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*A newsletter for  
and about the people of  
St. Peter's Church*

# Onward

JANUARY 2016

## Mark Your Calendar for these January 2016 Dates

January 3 & 17	SPY
January 3, 17, 24 & 31	Sunday School
January 6	Mini Prayer Shawl Knitting, Night #2
January 10	Family Church
January 6 & 20	Lectio Divina Bible Study
January 24	Annual Meeting, after 10am service
January 29 & 30	Diocesan Convention



*Here's to the blessing of the year,  
Here's to the friends we hold so dear,  
To peace on earth,  
Both far and near.*

# The Epiphany

Dear ones,

January 6 the Feast of the Epiphany, following the twelve days of Christmas, when the church commemorates the arrival of wise ones from the East at the stable in Bethlehem. The name “Epiphany” derives from the Greek, meaning “manifestation” or “appearing”—thus the alternative title “the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.” We continue to celebrate manifestations of Jesus’ divine power throughout the season some of us call Epiphanytide. We will hear a voice from a cloud proclaim Jesus as God’s beloved, how Jesus turned water into wine, when he read from the Scriptures in the Temple in Jerusalem, and about when he was transfigured before the disciples on the mountaintop.

The season serves a reminder for us of who is ultimately in charge. We can delude ourselves into believing that we are the master of our fate, but the witness of Scripture tells us differently. Jesus is the boss of us. And it is not simply a matter of *calling* him boss. As Jesus says in the Gospel according to St. Matthew, only those who *obey* him really belong to him: “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”

This is tough work, and it involves a lifetime process of readjustment: getting back on the path when we have strayed from it, and sometimes blazing a new trail where none exists. Are you ready to obey Jesus?

—Father Barrie



Sunday, January 24

In the Undercroft, following the 10am service  
To elect three vestry members, one warden, and three delegates to Diocesan Convention 2016; to hear reports on the state of the parish; and to conduct such other business as may come before us.

A simple sandwich lunch will be served.

Standing for Vestry (Three-Year Term):

- Alan Pulitano
- Caroline Medina
- Serena Watkinson
- Jason Brown
- Knadya O’Kelly
- Timothy Cutting

Standing for Warden (Two-Year Term)

- David Cowell

the dedicated OpShop volunteers - Martine Risetto, Barbara Marlin, Stephanie Cutting, Jean Galbraith, Pat Sheeleigh, Kathy Elder, Alice Cotton, Judy Stice, Mary Shearin, Dawn Ruggiero, Lynn Livingston, Julie Bien, Duffy Bell, Mike Kamel, Stephanie Kent, Nancy Collins, Chris Corso, & Elsa Seiner.

St. Peter's OpShop Hours  
Thursdays 1:00-4:00  
Saturdays 10:00am-2:00pm

## *New Pledge Envelopes Coming in 2016*

The pledge-recording process has undergone a complete overhaul this year to make it easier and safer to accurately count and report all money being donated to St. Peter’s throughout the year. One of the steps in this overhaul was to upgrade the pledge record-keeping system from a Microsoft Access database to a software program called Servant Keeper, which we did in January of this year. The other step in this overhaul is to improve the data that the church receives for contributions made in pledge envelopes. Here’s how the new pledge envelopes will look starting in January 2016:

- 1) **No pledge numbers**.....Servant Keeper does not require them.
- 2) **No dates**.....funds received are credited to a parishioner’s account on the date of receipt, not the date on the envelope. FYI – this is not a new procedure. The

pledge recordkeeping is done this way to ensure proper reconciliation to the church’s accounting records.

3) **No colored borders**.....envelopes will not expire at year end; therefore, different colored borders are not required to distinguish one year from the next.

4) **NEW DATA required**.....donor’s name, amount of donation, and cash vs check.

The existing procedure requires the church secretary to scribe this data onto each envelope. Envelopes are considered documents of record and are retained for 3 years for research and audit purposes.

\*\*For privacy purposes, the “new data” required will be on the inside flap of the envelope so that only the person who opens the envelope will see it.\*\*

Thank you for helping me to keep the church’s pledge records in compliance with IRS 501c3 and Diocese of Newark guidelines.

Valerie Conrad,  
Pledge Recorder



## Thanks from Health & Healing

On Sunday, December 6, 2015, we had approximately 30 members (choir, young children and families, members of Health & Healing and clergy) giving the gift of themselves to many seniors at Crane's Mill through caroling and their presence in a world, that in many cases, is quite lonely. Thank you one and all! This annual event is so appreciated and a wonderful community outreach. The children really brought smiles to everyone!

I also want to thank Susan Negrotto, Judith Himes, Nancy Connor who joined me in delivering small Christmas trees and cookies to 15+ of our parish members. We donned our Santa hats, sang out "Ho Ho Ho" spreading Christmas cheer throughout our faith community.

You are living symbols of God's Grace in the World. Happy New Year!

*Sally Munson, Parish Nurse*  
Health & Healing Ministry

## St. Peter's OpShop

The spirit of Christmas carries through the year at OpShop. Run solely by volunteers from our parish and community, this ministry's outreach extends well beyond our doors which open twice a week.

The OpShop provides a welcoming place for people to browse, socialize, and find great bargains.

In 2015 St. Peter's OpShop raised funds to support the following -

### David St. George

\$20,100 with \$100 in memory of Tim Cutting Sr.

St. Peter's Church - \$19,000 as follows  
\$1,000 for SPY Mission Trip  
\$15,000 to St. Peter's Church  
\$3,000 for the purchase & installation of 5 basement windows for the church

### Rector's Discretionary Fund

\$5,000 to Father Anthony to be used at his discretion

### Select Charities - \$5,419 as follows

Good Shepherd Home child sponsorship \$180

Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown \$701

North Porch \$806

Susan G. Komen \$845

The Seeing Eye \$756

Lustgarten Foundation to advance research of pancreatic cancer \$500

Atlantic Home Care & Hospice \$100

New Beginnings for Tomorrow School approximately \$1531

OpShop also donates items to North Porch, Vietnam Veterans Association, and Family Intervention Services.

(At the time of this writing, we can anticipate **additional** distributions at the end of December 2015 when the shop's transactions are complete.)

Thank you for donating new and gently used items to the OpShop. Thank you to

## Volunteer Needed



We are in need of a work-at-home volunteer, for what could be ten minutes a day, or even less. This person needs computer and internet access and literacy, as this position would manage our new online Google calendars. These are currently available, but not yet up and fully running for public viewing. We plan to have the various calendars available on the church web site soon. If you can imagine yourself having a new swanky St. Peter's e-mail account (we'll furnish it), checking this more-or-less daily, and then adding things to the online calendars, please contact Fr. Barrie, 201-390-8270 or email [fr.barrie.saintpeters@gmail.com](mailto:fr.barrie.saintpeters@gmail.com) or <http://doodle.com/FatherBarrie>.

## Diocesan Convention

The annual convention of the Diocese of Newark will take place January 29 and 30 in Parsippany. There is a pre-convention meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 9, at Grace Church in Madison, beginning at 10am. Our delegates are expected to attend all three sessions, to learn about the business of our diocese and to help make decisions about directions for our common life in 2015. In addition to the clergy, St. Peter's delegates are Susan Negrotto, Alan Pulitano, and Cathy Swanson.

## Is Your Pledge Recorded?

If you have not already submitted your pledge of financial support of your parish church for 2016, please do so immediately; our annual pledge in-gathering was held November 8, but more than a few of our regulars have not yet made a commitment. Your parish leadership needs this information to make our diocesan pledge and prepare our annual budget in a timely fashion. Please help! Those submitting a pledge card will receive a St. Peter's ornament as a thank-you gift. These are available in the Bride's Room at the rear of the church.

## The Envelope, Please



Starting this year, we will no longer be purchasing numbered offering envelopes. You may simply place your check in the offering plate or use one of the envelopes found at the back of the church and chapel. Those little envelopes date back to the days when the federal income tax codes first allowed a deduction for charitable giving—and most people gave cash. Today, most of us donate using a check. If you are still giving cash, please be sure to use one of the pew envelopes so we can properly credit you for your gift.

# SPY

Saint Peter's Youth (SPY) Group is open to all interested youth from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. SPY is divided into two sections: Junior SPY (Grades 6-8) and Senior SPY (Grades 9-12). SPY has two meetings scheduled in January.

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Jr. SPY 4:00 – 5:30 pm  
Sr. SPY 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>  
Jr. SPY 4:00 – 5:30 pm  
Sr. SPY 5:30 – 7:00 pm

## Church School

There has been a great crowd in Sunday School! Such wonderful thoughts and discussion build from these groups. Even the littlest are thinking and shyest starting to speak! How awesome that relationships are building. When these children are in SPY together some day it will be such a supportive group for them through the stresses and pressures of the teenage years! Make getting your child(ren) to Sunday School a priority in the new year if you can. What a gift! And the peaceful time you have in church is a gift for yourself, too!

Teachers for January are Serena Watkinson (PreK-K), Kathy Vacca (1st-3rd), and Mary Beth Weber (4th-6th).

## Family Church

WOW! What a FABULOUS family church service we had in December! Elizabeth Green, Katelyn Wohltmann and Julia DiGiovanni each did a super job reading! Jake Watkinson & Katie Butler were such helpful ushers AND, when they saw we were short and adult usher, Emily Brown, Sally Cutting and Charlie Cutting stepped right in to help too! Thanks also to Jake DeAquino and Alyssa Wohltmann for so very carefully bringing the elements up to the altar :)

I also need to point out how fun it was to have John the Baptist join us in church for the sermon! If you missed it check it out on our You Tube link. Next Family Church is January 10th. It is such a special experience I hope you all come. And can't wait for more assistance from our young parishioners!

## January Dates

Sunday School meets January 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st.

Family Church will be held on January 10th. All during the 10 am service.

Any questions about Sunday School or Family Church or to become involved contact Dana Leach at (973) 364-7544 or [scottdanaL@aol.com](mailto:scottdanaL@aol.com).

## Thank you for your Christmas Donations!!

Once again the parishioners from St. Peter's provided Christmas gifts to the children from Family Intervention Services and Patch! We truly have made such an impact on each of these children's thoughts and feelings about Christmas and provided aide to numerous families during their toughest times! Thank you so much for all of your support! I look forward to next year! If you have any questions about these organizations or about your donations, please feel free to contact me at 973-618-9345! Thank you!

*Christine DiGiovanni*

## Thank you for the Birthday Gifts for Jesus!

I wanted to thank all of the children and families that gave a gift for Jesus at the Christmas Eve Service! These beautiful gifts will be used as birthday gifts through out the year at Youth Consultation Services, Therapeutic Nursery (TN). The TN is a partial mental health program for children aged 1-7 years old. If you have any questions about this organization or the donations, please feel free to contact me at 973-618-9345. Thank you once again!

*Christine DiGiovanni*

## Lectio Divina Bible Study

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month  
January 6th & 20th

Where: In the main church



Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is an ancient, monastic approach to praying the Bible, in which one encounters the Word of God through prayer, silence, and contemplation. Though sharing in similarities to the traditional bible study, Lectio Divina puts a particular emphasis on silence and listening for God's presence in one's life. The beauty of Lectio Divina is found in its simplicity and accessibility for people wherever they may be on their faith journey. At St. Peter's we offer group Lectio Divina. No prior experience is necessary to enjoy this simple, yet profound form of prayer. Contact Father Anthony for further information.

## Adult Confirmation

Preparation begins in the new year to help answer your questions about St. Peter's, the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and Christianity in general. It is intended for inquirers, as well as those considering being formally received into the Anglican branch of Christ's holy catholic church. For more information and to register, contact Fr. Anthony: [fr.anthony.saintpeters@gmail.com](mailto:fr.anthony.saintpeters@gmail.com).

The class will meet on January 17, February 7, March TBD, April 3rd, April 17. The class sessions will be from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, in the Undercroft.

## Health & Healing - Mini Prayer Shawl Knitting, Night #2!

January 6th, 7:30, Upper Room

We had such a GREAT time in November learning how to knit mini prayer shawls! Let's come together again on January 6th at 7:30 at St. Peter's in the upper room to celebrate Epiphany and PRACTICE our knitting! If you can come a bit earlier, 7 pm, we can enjoy Evening Prayer in the Chapel first. :) We will provide knitting supplies to those who need them, but if you have size 7 or 8 needles and yarn please bring them along. If you already know how to knit...COME! (and help the others or work on your own project) If you have no interest in knitting but want to be part of the fun and fellowship...COME!! We learned last time that with our hands busy knitting and mouths busy talking we don't spend much time eating so if you'd like to bring a small snack to share that would be lovely, but we don't need tons. :) We will provide drinks!



*November Health & Healing Mini Prayer Shawl Knitting Night*

## *Greening of the Church*

Many thanks to the ladies of the Altar Guild for greening the church and chapel as we prepare for this joyous season. Included in the picture are (first row) Lisa Beland, Marilyn Rango, Karen Mosher, Diane Waitts, Alice Samuels, Brenda Bingham and (second row) Debra Chance, Barbara Marlin, Trish McCabe.

