

# **REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**

## **For the Year 2008**

### **February 8, 2009**

**11:30 a.m.**



## **St. Peter's Church**

**121 Church Street. Phoenixville, PA 19460  
610.933.2195**



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
Annual Meeting – February 8, 2009  
11:30 AM

**AGENDA**

Opening Prayer	Father Koshy Mathews
Meeting Called to Order	
Appoint Secretary of Meeting	
Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting	
Presentation of Candidates Vestry Deanery and Convention Delegates	Mike Logar
Rector's Report	Fr. Koshy
Senior Warden Report	Mike Logar
Stewardship Report	Gary Russell
Accounting Warden Report	Retta Sparano
Adjournment	

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
121 Church Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460**

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**February 17, 2008**

The meeting convened at 11:50 AM. Following prayer, Father Koshy Mathews led the business of the meeting.

**Attending:** Fr. Koshy, current 7 vestry members, 43 members of the congregation.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the 2007 annual meeting were approved as written.

**Introduction of Candidates:** Senior Warden Mike Logar introduced Bev Burkhardt, Andrew Druckenmiller and Retta Sparano, noting that the 4<sup>th</sup> candidate, Susan Jordan was unable to attend. Also introduced were delegate and convention nominees, Geoffrey Scott and Geoffrey Grace. As there were no additional nominations, and the same number of open positions, all candidates were elected by acclimation.

**Report of the Rector:** Empowered laity, seeing joy in so many faces, a more orderly and tidy service, increased attendance, and the mission work accomplished, were some of the 2007 highlights discussed by Fr. Koshy. Passing a balanced budget, and committing to support both Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and mission work in 2008 are noteworthy goals for the parish. When the Natural Church Development process began in 2007 at St. Peter's, our minimum factor was the lack of loving relationships. Fr. Koshy believes that should the survey be taken in 2008, the result would be reversed, as we have become a more welcoming, sharing and loving congregation.

Retiring members of the vestry, Don Eyer and Doug Bailey were recognized for their personal contributions to the work of the vestry and on-going support of the parish. Each was presented with a prayer book as a token of thanks.

Fr. Koshy suggested focus in 2008 to include the formation of both a women's and men's group for fellowship, additional people to work with the youth, efforts to realize the much-needed handicap entrance, and a feasibility study for a capital campaign.

**Dedication of the Florence Smith Fellowship Room:** Recognizing her long and faithful service to St. Peter's Church, the fellowship room was dedicated to the memory of Florence Smith. Sue Meadows and Retta Sparano recalled her total commitment to the parish through leading the Altar Guild, year-long efforts to support the annual bazaar and the sincere approach to whatever was needed.

**Special recognitions:** Fr. Koshy thanked Jim and June Henry for their tireless efforts in many areas of parish work, often silently done without any recognition, but always with their love for the parish; they are truly "the face of St. Peter's". Father then recognized the commitment of Cherry Eyer, who also served in many ministries, and continues to set an example of courage and faith to all. A gift was presented to her husband Don to give her as our token of appreciation.

**Report of the Senior Warden:** Mike Logar recalled the work of the vestry at the April 2007 retreat that resulted in a new vision for the parish, narrowing its focus to specific goals and committing to support of the MDG and mission work in 2008. Each ministry was empowered to set goals in support of the vision. Special thanks to Fr. Koshy as he teaches us to open our minds and hearts to reaching out to others.

We have received a grant, valued at \$15K, from Community Design Collaborative (CDC) a full-scope building assessment to be completed in May. These documents will provide help in securing grants to preserve our legacy, protect our stained glass windows and upon up our facilities for community use. In addition, we are working closely with Partners for Sacred Places (PSP) on a heritage timeline and assessing our public value in dollars, as well as ideas for expanding the use of our space.

**Youth group luncheon:** At this time in the meeting, the Youth Group along with Jan Wier and Lynn Schaefer were recognized for their culinary efforts in providing the pasta luncheon available today prior to the meeting. Through donations, \$464 was raised towards future Youth Group activities.

**Stewardship Report:** Gary Russell, chair of the Stewardship Committee, by using various charts, reported on the increase in pledging units and dollars over the past several years. A 15% increase in 2007, with 10 new pledges, 3 of those being new and 7 as first-time pledges. He reminded all that pledge information is confidential with access to that information very minimal. In 2008, there will be opportunity to learn more about planned and incremental giving. Gary thanked the committee for their efforts during the year. He noted that pledging is a response to God's grace and love.

**Accounting Warden Report:** A year that opened with a deficit budget closed with a positive balance, was highlighted by several factors. Financial support of the mission trip to Mississippi, the Outreach recipients, Food Pantry, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Diocesan pledge and assessment were reported by Retta Sparano as important work of the parish in addition to meeting the operating budget. For the first time in many years, we not only "lived within our means" by not withdrawing from savings, cleared all payables and very importantly, passed a balanced budget for 2008.

The Fundraising Committee was challenged to raise \$15K to support the operating budget, and as a result of very hard work on the part of so many parishioners and the generous support of those who attended our fundraising events, we surpassed that goal, and made funds available for a new altar frontal and vestment. There is a \$13,500 challenge for 2008, and events are in the planning process, with the hope and prayer that we will once again achieve our goal. Retta shared her vision of future pledge dollars matching operating expenses, so the fundraising efforts can be focused on supporting missions, youth group activities and other parish objectives instead of the operating budget.

**Missions Report:** Cindy Hammaker reviewed the mission trip to Mississippi in June of 2007, sharing pictures of the daily hard work and interaction with the residents. With parish prayer, support, and successful fundraising efforts, 21 people were able to make this mission trip. Another project, through the Good Works of Chester County, with participation of the full Youth Group, spent a full day restoring a home in Phoenixville.

Opportunities for mission work in 2008 will include the Appalachia Service Project in W. Virginia the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>, and an overseas trip to Central America mid-July.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Retta Sparano*

## *The Report of the Rector - 2008*

Year 2008 was a banner year making inroads into previously uncharted territory. For the first time in many years we passed a balanced budget and ended the year in black. We made our first foray into foreign mission by sending a delegation of 10 to El Salvador, and participated with our national church in the global effort to reduce extreme poverty by the year 2015 by giving 1% of our budget for the Millennium Development Goals.

Our corporate worship continues to define our identity and form our spirituality, and is the central focus of the Worship Committee. Serving the rector in an advisory role, the Worship committee meets monthly and strives for excellence in our worship practices. Sensing a drop in the attendance of first Sunday 10 AM service, beginning in October we started to have children's chapel every Sunday and integrated our youth into the 10AM service. Church School children and teachers leave for classes immediately after they take communion. These changes have resulted in an increase in weekly Sunday attendance from an average of 110 to 121. In addition to our regular Sunday worship, special services highlighted the work of The Clinic and honored Fr. Evans' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination, our newcomers to the parish, Outreach and Mission ministries. We thank the work of Worship Committee especially Beverly Burkhardt, Fr. David Hyatt and Jan Wier for serving as chair of this important committee. We also thank Mike Logar for helping the committee in identifying the top priorities.

Music continues to be integral to our worship; although we were without a regular organist and choir master for a good part of the year, our Choir performed admirably, with commitment and dedication to consistently raise their voices in praise of our Lord. The musical contributions of Treble Choir on special occasions made our services more alive and joyful. We are grateful to David Deery and the late Cliff Bohson for offering their services to the church and for working with the choirs. Thanks also to Monica Liggins and Donna Pinto for their talents during the interim. Marty Bloem chairs the search committee in finding a suitable organist and choir director for us.

Formation plays a crucial role in the growth of a faith community. St. Peter's offers something for all age groups. In Children's Chapel, the little ones learn to worship; in Church School, we offer age appropriate classes for children ranging from pre-school to grade 6. Rite-13 curriculum helps the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth explore their faith more deeply, and the J2A curriculum challenges our High School Youth to see how their faith can be a source of strength as they prepare themselves to take on adult responsibilities. Adults have weekly study classes during each church season. Last year, we studied books by authors Miroslav Volf, Diana Butlar Bass, and Marcus Borg, and on a lighter note we watched and discussed the movie, "Bucket List", and read and discussed the book, "Christ the Lord: Road to Cana" by Anne Rice. We thank Lisa Schiavone for organizing and leading the Children's chapel ministry. We thank Mark Hammaker for his leadership organizing the Church School, Anne Andrews, Wendy Vargo, and Cindy Hammaker for teaching their respective classes, Karen Mitten, Sarah Heidloff, Peter and Katie Druckenmiller, Gary Russell and Rebekah Ray for running the youth classes and groups.

Our identity as God's people is further evidenced by our witness in reaching out to the weak, vulnerable and the marginalized. The pantry that services local families is going strong, and special recognition of Jim and June Henry's ministry with the pantry was honored by dedicating the pantry in their name. In addition, the Outreach ministry gave financial support to organizations locally and in Philadelphia. We thank Barbara Rocchi, Sherrie Campli and the large number of volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the various segments of our Outreach ministry.

St. Peter's Outreach extended further as this past year by sending youth missionaries to Appalachia and a delegation of mostly adults to El Salvador. Both these trips were financed through fundraising, individual donations, and deanery and vestry supports. Going overseas for mission work for the first time was huge undertaking for our church this past year and it will serve as a milestone in the life of our church. Cindy Hammaker deserves our thanks for organizing both mission trips.

Coffee hour continues to draw people for energetic, lively and vibrant fellowship after the service. The result of Natural Church Development survey last year was to increase loving relationships which we not

only achieved according to the survey but also was visible in the way we treat each other. Credit for moving the needle on our fellowship is also due to the work of New Member Ministry headed by Georgette Druckenmiller and Judi Hans, and Fellowship and Fundraising Committee headed by Retta Sparano. We thank Lynn Schaefer for loving and cheerful facilitation of coffee hour and other special events. Fundraising efforts in support of the operating budget were an integral part in ending the year in the black. Thanks to Gary Russell's leadership of the Stewardship Committee for helping the church achieve a balanced budget for the second time in a row.

I am deeply grateful to many people:

- Father Raymond Atlee and Father David Hyatt for their sacramental and pastoral assistance in our worship services. I am thankful to Fr. Hyatt for his sharing in the preaching ministry. Thanks also to Beverly Burkhardt and Sherrie Campli for their faithful assistance at the altar.
- Judy Dougherty, whom many of you don't see in the church, is an integral part of parish life and I thank her for all that she does for the smooth running of our parish office. She has managed the day-to-day office responsibilities as well as printing the bulletins, the *NET*, and other parish-wide communications, and assists with the recording of our finances.
- I thank Frank Potopa for his care and oversight of our church buildings and grounds till he resigned in October. I am grateful to Rick Morris for taking over the duties of the sexton and for volunteering so much of his time and talent in repairing things in our old building.

I also want to thank Vestry members who are retiring and resigning

- Barbara Rocchi for her faithful service in the vestry for the last six years; we will miss her passion for the pantry ministry and her loving and caring ways.
- Katie Druckenmiller for her service to the vestry for the last three years. Vestry will miss your passionate advocacy for the youth.
- Andrew Druckenmiller for serving out the term vacated by Don Eyer. We will miss his passionate voice for the social justice ministry of the church.
- Art Campli for your faithful service in the vestry for the last two years and in the last year as the Junior and Property warden. We will miss your efficiency on property matters and your voice for the marginalized.
- Susan Jordan for your perspectives and views on church life and vestry dynamics. We will miss your persistent voice on giving thanks.

I am immensely grateful for the support I receive from the vestry members who will continue to serve in the coming year.

- To you Mike Logar, for your contagious energy, enthusiasm and optimism, your willingness to pitch in and roll up your sleeves to get the job done, and your ability to step back and take the larger or longer view, I am truly thankful.
- To Retta, for your calm and thoughtful perspective, your smooth efficiency in getting things done, and your focused management of our finances, I am deeply grateful.
- To Beverly, for your willingness to serve the weak and vulnerable, your enthusiasm to provide leadership wherever it is needed, I am truly indebted
- And to Marty, for your quiet and thoughtful leadership style, your gentleness and intellect, and for stepping in to serve as the music director, I am profoundly grateful.

I believe that God's ministry among us and in the world is dependent on our willingness to be open to the stirring of Holy Spirit in our lives. We are a people who are sealed by the Holy Spirit, marked as Christ's own forever and appointed to witness God's love and grace to the world around us. We are a people called to stand up and make a difference. In retrospect I can say confidently that this past year we have tasted and experienced the goodness of the Lord. We are truly blessed. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,  
*Koshy*

## *Annual Report of the Senior Warden - 2008*

2008 was another exciting and challenging year. These are extraordinary times we are living in, and despite the many external challenges facing us we successfully moved forward in multiple areas of our parish life. We accomplished many large tasks together and an untold number of smaller tasks that go unnoticed simply because a dedicated parishioner takes the time to do them; it takes many willing hands to run our parish.

There were many notable accomplishments in 2008 and you only need to read the enclosed ministry and committee reports to see that we continue to be a vigorous and giving parish. The push forward was supported by the vestry's work on creating and installing our mission statement:

*"We are an inclusive , forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you."*

The "forward-looking" component of our mission statement was specifically evident with a group that completed several training modules with Partners for Sacred Places. The PSP committee dedicated significant time over several training days, and their efforts have already produced tangible results. Under PSP's guidance we began development of a case statement and public value tool which are two critical components of a successful capital campaign. One interesting note is the public value tool that calculated our public value at \$120,000. This dollar amount is the measurement of resources, space, time and money St. Peter's contributes to our local community. This is a significant accomplishment for a church of our relatively small size and an area we will continue to expand as we discover new ways to optimize our property for ministries and community services.

Our work with PSP enhanced our engagement with another organization: Community Design Collaborative (CDC) is a volunteer-based design center that provides funding for preliminary design services. In October of 2007 we received a service grant from CDC and in July of 2008 the Master Plan for Renewal was presented to us. CDC provided a dedicated team consisting of architects, a historic preservationist, engineers and cost estimators who collectively contributed over 300 hours of work on the project. The value of services received was \$34,000 making the service grant one of the largest ever given by CDC.

The completed CDC Master Plan is another important step forward in preparing our parish for a capital campaign. The CDC project underscored our desire to preserve our legacy so that many future generations will have the same opportunity as us to worship in our beautiful church. Through the CDC process we came to see our property as a monument where the exterior and nearly every interior space have original features that define the character of our building. Portions of the church were designed by renowned Philadelphia architect George Nattress, and our windows are a treasure and irreplaceable. What we also came to realize is that we have been in a deferred maintenance mode for far too long with critical infrastructure needs like the roof, heating and electrical systems in a condition that could fail at any time. Additionally, our stained glass windows are in need of restoration and our building needs improvements that would enable universal accessibility.

The challenges we face with our monument are many, and the time for action is now. We have formed a Capital Campaign Steering Committee with three primary functions: (1) develop a understanding of how our building needs to be improved, (2) determine how the projects may be funded and (3) engage/interview fundraising consultants, perform due diligence and hire a consultant for the planning and execution of a capital campaign. Following many months of work by the committee, the recommendation was made to hire MacIntyre Associates to conduct a capital campaign feasibility study planned for 2009.

The decision to retain MacIntyre Associates was based on many factors including their proven track record of managing successful capital campaigns with Episcopal churches and other non-religious organizations in Chester County. To execute a successful campaign we need a wide range of skills and resource time that are beyond our current in-house capabilities. The steering committee supported and

the vestry approved allocating \$11,600 for the feasibility study which will conclude with a report listing an analysis of projections for a financial goal and levels of parishioner priorities. This report will serve as the basis for framing our capital campaign with a forecasted launch in 2010.

We are fortunate here at St. Peter's that we have such a wide variety of gifts that are quietly given, without any desire or expectation of acknowledgement or fanfare. We are also blessed with many faithful parishioners who contribute their valuable time and talent which are as important and necessary as treasure. Thanks to everyone and you have my sincere gratitude for all you do to support the life of our parish.

We are blessed with clergy of exceptional and diverse talents and I thank you Fr. Koshy, Fr. David and Fr. Atlee for enriching our worship experience.

Finally, I want thank the vestry for your exceptional commitment and leadership. It is a privilege to work and serve with you. The decisions we made in 2008 will have a profound impact on our future as we continue in our efforts to hear and respond to God's call for us in this time and place.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mike Logar*, Senior Warden

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### *Accounting Warden's Financial Report - 2008*

For the second time in a row, we have ended the year with a positive net balance; no small achievement when we look back on all the successes of 2008.

Vestry committed 1% of annual budget (\$2,000 each) to support the Millennium Development Goals and the parish mission trips. Several property repairs were completed for safety and borough compliance.

2008 was a year of numerous fundraising events that supported mission trips, youth group activities, and the operating budget. The goal is to have pledge dollars match expenses, and until that is realized, we will need to continue these efforts.

St. Peter's Vestry has approved the following **balanced** budget for 2009. Included in income is a fundraising line of \$9,000, and with your continued support of these events throughout the year, we will keep our net income in the black.

#### **2009 Approved Budget**

<b>Income</b>		
	Pledge	\$186,850
	Open Plate *	20,000
	Easter & Christmas	6,500
	Fundraisers	9,000
	Miscellaneous	1,800
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$224,150</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Diocesan Giving	\$ 11,784
	Payroll-Benefits-Supply Staff	146,121
	Worship	4,825
	Administration	12,590
	Ministries **	10,800
	Property	37,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$223,120</b>
<b>Income minus Expense</b>		<b>\$ 1,030</b>

\* Open plate includes giving dollars that are not pledged.

\*\* Ministries includes \$2K each for Millenium Development Goals and mission trips.

**St. Peter's 2008 Financial Statement**

	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Open Plate	18,000	23,261
Pledge	184,809	182,617
Easter & Christmas	5,500	7,095
Fundraising for operations	13,500	11,866
Mission Trips		15,330
Outreach/Food Pantry		12,386
Rector's Fund		3,395
Youth Group		2,349
Special Donations		4,076
Miscellaneous	1,350	3,640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223,159</b>	<b>266,015</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Diocesan giving	10,749	9,028
Personnel	139,416	131,954
Administration	12,275	14,021
Worship	4,650	8,432
Ministries	8,200	9,495
Outreach/Pantry		8,916
Mission Trip		15,330
Rector's Fund		3,395
Special Donations		1,716
Property	39,476	37,494
Other, not in budget		3,816
Miscellaneous	500	3,018
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214,766</b>	<b>246,615</b>
<b>Income minus expense</b>	<b>8,393</b>	<b>19,400</b>
<b>Account balances as of 12/31/08</b>		
Checking	44,742	
Money Market savings	13,036	
Vanguard money market	20,148	
Certificates of Deposit	11,254	
Youth Group Savings	3,302	

Respectfully submitted,  
*Retta Sparano*, Accounting Warden

## *St. Peter's Episcopal Church 2008 Finance*

### **Vestry Commitments**

- Passed balanced budget for 2008 – first time in many years
- 1% of budget (\$2,000 each) designated for mission & Millennium Development Goals
- Pledge and assessment to deanery and diocese of \$9.028
- Increased staff compensation

### **Parish Support**

- Pledge & Open Plate exceeded budget line by \$ 3,000
- Fundraisers & special donations supported:

Operating budget	\$ 8,800
Mission trips	\$15,330
Outreach/Pantry	\$12,386
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,395
Memorials & Clinic Purse	\$ 4,076

### **Accomplishments**

- Building and property repairs
- Extended use of building for community groups
- No withdrawals from savings
- All payables cleared by end of year
- Passed a balanced budget for 2009

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## *Parish Statistics - 2008*

**Weddings** [2] Donald Kenneth Eaton, III and Sonia N. Gonzalez-Rivera  
Ryan Andrew Sutter and Stephanie Elizabeth Russell

**Baptisms** [12] Ethan Andrew Arsenich, Rosalyn Charlotte Roberts, Caleb Daniel Summers, Lilliana Jacqueline Summers, Carly Joy Gavetti, Madhavi Ananth, William Robert Druckenmiller, Ethan Samuel Smith, Brock Matthew Farnum, Graciela Elizabeth Trexler, Jack Philip Trexler, Audrey Rachel Ibach

**Burials** [5] Frederika Murray, Daniel Francis Chermack, Judith Hughes, James L. Henry, Clifford N. Bohanson

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## *Acolyte Report - 2008*

Eleven young people serve St. Peter's faithfully as Acolytes. The Acolytes and their parents, along with Fr. David Hyatt, met earlier in 2008 to review their duties and to discuss the important role they play in the life and the ministry of the Church. Additional training took place for those who felt called to serve. Our current Acolytes are: Dan Hammaker, Sarah Hammaker, Brandon Rennie, Brittany Rennie, Charlotte Roberts, Adam Schaefer, Jake Schaefer, Sarah Schaefer, Jake Vargo, Kacie Vargo, and Ryan Weir. One adult, Vernet Spence-Brown, fills in as needed. For scheduling purposes the Acolytes were put into teams of three, with Dan Hammaker serving as Head Acolyte. Rebekah Ray volunteered to wash and iron the vestments on a regular basis.

Please encourage these young people as they faithfully serve St. Peter's in this very important ministry of the church.

Respectfully submitted

*Vernet Spence-Brown,*

## *Children's Chapel - 2008*

Children's Chapel is conducted every Sunday of the month. Children follow the Crucifer out of the church following the reading of the Gospel and return during the sharing of the Peace. The Children's Chapel is held in one of the Sunday school rooms. During Children's Chapel, there are songs, a brief Sermon, the Children's Creed, and a discussion about Thanking & Asking Prayers.

During the fall of 2006, the Worship Committee identified a need for an additional component to be added to the 10:00 AM Eucharist in an effort to include the children of the parish. The committee recognized that children should be excited about their faith and be instructed at their developmental level. With this knowledge and understanding of the children's unique needs, the "Children's Chapel" was created.

Children's Chapel has been conducted for two years (excluding summer) and has been well received. The average number of children in attendance is approximately eight per week. The children know the routine and are eager to assist the adult facilitating the chapel.

Children's Chapel is in need of additional volunteers to facilitate each week. The goal is to have enough facilitators to rotate on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, depending on the number of participants. It is a great way to spend time with the youngest members of our parish.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Schiavone*

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## *Counters Report - 2008*

A big thank you to all of the volunteer members of our count teams. You make my job as the counter's chair an easy one with your dedication and ability to handle your counting task without problem. In the beginning of 2008, we had 11 people involved in the counting ministry. Six of those members have been counting for over 10 years including Gary and Carol Russel, Jan Wier, Iris Blanche, Bill Sullens and myself. At the beginning of 2008, we had four members who had been counting for over 5 years including Marva Young, Jim Henry, Susan Hyatt and Marty Bloem. That is quite a commitment from these individuals to St. Peter's church.

We have 5 count teams of 2, with each team taking one week per month. Currently we are down 2 people with the passing of Jim Henry and the loss of Art Campi. We are in need of 2 volunteers to replace them, one for each the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month. The Counters are responsible for counting and recording the weekly monetary contributions after the 10 o'clock Sunday service and depositing them to a night deposit drop at a local bank. If you are good with handling checks and money, accurate and can spare roughly about one hour of time per month, please contact me by phone or email if you are willing to take on this ministry.

### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTERS: 'DONATING 101' (to make our job easier)**

- Many of our parishioners chose to donate once or twice per month. If you are one of those people, please note that it is not necessary to divide your donation into each of the envelopes supplied for the month. You can merely place your entire donation into one of your white pledge envelopes and you will get credit for the full amount. You will still be meeting your pledge commitment on a monthly or yearly basis.
- You should still utilize the monthly special envelopes for Rectors Fund, Outreach, Food Pantry or others as these are counted and listed separately to make sure your donation is targeted to the activity you select.
- Use of cellophane tape to seal your envelope is not necessary, the glue on our envelopes holds quite well.

*Dave Meadows*, Counter's Chair [610-933-0189]

## *Fellowship & Fundraising - 2008*

The focus of this committee is to provide fellowship opportunities for the entire parish and fundraising events to support the operating budget.

Events in 2008:            Shrove Tuesday pancake supper        Books in the Nook sale and café  
                                  Irish Dinner                                    Basket Bingo  
                                  Parish picnic                                    White Elephant Sale  
                                  Indian Dinner                                    Gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble

Additional fundraising events to support the mission trips and youth group activities also took place during the year.

Our goal was to provide diverse fellowship opportunities and raise \$13,500 to support the operating budget. Although we fell short of our goal, the opportunities for fellowship and increased community awareness can be considered very successful. Exciting events are planned for 2009 – please read *The NET* for news.

*Retta Sparano*, Vestry liaison

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## *Mission's - 2008*

On July 13-19, 2008, 10 missionaries represented St. Peters on a successful mission trip to El Salvador. The cost of the trip was very reasonable and could not have happened without the great support and contributions from the parishioners of St. Peters. Thank you to all who contributed.

The missionaries stayed on the compound of an Episcopal church in San Salvador. It is there that American missionaries are housed, fed and guided to serve through an organization called Cristosal. On the first day the missionaries were guided on a tour of historical sites. This pilgrimage enhanced our understanding of the civil war of the 1990s and the heroes of the past (esp. Oscar Romero). This history still has an impact on the plight of the poor today.

The rest of the trip was devoted to helping the people living in extreme poverty in the remote rural village of Nejapas. Our project was to restore their community building/church. It was hard work mixed with great fun, laughter and joy. We were happy to see the project to completion. The week culminated with a beautiful church service with the villagers and then a meal given to us by the villagers. The power of the holy spirit was felt by all through the love and connections made.

The missionaries returned home exuberant about the experience and what they gained spiritually. They were eager to present their most meaningful moments to the parish. The missionaries then hosted a slide show presentation complete with Salvadorian food. There was good attendance and it brought much joy to the missionaries to share their stories.

The church dedicated 1% of the church budget to an MDG related cause and it was decided that the money would go toward helping the poor in El Salvador. Half of the money went towards improving education for the poor at an Anglican school that the missionaries visited. The other half went toward an agricultural project geared toward giving hope to many of the poor.

Due to the great success of this trip and the connections made, St. Peter's is returning to El Salvador to continue our mission there. Presently, there are 9 – 11 missionaries going. The slated date is July 12-18. We will most likely be working again in the village of Nejapas and also in the fields of the agricultural project. We are looking forward to the great privilege and opportunity to share our time, love and talents with those in need. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

*Cindy Hammaker*

## *Music Program at St. Peter's - 2008*

This year saw many changes to the music program, beginning with David Deery's resignation as Organist/Choirmaster in June. We used supply organists during the summer, especially Monica Liggins and Cliff Bohson, while we were looking for a permanent replacement. There was much rejoicing when Cliff Bohson agreed to take the position effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, and he immediately set about re-establishing an energetic Youth Choir and breathing new life into the Adult Choir. So it was a great shock and a deep sorrow when he died unexpectedly on November 25<sup>th</sup>. He is sadly missed.

So we are once again looking for a permanent Organist/Choirmaster. In the meantime Donna Pinto has been doing a wonderful job as supply organist, and both choirs have continued singing regularly. The Adult Choir sings every week from September through June at the 10am liturgy, as well as at other special services throughout the church year, and currently has 14 members, most of whom are present weekly. We rehearse before the 10am Sunday service from 8:20 to 9:40, and warmly welcome new members. The Youth Choir has grown to 9 members and practices 2-3 times/month after the service and Sunday School, until about 12:15pm. They usually sing about once a month and at special services, such as at the 5:30 Christmas Pageant. The Youth Choir's singing is always warmly appreciated, and the children do a wonderful job.

The primary goal for 2009 is to find a permanent Organist/Choirmaster who can lead both choirs in making the worship services beautiful and spiritually richer. We would like to expand the choirs to fill every seat in the choir loft, and to increase our repertoire in order to provide a wide range of music to enhance every service. We would also like to involve more people in the congregation who play other instruments.

Most importantly, we would like to thank all the people who contribute so much to make the music at St. Peter's Church enriching and meaningful: the adult singers who serve week after week, the instrumentalists who add their special sounds, the youth who bring their energy and enthusiasm, and the congregation in the pews who join in the singing and show their appreciation.

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

*Marty Bloem*

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## *Natural Church Development - 2008*

Our team of dedicated, thoughtful and creative people have met regularly to address the results of the NCD survey's taken by about 30 members of our parish. Our previous **minimum factor**, the lowest scoring result from the previous survey, was **loving relationships**. This emphasis scored markedly higher on the latest survey taken. Our present **minimum factor is passionate spirituality**, the result of our most recent NCD survey.

The team has spent a focused amount of time seeking to understand what this means for St. Peter's Church and how we can nurture it. We invited members of the parish who took the survey to discuss their understanding of **passionate spirituality**. The result of our discussions suggests that spirituality is highly individual in nature and is expressed through all of our senses. Episcopal, liturgical worship lends itself to touching each of our senses and is a very meaningful way for many to express the "vertical" aspects their spirituality.

With the cross as a symbol of our lives as Christians, it is further believed that for our spirituality to be authentic, it is expressed horizontally in our daily lives. It cannot remain just a vertical focus. Our relationships to each other, our compassion for the poor, our expanded understanding of who is our

“neighbor” all become authentic signs of deepened spirituality. Our services to “others”, is a complimentary counterpart to our services of worship in church. For example, our Food Pantry is a form of “prayer” for those who serve the needs of the poor in our community.

In the months ahead, the parish will be urged to think further about the deeper meanings of passionate spirituality and how its many aspects can be nurtured at St. Peter’s church.

Respectfully,

[Fr.] *David Hyatt*, Convener

**Team members:** Fr. Koshy Mathews, Mike Logar, Art Campli, Susan Jordan, Barbara Rocchi, Katie Druckenmiller

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### *New Member Ministry - 2008*

The New Member Ministry continues to meet every third Saturday morning at the church. Our mission is to welcome visitors through our Greeters and to Shepherd newer members in getting involved and feeling a part of St. Peter’s.

This past year the committee has worked on publicizing St. Peter’s from the “outside in” and from the “inside out.”

- Two new “*the Episcopal church welcomes you*” signs featuring St. Peter’s are installed at the outskirts of Phoenixville to raise awareness of our location and worship times.
- John Burkhardt works diligently with the *Pottstown Mercury* and *The Phoenix* to make sure that articles featuring events at St. Peter’s appear weekly in those newspapers.
- Our team of Greeters keep a look out for new faces and make sure that everyone receives a welcome bag and a follow up note after they visit us.
- A New Member welcome reception is held at least once a year.
- A new pew “bookmark” hand-out, designed by Deb Birkbeck, gives visitors and members a voice from the pew.
- In addition, there is a pew information pamphlet outlining the various ministries of St. Peter’s Church.
- Our plans for the spring of 2009 include a Younger Member Mixer and a seminar on what it means to be an Episcopalian.

We welcome new ideas for the continued success of our mission.

Respectfully submitted, *Georgette Druckenmiller*

**Co-Chairs: Judi Hans, Georgette Druckenmiller, Recorder: Mary Tackett**

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### *Outreach Committee - 2008*

The **Outreach Pantry Ministry** continues to grow. In 2008, we incorporated the youth into the main body of the pantry. They help to give out the food on pantry day. We also had several volunteers seek us out to offer their assistance and we have incorporated them into the pantry as well. We now have three teams of packers and four teams of Saturday helpers. All of our goals and objectives concerning the pantry were exceeded in 2008.

**ECS-** We sponsored a collection of household cleaning supplies to assist people moving from homeless

shelters into permanent housing. A special ECS themed Sunday was also part of our outreach in 2008 and the "special designated funds" were sent to ECS, along with our usual annual donation. A "Ride the Bus" collection for school supplies was held in the fall.

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** – Parishioners are asked to bring a can of soup or make a monetary donation to help feed the hungry. Money collected goes directly to our Food Pantry, but the total of the dollar amount collected is sent to the sponsors and calculated for a national total. Jan Wier, Chair.

**MEAL WEEKS for ST. MARY’S SHELTER** – Twice a year, volunteers prepare meals to be shared by families who are living at the shelter. Jan Wier, Chair.

**BRIDGE OF HOPE** – We are happy to say that our candidate from Bridge of Hope has graduated and is on her own after overcoming many obstacles. We are very proud of her.

**ORION** – Emergency food for families in need was provided by our pantry.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY and UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)** were not part of our Outreach program in 2008.

The funds collected in the monthly **OUTREACH ENVELOPES** are disbursed to the following organizations, each receiving \$300.00:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Dolphins of Delaware Valley  | Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) |
| Episcopal Community Services | The Clinic                                  |
| Presiding Bishop’s Fund      | St. Mary’s Shelter                          |
| Seamen’s Church Institute    |   |

Thank you letters received from these institutions are displayed on the Outreach bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Our goals and objectives for 2009 are to reach further into the community. The nutritional cooking classes being given by the Clinic at our church are being advertised in the Pantry in hopes of having our clients learn more about nutrition.

*Barbara Rocchi*, Outreach Chair

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*Pastoral Care Committee - 2008*

The Pastoral Care Committee is dedicated to our shut-ins. Communion and visits are as frequent as personal schedules allow. Easter flowers from the altar were brought to all shut-ins. Christmas found us putting together and delivering our annual fruit baskets. The prayer shawl ministry, which was begun last year, will continue again this year. At the end of 2008, I stepped down as chair of the Pastoral Care Committee, and Susan Mathews has very ably taken over. Thank you and congratulations Susan. I will continue as a member along with Megan Druckenmiller, Joanne Arnold, Clem Young, and Todd Jackson.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Beverly E. Burkhardt*

## *Property Committee - 2008*

Stewardship of our church property is an ongoing and challenging opportunity. Outside of the general sexton duties, the issues that have to be addressed often present physical and financial challenges. The Property Committee leads work days to enhance the grounds, addresses emergencies, and often is climbing high and crawling low to reach areas demanding attention.

Sincere thanks to Art Campi for his quick response and follow-through with local contractors in addressing those areas in need of immediate attention. The Borough of Phoenixville mandated repairs to the wall facing Prospect Street to alleviate drainage to that street from our property. Work was completed and met the Borough's requirements.

Squirrels and bats have been discouraged from joining our worship services with the assistance of another service contractor, and although this problem may resurface again, we are hopeful it is mainly under control.

Major safety issue of the loose stone over the sacristy door was carefully repaired, keeping the structure in line with the architecture of the church.

The heating of the buildings was one of the biggest challenges faced in the late winter of 2008. A local heating contractor is working with the committee in addressing this issue. Special thanks to Clem Young and Curt Quaintance for their ongoing attention, often very early on Sunday mornings, to get heat into the church for worship services. We welcomed Rich Morris to the staff as church sexton, and appreciate his many years of service and knowledge of the physical needs of the property.

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## *Stewardship - 2008*

No amount of money can buy the kind of faithful servants we have here at St. Peter's. Our parish is full of faithful people who give significant, even sacrificial, service to God, our community, and their fellow parishioners. We see their good work in service from the Vestry to the pantry, and many places in between. Active committees in St. Peter's Church:

Vestry	Christian Education	Counters
Music /Choir	Missions	Natural Church Development
New Members	Outreach	Pantry
Pastoral Care	Property	Ushers
Kitchen/Coffee Hour	Altar Guild	Worship
Youth Group		

If you serve in any one or more of these groups, thank you for your hard work and dedication. If you have yet to join the effort, you see there is a lot of opportunity to exercise your stewardship in our church.

Our financial stewardship continues to be strong, even in these times of economic uncertainty. Some statistics of interest:

Pledges for 2009:	69			
Pledge dollars:	\$186,902			
Pledges increased from the previous year:	33			
New pledges for 2009:	7			
Distribution of pledge annual amounts:				
\$10,000+ (2)	\$5000-9999 (6)	\$2500-4999 (9)	\$1000-2499 (27)	Under \$1000 (25)

Thanks to all who have given so faithfully. Your continued support is greatly valued and vital to our continued spiritual journey together.

Your Stewardship Committee,

*Glynn Fraker, Lisa Scott, Carol Smith, Gary Russell.*

## *Sunday School - 2008*

Sunday School comprises children from pre-Kindergarten (4 years old) to 6<sup>th</sup> grade (11 years old). The curriculum, *Living the Good News*, a lectionary-based program, continues to be used to enhance and enrich the gospel lessons that are presented each week during the Sunday services. Approximately 18 students attended Sunday School during 2008.

Sunday School began 2008 using the same schedule and format from 2007, which was for Sunday School to be held following the 10:00am service, with the children and teachers taking communion before the other parishioners and then heading directly to the classrooms. This schedule appears to be working well for the children, parents, and teachers alike.

Our dedicated Sunday School teaching staff for 2008 included Anne Andrews, Cindy Hammaker, Mark Hammaker, Karen Mitten, Lisa Schiavone, and Wendy Vargo – please thank them for all of their hard work and dedication. The Sunday School rooms continue to be quite functional with the larger class room also being used for Children’s Chapel.

In addition to attending classes the children assisted with the Family-oriented service that was held the first Sunday of each month during the first half of the year by taking on the various roles and responsibilities during the service (i.e.: ushers, lectors) and by preparing the bulletin cover and prayers of the people. The children prepared an “Alleluia” banner as part of the parish’s renewal celebration at Easter and made Valentine’s Day and Easter cards for our parish shut-ins (parishioners that may be living alone or for some reason are not able to attend church). The children enjoyed receiving thank-you notes from many of the recipients of these cards. In November, the children learned about and assisted with the Pantry by helping to organize the food donations that were received and to serve the food to those in need all as part of the busy Thanksgiving season. During December, the children made Advent wreaths, caroled for our parish shut-ins, and performed wonderfully in the annual Christmas pageant at the 5:30 Christmas Eve family service to the delight of all.

We believe that Christian education continues to be a very important component of the lives of our children, families, church, and community. The teachers of St. Peter’s are committed to provide an enriching Christian educational experience for our children and are greatly appreciative of the support provided by the parents and the parish for this important ministry. I encourage everyone to consider how he or she may assist in this very important ministry for St. Peter’s in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mark Hammaker*

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## *Usher’s Report - 2008*

In 2008, ushering at St. Peter’s consolidated the improvements put into place the previous year. Most of the new ushers signed up in 2007 stayed in the rotation and new ushers were added, creating a decent ‘pool’ from which to choose. Consequently, the rotation was better able to accommodate holiday schedules. Efforts were also made to incorporate youth members into the rotation. Many thanks to those members of the congregation who give their time to usher, and thereby enhance the worship experience at St. Peter’s.

*Henry Young*

## *Women of St. Peter's - 2008*

Ladies of the parish were invited to join this newly formed group to share friendship and experience opportunities for spiritual growth. Since its inception in April 2008, the ladies have had several opportunities for gathering that have included, a brunch, Day of Reflection, dinner at the Desmond Hotel, a spiritual evening of reflection, Strawberry Festival, pool party hosted by Pat Howse and a Jane Austin tea party/movie matinee hosted by Rebekah Ray. In December, several of the ladies enjoyed a cookie exchange.

Women of all ages are invited to join this group, and many new activities are in the planning for next year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Retta Sparano*

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## *Worship Committee - 2008*

***Mission Statement: To create an enhanced worship experience for all.***

Dedicated to the Mission statement within the guidelines of the tradition of the Episcopal Church, the Worship Committee seeks to guide and always try to improve our worship service for everyone attending. Many groups which choreograph together to form a service that fall under the Worship Committee's care are: organist/choir director and choirs, acolytes, altar guild, ushers, lectors, and Children's Chapel. The worship committee organizes special services throughout the year to bring diversity and spirituality to our worship life.

In 2008, our Music Department has suffered losses. David Deery resigned in June. We had supply organists during the remainder of the summer. We welcomed Cliff Bohson this fall, and were filled with grief after his passing. We are currently searching for a new organist. Marty Bloem has done an excellent job as music director during our two interim periods this year. Also under the music umbrella, we gratefully received the new supplemental hymnals from the memorial of Jim Henry. The adult choir has provided us with some magnificent music this year, and the treble choir is a highlight of the service whenever they sing.

Newly implemented this fall is the inclusive bulletin. The service in its entirety, excluding hymns, is printed so that everyone may follow with ease.

The words "for all" in our mission statement include our children. Children and youth are serving as lectors, ushers, and choir members during the service. Children's Chapel, led by Lisa Schivone, has been a big hit with our youngest parishioners. While there, they receive a children's sermon/lesson and share asking and thanking prayers. Volunteers are sought to help with this ministry.

Committee members include – Koshy Mathews, David Hyatt (chairperson January – September 2008), Jan Wier (chairperson October – present), Mary Bloem-Campbell, Beverly Burkhart, Mark Hammaker, Carol Russell, Lisa Schivone, Retta Sparano, Vernet Spence-Brown, and Henry Young.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jan Wier*, Chair

## *Youth Group - 2008*

During 2008, the Youth Group continued to thrive. There are many aspects to the Youth Group, which include: the curriculum, the teachers and leaders, fun activities, service projects and fundraising. All of these things are intermingled throughout the year.

The curriculum used for the program is the Journey 2 Adulthood program. During the year, there were two classes, a Rite 13 class and a J2A class. The Rite 13 class is taught jointly by Fr. Koshy Mathews, Karen Mitten and Sarah Heidloff. The youth in this group are in 7-8 grades in the 2008/2009 academic year. The J2A class is taught jointly by Katie Druckenmiller, Peter Druckenmiller, Gary Russell and Rebekah Ray. The youth in this class are grade 9 and up during the 2008/2009 academic year. J2A "uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its two guiding principles: 1. Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God. 2. Adulthood must be earned." More information can be found on the J2A website, [www.leaderresources.org](http://www.leaderresources.org).

In addition to lessons, the youth participate in service oriented activities, which included a youth-focused trip to Appalachia during the summer of 2008. Some of the youth also attended the mission trip to El Salvador. In addition to the longer service trips, the youth participate in Good Works Phoenixville twice per year, which provides service opportunities in the local community. The youth group also provide service and help with St. Peter's Ministries, including the fundraising committee, the food pantry, pastoral care and the property committee.

Fundraising is an active part of the youth group, as well. The youth participate in fundraising to help them better understand the concept of stewardship. Youth Group fundraising has two separate purposes within the youth group: 1. To support the J2A class in the pilgrimage, which takes place every two years. 2. To support the general costs of running the youth group. Some of the fundraising activities during 2008 included a car wash off site, a hoagie sale, and an advent wreath sale.

The youth also have the opportunity to participate in fun and fellowship activities. During 2008, the youth had the chance to go snow tubing at Spring Mount, Dorney Park during Halloween haunt, a pool party during the summer, and of course, fun and games occur at every evening youth group meeting!

The Youth Group and its leaders are supported by the Youth Council. They act as an oversight committee to help support the leaders in all aspects. The Youth Council consists of the leaders, a few parents, a few youth, the rector, and some non-parent adults. The Youth Council helps to organize, plan, sponsor, and chaperone all activities.

Thank you for your support of the Youth Group during 2008 and we hope to see more youth join every year!

## **2009 Vestry Candidates**

### ***Gary Russell***

My name is Gary Russell. I have been a member of St. Peter's since the mid-70s and in that time have served on a variety of committees including Vestry, Jr. and Sr. Warden, Outreach, Stewardship, Rector Search Committee, and Youth Council.

I believe we have several goals that emerge as vital to our parish. Our beautiful worship space is challenged with physical deterioration, as well as lack of access for the disabled. We are at a critical point in the life of our building, and we must work together to address these needs in the near future. Just as important, we must continue our quest to serve God's kingdom through strengthening our outreach programs such as the pantry here in Phoenixville as well as mission work in the U.S. and around the world. Our youth ministry is positively impacting the hearts and souls of our young people, and with hard work and effective leadership we can build upon our recent successes, continuously improving our program.

I will work to make these goals a reality. It would be my honor and privilege to serve on the vestry. Thank you for your consideration.

### ***Geoffrey C. Scott***

I am a "cradle" Episcopalian, growing up in St. Luke's Church of Ewing, NJ. It has been a blessing over the years to serve as an acolyte, a church school teacher, a lay reader, and a Eucharistic Minister at St. Luke's. Julie and I joined St. Peter's just over a year ago after we moved to the Malvern area. Since that time, we have become active in working at the Pantry. I also serve as one of your delegates to the Valley Forge Deanery and Diocesan Convention.

St. Peter's has the momentum to carry through on its many missions, supported by a gathering of souls where love and understanding reigns. The Episcopal Church has provided so much to me over the years. Now is the time to give back and it is for this reason that I am seeking membership on the Vestry. I commit to working to extend that sense of "home" at St. Peter's by carrying forth on our missions in the lights of love and respect for each other and our God.

On both personal and professional notes, I completed my undergraduate studies at Brown University and have completed several graduate programs at the University of Pennsylvania including a Ph.D. from Penn's Engineering School. I currently work at a major pharmaceutical company as a mathematician/statistician.

### ***Mary Tackett***

When my family and I began coming to St. Peter's a little over a year ago, we felt immediately very much at home. St. Peter's is a remarkable church in that it is small and friendly, while at the same time an active, positive contributor to the local area, as well as other areas of the country and even the world. As a "cradle" Episcopalian, I also appreciate the respect for tradition and history evident in the parish. I have had a chance to serve on the New Member Ministry committee, which has a crucial role in making visitors and new parishioners feel so welcome.

My husband Jim and I have lived in Collegeville for 11 years, with our son Will (now almost 13) and daughter Natalia (now 11). I grew up in Bucks County and was educated at Cornell University, King's College, London, and the University of Maryland. My past career mainly focused on medical library and information services, I now work part-time for a small medical consulting firm. I am honored to be considered for the Vestry and to have an opportunity to be involved in the future of St. Peter's.

### ***Henry Young***

I am pleased to be running for a position on the Vestry Committee at St. Peter's. My wife and I joined the Church in January 2007, and in the last two years we have learnt so much from St. Peter's, from Father Koshy and from other church members, that I would like to have the opportunity to give something back. We are very fortunate to have St. Peter's in our community. The Church provides a tremendous number of services to Phoenixville, and does so with integrity and pride. Last year I was invited on to the Worship Committee and I have seen first-hand the dedication of church members to producing a spiritually enriching and enjoyable service. My own contribution was to help organize ushering and we have been successful in getting more people involved in the running of the service. I am also on the Environmental Committee and we have implemented measures to make the Church a little greener. It is these issues I wish to see continued at St. Peter's; community service, introducing the Church to new people, and awareness of the environment. Fortunately, every candidate running this year is dedicated and thoughtful. No matter who is elected I have no doubt they will be of tremendous service to our Church.