!

THANK YOU...

A BIG THANK YOU to all who supported the "Let Freedom Ring" National Bell Ringing Ceremony here at St. Peter's on Independence Day. Over the past 16 years St. Peter's has participated in what now has become a world event. To us, it has become a memory making event, reaching out to the community

Love & Prayers,
Ursula

Thank you to the Prayer Circle Committee and members of St. Peter's for all their prayers during the long illness of my brother, Charles Ziegler. He was a faithful worker for Bethany Lutheran Church in Roxborough all his life and we all miss him very much.

Emma Raupp

To the members of St. Peter's Church,

Thank you for your prayers and the beautiful flowers that adorned the altar. Thank you also, Vicar Jim, for your visit, prayers & encouragement. All were very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Feigel

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

New Date and New Course. This year's festivities will take place Sunday, September 28th, at The Club at Shannondell, (which used to be General Washington for all you old timers). It's located on Egypt Road in Audobon, not far from Jeffersonville. Contact Tom Peuser right away to sign up via email at: tee4107@yahoo.com or by phone at (610) 316-6855. Cost is \$75.00 per person. *{Don't worry the Eagles play at 8:15 that day.}*



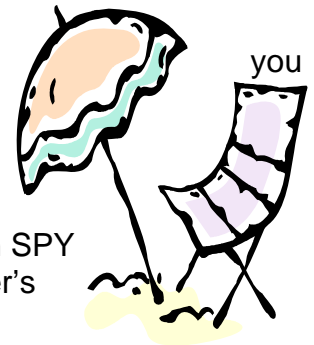


What is SPY? "St. Peter's Youth;" a ministry of this congregation to help persons in grades 6-12 grow in faith through service in the church and community. All are invited.



WILDWOOD RETREAT – DID YOU REGISTER????? You should have received information in the mail. Registration forms are available in the narthex and **MUST** be returned to the church office **with payment before September 7.** This will be a great time to get to know each other and to plan for the coming year. We will be planning for YOUTH SUNDAY- OCTOBER 12 and other activities for the coming year.

ADULT CHAPERONES NEEDED – for the Retreat at Wildwood. If you can drive a group to Wildwood on Friday OR return to Wildwood on Sunday to bring a group back OR if you want to make it a weekend at the beach....see Vicar Jim or Pastor Todd. We are looking for adults to provide transportation and to help with monitoring the young folks while on the boardwalk. You **DO NOT** have to have a young person in SPY to drive...just a sincere interest in our youth and of course a valid driver's license!!!!!!!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday September 26 – ***Kid Sitting** from 5pm – 10pm

Sunday October 12 – Youth Sunday. SPY to plan and lead worship

Friday October 24 – ***Kid Sitting** from 5pm – 10 pm

***Kid Sitting** – provided by SPY on select Friday evenings each month from 5pm to 10pm in the Nursery School. Cost is \$5/hour/child. Monies collected benefit the SPY Ministry of St. Peter's Church. **PRE-REGISTRATION is REQUIRED to ensure enough 'sitters'.**





Veggie Table

To date we have raised over \$100 for World Hunger. Thanks for your continued support. Look for the table again next year.

Thanks,
Sue Speers

Boar's Head 2009

Calling all Dancers, Pipers, Wood Sprites and Beefeaters! **St. Peter's 2009 Boar's Head Festival dates are January 10th and 11th.** Full Cast and Crew Dress Rehearsal January 8th. Cast sign up sheets will be in the chapel beginning the first week in October. Ticket letters will be going out soon. As always, we welcome anyone who wishes to participate! Contact Jan Gera with any questions.



Quaker Chemical, of Conshohocken, teamed up with St Peter's for the Backpack program which will benefit children in our local area. On August 18, the Social Ministry Committee delivered 50 backpacks filled with school supplies to the Colonial Neighborhood Council, and we are not done! Our goal is to reach 80 before the beginning of the school year.

Thank you to everyone who gave to the program!!

Children's



Choir

Come join us!

We rehearse from 4:00 - 4:45 on Wednesday

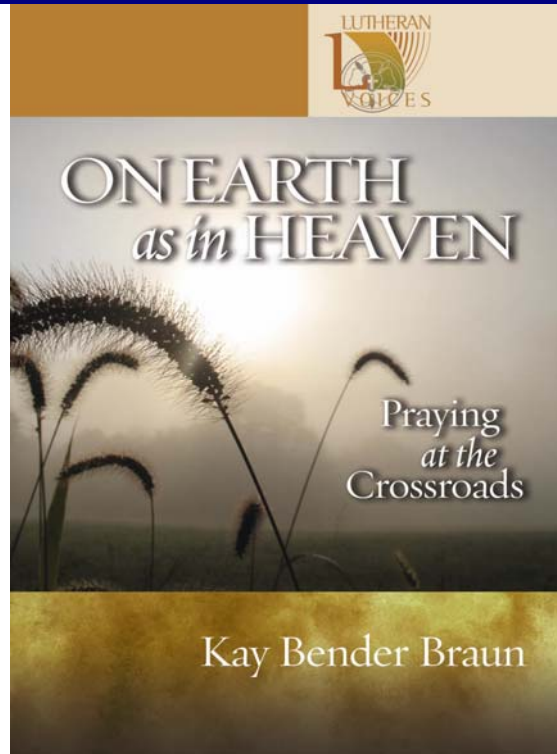
Afternoons beginning September 17th!

Ages 4 - 11ε We sing - do crafts - eat snacks have parties & make friends!

Pastor Todd is the director

On Earth as in Heaven

Praying at the Crossroads



SELLING POINTS

- Guides readers to discernment through prayer
- Includes questions for reflection and discussion

Discernment is decision-making that begins and ends with God, according to Braun, and following God's will is a gift from God worked through the Holy Spirit, as is faith itself. So it makes sense that the Lord's Prayer, introduced at a time of transition in Jesus' life and that of his disciples, provides a means for Christians of every age to faithfully work through challenging and confusing times in their lives.

Using the petitions of the Lord's Prayer as her framework and offering insights from her own experience of praying at life's crossroads and being privy to the prayer lives of others, the author leads readers into deeper awareness of God's will in their

Shelving: Religion / Prayer /
Lutheran
Readers: Pastors and associates in
ministry; lay leaders;
adult study groups;
librarians
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Kay Bender Braun is pastor of St. Petri-Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her background in journalism has provided opportunity to write for diverse publications including *The Charlotte Observer*, the



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Sunday school will resume the regular schedule on Sunday
September 14th.*

If you are interested in teaching Sunday School let Debbie know, or she may be calling YOU! Call her on the school phone-610-828-1461, ext 17 or email her at djjk0099@aol.com.

The commitment is only one Sunday per month and the lessons are simple and easy to plan. The classes again are divided by grades beginning with Preschoolers at 3 & 4 yrs of age. Kindergarteners have their own class. Then there is a 1st and 2nd grade class, a 3rd & 4th grade class and a 5th & 6th grade or youth class.

We have a Sunday School Committee this year; Jo McManus, Trish McNew, Linda Wargo, Anne Santaniello and Sarah Cohen have agreed to support Deb Graham and the children in the program. Speak to any one of us if you would like to join the committee or participate in our Sunday School. We hope to plan some very special Sundays with the children and we need your ideas and enthusiasm. Please consider this opportunity to be an important part of the lives of the children of St. Peter's. All are welcome!

September Lessons

9-14: The Beginning of the World

9-21: Living with God's Promise

9-28: Faithful People



PRESECHOOL PAGES:

Nursery School will begin the school year with a Parents Only meeting on Thursday evening September 11th. This meeting allows our moms, dads and caregivers to meet with the teachers, see the classrooms and have their questions answered. Classes will begin on Monday September 15th.

This year we are providing a toddler program and 3-day classes for three year olds. We continue to have a two-day 3 year old class, a 3-day four year old class and two 5-day programs for our 4 and 5 year olds. September will be filled with lots of lessons about apples and fall colors and shapes. Our first field trip will be in October when we return to Freddie Hill Farms to pick the perfect pumpkin.

The Nursery School Board approved a motion to underwrite the cost of St. Peter's Sunday School for the 2008-2009 term. This year the Nursery School and Sunday School will cooperate with the church congregation and nursery school families to support both of these programs that serve our children.



YOUNG FAMILY GROUP NEWS.



September 21st after 10AM Worship. Come and join us for food and fun and pick-up a copy of the 2008/2009 schedule. No sign-up sheet for food—just bring your favorite sweet or savory dish. Beverages will be provided.

If you are new to St. Peter's or have never participated in YFG activities the Potluck will be a great time to get to meet everyone and learn more about our upcoming events.



On October 12th the Young Family Group will once again enjoy the Fall Harvest Festival at Merrymeade Farm. We will meet at the hayrides at noon. If you would like to be included on our email list please contact Sarah Cohen at sarahlcohen@comcast.net.



SUPPORT OUR CONGREGATION with the Genuardi's eScrip program. If you participated last year, don't forget to renew to continue earning Genuardi's contributions. Go to the Customer Service Deck and have your Club Card available, or visit www.escrip.com and click on "YES RENEW". If you do not have access to a computer, come to the church office and pick up a form & take it to Genuardi's.

Thank you,
Bernadette splc.bern@comcast.net.



Baptisms for September

September 14th (10:00)

Chad Jeremy Fetters

Parents: Ronald & VickeyAnn (Giles) Fetters

September 21st

Evelyn Milly Mastaglio

Parents: Michael & Elizabeth (Raggenburk) Mastaglio

DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

Make a right onto Believeth Blvd.

Keep straight and go through the Green Light, which is Jesus Christ
There, you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith, which is over troubled water.

When you get off the bridge, make a right turn and Keep Straight.

You are on the King's Highway – Heaven-bound.

Keep going for three miles; One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy
Ghost.

Then Exit off onto Grace Blvd.

From there, make a Right turn on Gospel Lane.

Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road

As you go on your way, Yield not to the traffic on Temptation Avenue.

Also avoid Sin Street because it is a DEAD END.

Pass up Envy Drive and Hate Avenue. Also pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossip Lane and
Backbiting Blvd.

However, you have to go down Long-suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd, and Trials &
Tribulations Avenue

But that's all right, because VICTORY Street is straight ahead
Amen.

Thanks to Maria Egner for sharing this thought.

COMMUNITY ELDERS

All St. Peter's members, age 55 and over, are invited to join the Community Elders. The Elders meet in the Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Dues are \$10.00 per person per year.

Come at 11:30 and bring a sandwich – dessert and beverage are provided.

Blood pressure screening is available from 10:30-12:30.

Come out on Wednesday, September 17 and bring some program ideas to discuss with the group. For more information, contact Joe Spare at (610) 828-8131.

