

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER January, 2008

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

Office: 610-828-3098

Fax: 610-828-3232

E-mail: revtodd@stpetershl.org / info@stpeterslh.org

On the web: www.stpeterslh.org

3025 Church Road

Lafayette Hill PA

19444-1707

PASTOR'S CORNER



Why do we do a Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival?! Many of our members, as well as people in the community, have no idea. This is just a festival that they have attended for the past 28 years, and they think it is nice. At the beginning of each presentation, I explaining how in medieval times, the wild boar was a symbol of evil. To celebrate Christ coming into the world and conquering sin and death, the wild boar was killed and a feast was served. Although we do not offer the feast to those who are in attendance, we do bring in the Boar's Head and share in the merriment of the revelers of the day. The Lord & Lady of the manor join the ladies in waiting and the entire procession, in inviting people to observe as the story of the birth of the Christ Child is told.

We have been honored to hold this tradition, which has become a trademark of our congregation. On the weekend of January 10th & 11th we will welcome over a thousand people to experience this part of our ministry to the community. Many of you are involved both, in the sanctuary and behind the scenes. Through what you do, people are moved to tears one minute through the inspiration of the message of God's love, and then laughing the next minute as the jesters dance with the joy we have in receiving God's gift of joy. From beginning to end, we use this festival as one more tool in helping us to fulfill our mission to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others.

As I end each festival while walking down the darkened aisle holding the candle sprite I say, "Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven." I want to express the personal thanks for the way in which you let God's light shine through you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have shared Christmas gifts and greetings to me during this season. Your love is what makes it possible for me to continue in ministry. Blessings to you as we continue to minister together.

In Christ's Service,

The Rev. R. Bruce Todd

From the Vicar...

It's January, so it must be Boars Head time! Finally, the event I have been hearing about for the past year is upon us. Listening to your stories of "Boar's Heads Past", watching and hearing how this event is shaping up creates an excitement that creates life for everyone. An Epiphany celebration focusing on the birth of our savior Jesus Christ as told from medieval days. The story never changes; instead we change as we are affected by the words and actions of each other in our retelling. Telling others of the love of Jesus Christ is forefront in our faith sharing journey.

Sharing faith with one another is what God desires for us; to welcome Jesus into our lives openly, then to give it away to others. Such is how we share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ to the next generation. Later this month, well after Boar's Head, you – the members of St. Peter's congregation – are being asked to help develop a strategy for Youth Ministry. St. Peter's is blessed to have nearly 100 youth in grades 6-12 that are eager to learn and share. In addition, we are blessed to have a leader, Danielle O'Brien, who is equally willing to share.

Your input is vital to help this ministry grow. As part of the synods stewardship, they are offering Molly Beck-Dean, the Youth Ministry leader for the synod, to conduct a Visioning Process with us. She will lead us in discussions that can be used to develop this ministry. **WE NEED YOU...** to commit to attending ONE of the sessions, participate in the discussions, and pray for the Holy Spirit to work through us in God's work. Each session is limited to 30 participants. These sessions are open to anyone who has the slightest interest in our youth, yes **YOU!** Sign up is in the Muhlenberg Chapel. Remember the date – Saturday January 24 from 9 am to 12 noon OR Monday January 26 from 6pm to 9pm.

In this Epiphany Season, the time of light, 'let your light shine so others can see your good works in you.' Thank you in advance for your support.



THANK YOU, for your Christmas cards and gifts. Each of you is a special gift in the ministry of St. Peters. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. God's blessings to you and your family in this New Year. Vicar, Jim

+ + + + + + + +



To all of you who are using the SCRIP Program ---Thank you!! Because of your continued participation in St. Peter's SCRIP Program, a check for \$500 was presented to the Church Council during December's meeting. The dollars that the SCRIP Program has earned on your purchases of Gift Cards have added up. SCRIP Program earnings have totaled \$2,000 which were incorporated into the Building Fund. Thank you!!

New participants are always welcome. Visit the SCRIP Table in the vestibule; Meg or Karen will be glad to explain how easy it is to join your fellow church members and purchase Gift Cards. When you purchase a card, the SCRIP Program receives a percentage of the sale.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP, with Vicar Jim

Noon and 7:30 pm

January 14, 21 & 28

“More than Just a Job” (continuation)

God's work is more than just a job—it's a new way of living together in mission. Together we are the church, and through us God is at work. During this time of study we will look at the Book of Acts and the stories about Pentecost that show us what it means to live our mission together; what it means to be the church, led by the Holy Spirit. We will meet in the Muhlenberg Chapel to discuss how we are the church.

If you join us at noon, you may bring your lunch.

This is the final sessions of the series started last fall.

“The Shack”, with Vicar Jim

There has been much interest in the popular book, **The Shack**, recently. This novel gives a real life experience and the struggles one has with God and faith. After reading this book, one usually has many questions... To help us better understand our relationship with God, I will offer a discussion group during the months of February and March. We will go back to the ‘shack of our own lives’ as we grow together in our faith.

Since there seems to be a number of people interested in this study, please let me know if you would like to participate in the discussion. If Wednesday does not work for you, I will entertain other options to gather for this discussion. I can be reached via email at jgoodyear@stpeterslh.org or calling the church office at ext. 11.

“**The Shack**” is available at Borders or Barnes & Noble book stores for \$15. It is an easy read. I believe you will return to it many times, with new questions.

+ + + + + + + +



A Visioning Process for St. Peter's Youth Ministry

Where is God leading this congregation with this ministry? How is God working in the people of our congregation to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ through our youth in grades 6-12? YOU can be a part of answering these questions by becoming part of the Youth Visioning process for St. Peter's Church.

SEPA Youth Specialist, Molly Beck-Dean, will lead us in conversations regarding a vibrant, faith-filled, life changing Youth Ministry. These sessions are provided as an outreach ministry of the synod. It is the goal of this process to help congregations discover the empowering love of

Jesus Christ through youth.

How can you help???? Any person who cares about the youth ministry of the congregation is encouraged to attend – men, women, single, married, with children, no children, young, old...YOU are encouraged to let your voice be heard. Commit to attend ONE of two sessions (**Saturday January 24 from 9am – 12 noon OR Monday January 26 from 6-9 pm**) at the church, Participate in the discussions offering your insights and opinions; Pray for those who will lead, attend and grow through this experience.

Sign-up **TODAY** in the Muhlenberg Chapel. If you have questions, see Vicar Jim. Together with God's guidance, we can experience the work of the Holy Spirit in an ever changing ministry.

WHAT IS SPY? IT'S ST. PETER'S YOUTH PROGRAM FOR GRADES 6-12

SPY meets about four times a month. We have meetings where we play games, play music, have bible study, plan service projects, fundraisers, & parties.

We design and lead Sunday services on Youth Sunday, participate in the Good Friday Crucifixion Drama and host the Christmas party for Sunday school. Plus much much more!

Questions, comments & suggestions welcomed

Contact Youth Director Danielle O'Brien

DanielleOrganizes@msn.com

SAINT PETERS YOUTH (SPY) NEWS AND EVENT

Dates to remember for January...

Sunday January 4th, 1-4 pm Silver Springs Lutheran Home for Children Party
Donations of plain white t-shirts, fabric paint & party supplies are greatly appreciated. We'll meet at church in the Nursery School.

With Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Graham & Mrs. O'Brien

Friday January 16, 5-10 pm d-Sitting

This is a fun night of crafts, games, snacks & a movie for the little ones.

With Mrs. Graham & Mrs. O'Brien

Sunday January 25th, 6-8 pm SPY Time

We'll start planning Youth Sunday, play games, eat tons of snacks & play music.

With Mrs. O'Brien & Vicar Jim

Dates to remember for February...

Sunday February 1st, 11 am Hoagies & Soup Sale

Delicious freshly made. Eat in or take out.

With Ms. Danake & Mr. O'Brien

Saturday February 7th, 8 am Ski trip to Jack Frost

Skiing, tubing & snowboarding!

With Mrs. O'Brien & Pastor Todd

Sunday February 15th, 11 am

SPY Time

With Mrs. O'Brien & Vicar Jim

Friday February 20th, 5-10 pm Kid-Sitting"

Our once a month fundraiser is such a good time as SPY baby-sits the littlest SPY's of St Peter's.

We have crafts, snacks, & a movie. With Mrs. Graham & Mrs. O'Brien

Saturday February 28th, 5pm - morning - Youth Sunday Rehearsal and Sleep-over.

Mrs. O'Brien and Vicar Jim will be working you until the wee hours of the morning to prepare a

spectacular worship service for Youth Sunday. (Or at least that's what we're telling your parents.) We

plan on having a lot of fun stuff to do. Come Join Us!

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

Focus on New Members

Periodically, the Stewardship Committee will be focusing on the “thank” phase of our mission by expressing appreciation to some of the new members who have joined St. Peter’s in sharing the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others. This month, we will be focusing on Doris and Teresa Weber who first joined St. Peter’s in 1958 along with their parents and sister. They have returned to us to worship; and we are glad they are with us!

Doris enjoys the newspaper, studies politics and, of course, works around the house. Teresa enjoys reading and does crossword puzzles. Both enjoy traveling! They wanted us to know that they like Pastor Todd’s children’s chats (appealing to everyone)! They particularly commented on the welcome feeling they have encountered upon their return and greatly value the sincerity of our members.

We are pleased to have both Doris and Teresa, once again, as members of the St. Peter’s family!

Remembering our Mission: Last year, the committee adopted a new mission for stewardship. Although we shared it with you briefly then, we thought we would restate it here for you.

The goal of our 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.

This mission statement has helped guide the committee by promoting activities such as Friendship Sunday, the Service Day, the Legacy Seminar and other efforts to help everyone to contribute to our larger mission in many different forms. We are a congregation blessed with so much talent that helps us move forward and grow in times of both prosperity and challenge. We hope you will keep the mission of St. Peter’s in your thoughts as we move into a new year of both challenge and service! Together, all of us can make a difference.

To St. Peter's members who contributed to the Signage Program,

Thank you so much for donating a sign(s) to help visitors and members find their way throughout our new facilities. Because of your generosity, we have completed all the floor directories and directional signage. We appreciate your support in the on-going effort to complete the interiors of our new building.



Sincerely,

The Interior Aesthetics Committee

If anyone is interested in donating a sign for the Signage Program, go to St. Peter's website or call the church office for more information.

Souper Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale - Pick up February 1st

January 26th - Orders and money due

February 1st 11 am pick up in Fellowship Hall

Please indicate the number of individual hoagies and trays below

Individual Hoagies (12 inch) - \$7 each

- _____ - Italian
- _____ - Ham and Cheese
- _____ - Turkey
- _____ - Cheese

Mixed Tray - \$40 each

- _____ Mixed Hoagie Tray
(feeds 10-12 people)

All hoagies will be made with just lettuce and tomato (no onions)
Condiments on the side (mayo & mustard)

Name: _____

Phone # _____

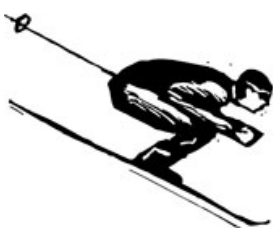
Amount Enclosed \$: _____

Make checks payable to St Peter's Lutheran Church.

Place order form and check in an envelope.

Drop box will be in the Narthex marked "Hoagie Orders"

Thank you for your continuing support of our Youth - bound for New Orleans.



ST. PETER'S SKI / SNOWBOARD TRIP

Saturday - Feb. 7, 2009

Jack Frost Ski Slope

St. Peter's Youth are going Skiing - but the entire congregation is invited to come along. As a group, we receive a great discount. For example, a youth who rents equipment, gets a lift ticket, and takes a group lesson would have to pay \$83 if they went on their own. St. Peter's group can do all that for **only \$60!** That's a nice discount. If you already ski and just need a lift ticket or equipment, you also receive a reduced price. A Sign-Up sheet is in the chapel along with release forms which the Ski Slope requires us to hand in.

We will leave the Church Parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and return around 6:00 p.m.

If you are willing to be a driver, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

Fill out the paper work.

Include the forms and your payment in the envelopes provided.

Hand the envelope to Mrs. O'Brien, Vicar Jim or Pastor Todd.

Deadline is Sunday - February 1st 2009

Thank You,

Dear Friends from St. Peter's

Thank you for the lovely tray of cookies and candy Vicar Jim brought with him on his last visit. The cookies and candy were delicious and enjoyed by both myself and Pete. It was sweet of you to remember us at Christmas.

With love, Florence Peterson

Dear Friends at St. Peter's

My mother Dorothy Gutersmith, would like to thank the children who sent the sweet hand-print turkey Thanksgiving card - She is also grateful for the plate of cookies that the women of the church gave her. The community of St. Peter's has been so caring for my mother. She, my husband and I are very appreciative of St. Peter's. Again, thanks to all. We look forward to Christmas and the Boar's Head Festival.

Sue Sauerman for Dorothy Gutermuth

To Members of St. Peter's

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in remembering me with your delicious cookies. I appreciated them very much.

Florence Farmer

Dear St. Peter's families

My heart felt thanks. Thank you for your prayers and support during my recent hospital stay. Also my appreciation to Pastor Todd and Vicar Jim for their prayers and visits.

Marie Schilling

To All My Friends of St. Peter's

Thank you very much for the beautiful and delicious gift of Christmas cookies, candy and candy canes! Also, thank you for the beautiful stories of the Advent Wreaths and Candy Canes. And most of all, thank you for your friendship.

Most sincerely Dot Feigel

Young Family Group & Friends at St. Peter's

Thank you for the delicious cookie tray & for your prayers & well wishes.

June Delgrippe

Thank you Pastor Todd, Vicar Jim & members of St. Peter's,

Your thoughts and prayers during the time of Byron's illness and death are greatly appreciated. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation. Thank you for all of your support.

Gratefully Yours, Georgia Snell

January 2009 Schedule:

Altar Guild for January

Jim & Barbara Vaughn, Jim & Ashley Rossi, David & Joann Kirschermann

January 4th

Greeters: Charlotte Thompson, Susan Speers

Reader: Nathaniel Reichley

Acolyte: John Runyen Crucifer: Brennan Mellor

Communion Assistants: Mary Reichley, Tom Walton

Ushers: Paul Knittel, Karen Knittel, Bill Raupp, Joanne Wilfong, Mil Wilfong,
Tom Peuser, Joseph Barr, Nancy Barr, Marilynn Read

Counting Team: January 5th

Peg Wendler, Erna McKeivitt, Ruth Mucha

January 11th

Greeters: Lisa & Bob Deal

Reader: Tom Friend

Ushers: Joe Rauscher, Karen Rauscher, Bryan MacDonald, Stacey Levins, Rob Levins

Counting Team: January 12th

Claire Riggs, Hildegard Bashley, Betty Komp

January 18th

Greeters: Huber Family

Reader: Ron Wood

Acolyte: Sam Silbiger Crucifer: Samantha Terry

Ushers: Herb Reynolds, Darlene Thomas, Steve Thomas

Counting Team: January 19th

Peg Wendler, Ursula Schwartz, Charlotte Thompson

January 25th

Greeters: Nancy & Joe Barr

Reader: Jenn Peters

Acolyte: Sarah Silbiger Crucifer: Thomas Aloia

Ushers: Gordon Gera, Allen Mowery, Althea Zanecosky

Counting Team: January 26th

Mike Mattherws, Joan Howie, Bill Raupp

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2009</h1> <p><i>Birthdays are in italics.</i></p>						
				1 <i>Elsa Hoffman</i> <i>John Manning Jr.</i> <i>Victoria Kimball</i> 7:00 PM AI. Anon	2 <i>Keith Hokanson</i> Office Closed	3 <i>Marian Gallagher</i> <i>Rebecca Zanecosky</i> 4:00 PM Eagle Scout Ceremony
4 2 nd Sunday after Christmas 8:30 & 10:00 Worship & Communion 10:00 Sunday School <i>Mary Wood</i> <i>Joanne Hein</i> <i>Jamie Ash</i>	5 <i>Gloria Keehn</i> <i>Justin Sweeney</i> <i>Chris Gera</i>	6 7:00 PM BH Dancers Reh. 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 BH Choir/Orchestra	7 <i>Ron Dorn</i> <i>Shannon Terry</i> <i>Brandon Capizzi</i> 4:00 PM Children's Choir 7:30 PM Cameron Pipers	8 7:00 PM AI. Anon 7:30 PM BH Dress Reh	9 <i>Kathy Lavanchy</i> <i>Ty Frankhouser</i>	10 <i>Tom Graney</i> <i>Nicole Hudson</i> Boar's Head
11 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 Communion 10:00 Worship Service 10:00 Sunday School Boar's Head <i>Evelyn Amwake</i> <i>Sandy Leonardo</i> <i>Anna Sawyer</i>	12 <i>Violet Gibson, Kathy Bell</i> <i>Marilyn Mackey, Joe Seanor</i> <i>Jason Robinson</i> <i>Stephen Roehm</i>	13 <i>Patrick Byron</i> 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Bell Choir Reh. 7:30 PM Church Coun Mtg.	14 <i>Joan Matis</i> <i>Al Erb</i> 12 Noon Bible Study 4:00 PM Children's Choir 7:30 PM Cameron Pipers 7:30 PM Bible Study	15 7:00 PM AI. Anon 7:30 PM Sr Choir Rehearsal	16 5:00 PM YFG Kid Sitting 6:00 PM Catechism Class	17 <i>Sue Bristow, Paula Seaner</i> <i>Stephanie Melillo</i> <i>Janet Cohen</i>
18 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 Communion 10:00 Worship Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 AM Sr SPY Art Mus	19 <i>Erin Savarese</i> <i>Corey O'Brien</i>	20 <i>Nancy Lownes</i> <i>David Hanel</i> 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Bell Choir Reh.	21 <i>John Lewis, Anne Hipp</i> 11:45 AM Community Elders Mtg 12 Noon Bible Study 4:00 PM Children's Choir 7:30 PM Cameron Pipers 7:30 PM Bible Study	22 <i>Betty Rotenbury</i> <i>Sandy Silbiger</i> <i>Allison Nguyen</i> <i>Ryan Anderson</i> 7:00 PM AI. Anon 7:30 PM Sr Choir Rehearsal	23 <i>Jodi Ash</i> <i>Ryan Wendler</i>	24 <i>June DelGrippe</i> <i>Bill Raupp</i> <i>Althea Zanecosky</i> <i>Jim Aloia Jr.</i> <i>Lauren Anderson</i> <i>Owen Sawyer</i> 9-12 Noon Youth Visioning
25 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 Communion 10:00 Worship Service 10:00 Sunday School 6:00 PM SPY Meeting <i>Jeff McGoldrick</i> <i>Kenny Stringer Jr.</i>	26 <i>Bob Dugay</i> <i>Rob DeVitis</i> <i>Amanda Feigel</i> 6-9 PM Youth Visioning	27 <i>Celeste Chamberlain</i> 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Bell Choir Reh.	28 <i>Peggy Soda</i> <i>Rich Trembath</i> 12 Noon Bible Study 4:00 PM Children's Choir 6:00 SPY Mtg 7:30 PM Cameron Pipers 7:30 PM Bible Study	29 <i>Stacey Levins</i> 7:00 PM AI. Anon 7:30 PM Sr Choir Rehearsal	30	31 <i>Claire Griffin</i>