

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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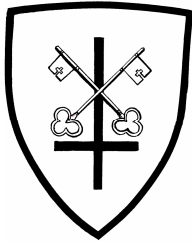
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER PARISH MEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

December is Usher Team 5: Peter D., Bruce A., Dick J., Rob M., Len N., Paul S., Bill W., Judy W.

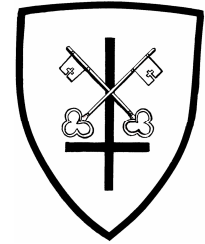
| | December 5 | December 12 | December 19 | December 26 |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>Acolytes</u> | | | | |
| 8:00 | Neil G. | Graham B. | Need Volunteer | Faith C. |
| 9:00 | Meredith R., Roberta F., Michael F. | Kirsten K., Megan Z., Tom Mc. | Corey K., Harrison F., Gra- ham B. | Kirsten K., Will L., Ward L. Sarah L., Maria B., Tom M. |
| 11:00 | Emily L., Will L., Ward L. | John Pierce D., Alexa L., Maria B. | Faith C., Sarah C., Claire C. | |
| <u>Chalicians</u> | | | | |
| 8:00 | Ed W. | Tootie K. | Michael L. | Jayne S. |
| 9:00 | Kathi A. | Sue B. | Jan G. | Thad K. |
| 11:00 | Paul S. | Larry S. | Bob W. | Keith A. |
| <u>Lay Readers</u> | | | | |
| 8:00 | Lee M. Tom G. | Bill M. Chris A. | Sharon S. Erika S. | Volunteers Needed Harrison F. Volunteer Needed |
| 9:00 | Roberta F. Jan G. | Christmas Pageant | Jonathan S. Justine B. | |
| 11:00 | Gail H. Larry S. | Lorraine G. Carol K. | Lessons and Carols | Volunteers Needed |
| <u>Altar Guild</u> | | | | |
| Weekly Team | Suzanne B. Linda G. Sharon J. | Nan W. Pat M. Fran D. | Karen S. Anne J. Jennifer B. Pam P. | Kathryn H. Diane C. Catharine G. |

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE KEY

DECEMBER 2010



"Called together in Christ, Transformed by God's grace, Sent out to serve."

FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

What a crazy time of year we are entering! It's supposed to be a holy time of year—Advent, getting ready for the birth of Christ—but that just seems to put more pressure on an already pressure-filled time of year. Stores are decorated earlier and earlier each year. We have to make reservations far ahead if we are going to go anywhere. Our calendars fill up. We inevitably spend too much money. Then we hear from the church not to get caught up in all the holiday busyness and to remember what Advent is all about. And we add guilt to all our other feelings. Guilt that we aren't preparing for Christ. Guilt that we are focused on the wrong thing. Guilt because we don't even know what preparing for Christ means.

So, I say, don't worry about it. It's futile to think we aren't going to get caught up in all our culture's preparations for Christmas. It's futile to think we can get our children to forget about Santa Claus and Christmas presents. It's futile to think we can teach them that what they see all around them...Santa and elves and reindeer and presents...aren't important. What we can do is both. We can teach our children to think about "giving" *in addition to* "getting." We can take our children shopping to buy a present for their sibling *and* for a child in a shelter. We can go to holiday parties, decorate our homes, and buy presents *and* at the same time remember why Christmas exists. We can teach our children all about Santa

Claus *and* about the birth of Jesus. We can sing Christmas carols about Rudolph *and* about Jesus and Mary. I don't think it's *either/or*, but a *both/and*.

Some of our most important childhood memories and family traditions center on Christmas. Some of my favorite memories are of decorating the Christmas tree, wrapping my mother's presents each year in a way that would absolutely prevent her from figuring out what was inside, and going to church on Christmas Eve. You see, not all my important memories are about Santa Claus and presents. We can do both. We can enjoy the rush of Christmas with trees and Santa and gifts and cookies and parties, and we can value and even enjoy rehearsing the Christmas story, going to church and just being with loved ones.

Each time we receive love from someone, we receive the love of Christ. Christ's love is expressed to us through the love of other people. So when you are making Christmas cookies with your child or listening to your grandchild's letter to Santa or wrapping Christmas presents with your spouse, you are sharing Christ's love. Your love will stay with that other person far longer than the gift or cookies will. Through your love, you are sharing the love of Christ, which is what Christmas is all about anyway. God took the form of a human on Christmas...a helpless baby, completely dependent upon a mother and father's love to grow and

DATES TO NOTE:

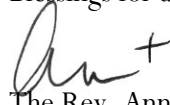
- 1,8,15,22, - Handbell Choir Practice
- 1,8,15,22 - Adult Choir Practice
- 8 - Godzilla
- 2 - SOME
- 2,9,16,23 - Thursday Ears
- 3,10,17 - Women's Bible Study
- 3 - Nicholas Fest
- 4,11,18 - Icon Writing
- 5 - South Africa Book Club
- 7 - First Tuesday Meetings
- 10,31 - Meals on Wheels
- 11 - Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal
- 11,12 - *Godspell* Auditions
- 12 - Sunday School Pageant
- 12 - *Messiah* Sing-Along
- 13 - Finance Committee Meeting
- 13,27 - Prayer Group
- 14 - Second Tuesday Meetings
- 15 - *Key* Articles Due
- 19 - Lessons and Carols
- 19 - Greening of the Church
- 19 - Family Christmas Xtravaganza
- 21 - Lunch Bunch
- 21 - Vestry Meeting
- 24 - Christmas Eve Services (5pm,8pm,11pm)
- 25 - Christmas Day Service (10am)
- 27, 31 - Office Closed

thrive. God came to earth to show us just how much God loves us. At the same time, God came to earth and experienced firsthand the love of humans...our love.

So my wish for you is to love one another this Christmas season. Enjoy yourselves. Laugh. Share. Create some precious memories. Teach your children all about Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman *and* about Jesus' birth and the shepherds and the angels. Enjoy all the lights and

decorations. Eat a lot of cookies. As you love and enjoy one another, you will be celebrating the true meaning of Christmas because you will be experiencing the love that Christmas is all about.

Blessings for a wonderful Christmas season,



The Rev. Ann Martens

LETTER FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN —

How quickly this year has passed!

At the start of my year as Senior Warden, I experienced a sense of real excitement. This would be the year we confirmed our intent to renovate/build to accommodate our growing parish and its programs. As the year progressed, concrete steps toward that goal were realized. A Building Committee was appointed, and, as I write this message, it continues its work. We can expect to see the results of the Committee's efforts early in the new year. In a parallel fashion, the Vestry took the necessary steps to plan properly for a capital campaign to support the building effort, and the work with our consultant will also start in earnest in the new year. We are poised to take a major step in our parish life, and we can do so knowing that careful and thoughtful work went into its preparation.

The 2010 Vestry, and its Committees, shepherded these efforts in addition to the ongoing responsibilities of parish life, such as caring for our building and grounds, maintaining accurate financial records and monitoring financial performance against budget; improving our communications and administrative capabilities; and, supporting our numerous worship, Christian Formation and fellowship programs.

And, so, I complete the year with undiminished excitement and much gratitude to my fellow Vestry members and Committee chairs for working conscientiously to bring us to where we are today. We are a strong congregation for we have been "called together in Christ, transformed by God's grace, and sent to serve." I am confident that our future will be a bright one, and I appreciate deeply the opportunity to help move us along that path.

Sincerely,

Kathi A., Senior Warden

PARISH NEWS —

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: NICHOLASFEST

Mark your calendars for Nicholasfest on Friday, December 3, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.! Kids in the 2nd grade or younger (or kids with siblings in the 2nd grade or younger) will come to the church to play games, make crafts, and celebrate the life of St. Nicholas. After dropping off their kids, parents are welcome to stop by the Emmons and Matthewson household for a light supper and fellowship before taking the rest of the night to shop or relax. Please be sure to register for this event by Sunday, November 28. The cost is \$15 per child or \$30 for a family.

ALL-FAMILY CHRISTMAS XTRAVAGANZA!

After the Greening of the Church on December 19, come join Godzilla and Bananas families for a potluck supper and some holiday fun. The potluck begins at 6 p.m. and will end by 8:30 p.m. All are invited!

GODSPELL AUDITIONS

High school singer auditions for this year's performance of *Godspell* will be Saturday, December 11, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 12, 12:15-2:30 p.m., in the chapel. Questions? Contact Kim Witman.

PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

IMPORTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

A huge thank you to the teachers and especially to Sara Mulhall for getting Sunday School off to a great start! We have 145 children registered!

The pageant is fast approaching. Please mark these dates on your calendars:

Sunday, December 5—Pageant rehearsal during Sunday School

Saturday, December 11—Pageant dress rehearsal 9:00 to 11:30 for all pageant participants

Sunday, December 12—All pageant participants must be at church by 8:30 a.m. The pageant begins at 9:00 a.m.

Also please note that there is no Sunday School on December 26.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: TRIVIUM

The regional young adults group, Trivium, meets once a month for dinner and discussion. The December meeting will be at the Virginia Square Cosi on December 9 at 7 p.m. Hope you can join us!

THANKS TO THE COFFEE HOUR QUARTERLY SCHEDULERS!

Starting this past March, we tried something new with coffee hour. Instead of asking 12 people to lead the 12 months of coffee hour sign-ups, we went to quarterly schedulers. Suzanne B. was gracious enough to coordinate March-May, Erica S. coordinated June-August, Peter W. took care of September-November, and Joanne M. is working on December-February. Their efforts were and are truly appreciated, and help to make our coffee hours pleasurable for all. Please take time to thank these volunteers for their service! The instructions changed every quarter, because they were adjusted for reality, and we all benefited from the continuous improvement program. The intent was that a scheduler was in charge of making sure all Sunday services were covered, using the lists of folks who volunteered in the past for the months in that quarter. Of course, being dedicated volunteers, sometimes the schedulers ended up shouldering the burden for coffee hour when nobody signed up for a particular service or Sunday, and we don't want that to be the case next year! We could definitely use more help in 2011, to prepare and serve at coffee hour, or to serve as a quarterly sign-up leader. Please let Sue B. know if you are willing to serve in this ministry as a server for a specific month, or as a quarterly coordinator. And a hearty St. Peter's thank you to Suzanne, Erica, Peter and Joanne!

MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS AT ST. PETER'S

The light fixture that appears in the Narthex in Advent, the shape of the church's brick sign on Glebe Road, and the Oprah-endorsed cookies we'll be eating at Coffee Hour on December 19th have something in common--they're all derived from Moravian traditions.

German and Czech missionaries brought the Moravian church to Pennsylvania and North Carolina in the middle of the eighteenth century. Many contemporary Christmas customs (like the Christmas tree) originated in Germany, and Christmas is celebrated with gusto in the Moravian tradition. Beeswax candles decorated with red ribbons, multi-pointed stars, and special cookies are some of the more recognizable Moravian influences on Christmas celebrations today.

So how did St. Peter's end up with these Moravian influences? They came primarily through the family of Elizabeth and Ed Campbell, founding members of St. Peter's. Mrs. Campbell was born into the Moravian community in Salem, North Carolina. Her father, Kenneth Pfohl, was the bishop of the Moravian Southern Province for over 30 years until his death in the 1960s.

The original "Moravian Star" is believed to have been constructed as a geometry class exercise in Niesky, Germany in the mid-1700s. Moravian Stars are usually made with 26 points, although they can have as many as 110 points. St. Peter's star has 21 points.

PARISH NEWS (CONT.)—

The Moravian church claims authorship of the candle-lit Christmas service, tracing its origin to a 1747 Moravian Christmas Lovefeast in which the bishop gave each child a lit candle decorated with a red ribbon to remind them that Christ kindled “a blood-red flame in each believing heart.” The Lovefeast is a Moravian service of music and Scripture readings during which refreshments are passed to the congregation.

Moravian Christmas cookies are exceedingly thin, hand-rolled spice cookies. Come try some at the December 19th Coffee Hour, admire the Moravian star light fixture in the Narthex, and enjoy this tradition that links the St. Peter’s of today to its founders (and tastes good, too!) While you’re sampling the cookies, do pause to admire the work that went into making them. The cookies St. Peter’s orders come from an outfit in North Carolina that rolls them by hand; recent research by Don C. has uncovered the fact that this bakery has even been endorsed by Oprah.

SO OTHERS MIGHT EAT RECOGNITION

Fr. John Adams came to meet the St. Peter’s group of breakfast cooks at SOME on November 4, and presented us with an engraved wooden plate and letter commending 30 years of service. The plate reads, “In grateful recognition of more than 30 years of service to our brothers and sisters in need at So Others Might Eat.” It was conferred officially at the April 11 banquet to honor volunteers and celebrate SOME’s 40th anniversary. St. Peter’s was not represented at the banquet, and did not know we were being recognized.

Fr. John, who has directed SOME for the past 30 years, also wrote a letter commending our service in which he noted that, from its beginnings in 1970 as a soup kitchen, “SOME has grown to encompass a wide variety of programs and services that include food, clothing, and healthcare, as well as long-term support, such as job training, counseling, addiction treatment and permanent affordable housing for homeless and low income people.” He also noted that SOME serves 850 people every day at breakfast and lunch—a five percent growth since 2008.

St. Peter’s serves breakfast on the first Thursday of every month, that includes 1,200 eggs, 40 pounds of turkey bacon or sausage, 12 canisters of grits, 4 40-pound cases of bananas, and butter, milk, and oil. Each year, 35 to 60 parishioners (6 or 7 a month) meet in the early-morning dawn to cook breakfast before work or school. Some of us come once, some nearly every month, but every one of us makes a difference in the lives of the men and women who rely on SOME for a safe respite, healthy meal, respectful treatment, and chance for a redeemed life.

You will find the plate and letter hanging in the Narthex. We hope to see you one morning at SOME!

Karen S.

MASTERING BRIDGE, HAVING A BLAST AND SUPPORTING ST. PETER’S

St. Peter’s tried something new in January 2010. The concept is simple: find an able professional bridge teacher, show up for class with all your friends, and feel great about what you’re doing because 40% of the fees paid by class members go directly to St. Peter’s. Throughout the year, one class generated demand for another and then for two more lesson series, involving dozens of parishioners and friends from throughout the region. In total more than \$3,500 was raised to support the work of St. Peter’s during this calendar year.

The Wednesday Problem: Classes were held on Wednesday evenings, precluding our bridge-loving choir members from participating.

The Monday Solution: We are planning to ring in the New Year with follow-on bridge lessons for beginner and intermediate players beginning on Monday, January 10, 2011. Gene Schuyler is prepared to lead a 5 p.m. class focused on a review of Part I and then move into Part II of the Bidding Series. He has also outlined a lesson plan for a 7:30 p.m. class for intermediates focused on Competitive Bidding (including overcalls, cue bids, jump overcalls, negative

PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

doubles, and more). Classes will be held in the chapel barring church-related schedule conflicts. If a conflict arises, we will skip class that week and make it up at the end of the series.

Cost: \$120 per student for the 8-week lesson series. To sign up or learn more, contact Gail H. or Sally D.

COMMISSION NEWS —

MISSION COMMISSION

As of press time for the *Key*, we tentatively plan to partner with the Arlington Housing Corporation and Jackson-Feild Homes for our 2010 Secret Santa project. Our drive should be underway as of early December, so look for information in the Narthex. AHC develops housing for low- and moderate-income families in Arlington and sponsors such services for their residents as after-school programs and tutoring. J-F Homes is a program that began in 1855 in Norfolk, when Episcopal churches there pooled their resources and started an orphanage for children left homeless after a yellow fever epidemic. Over the years, the program has evolved to one dedicated to helping abused girls and young women who cannot live with their families.

Plans for a mission trip to South Africa in 2011 are moving forward. Missioners will be visiting the home that we helped to build for HIV/AIDS orphans outside of Cape Town, South Africa. We hope to arrange some group airfare rates, and lodging for the mission trip will be at Rocklands Christian Center, a group campground. Our partner in building the orphanage, St. Francis Anglican Church in Simons Town, is also helping us plan activities for the mission trip. On the agenda so far is construction and installation of an outdoor playset for the home.

One fundraiser for the orphanage is planned for 2011. The fundraiser is scheduled for January 13 and is a wine-tasting and silent auction at the NRECA conference center in Arlington. Construction of the soon-to-be-completed orphanage was jointly sponsored by St. Peter's and St. Francis (Simons Town, outside of Cape Town).

As winter sets in, please don't forget to sign up for our ongoing mission activities: SOME breakfast cooking, Meals-On-Wheels driving, and Emergency Winter Shelter cooking. All sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Last year pledges—To all of you who made pledges and donated this past year, thanks for enriching our parish life and beyond! It's not pleasant to speak of finances; I hate it as much as anyone. But it is necessary, particularly at this time in our church year, to do so. If you have not yet caught up with your 2010 pledge, please make your best effort before mid-December so it can be counted in this year's contributions. If you aren't sure if you are caught up, please contact the office or Don Campbell, our treasurer.

Next year pledges—Thanks to all of you who've sent in your pledge cards, we are well on our way to meeting our goals! We are still looking for pledge cards if you haven't sent them in yet. For the "**treasure**" part of the campaign, if you pledged in the past, and have not sent in a card, you should expect a visit or call from a Vestry member or volunteer this month. The intent is not to nag, but to remind you if you've forgotten, discuss stewardship with you if there is a need for discussion, and to wrap up this phase of the campaign. Those of you who haven't pledged in the past will likely receive letters explaining the importance of pledges and our desire to have 100% of our membership participating in pledging. Two other equally important aspects of Stewardship are **time and talent**, the focus of the next phase of the Stewardship campaign.

COMMISSION NEWS (CONT.)—

While we don't record and track these aspects of Stewardship, they are absolutely essential to the life of our church. If the only thing we received every year was treasure, our church would be bereft! Something that struck me while teaching Sunday school is how wonderful it would be if everyone added their time or talent to one new mission at St. Peter's! In our class (7th/8th grade confirmation class), we watched the movie *Pay It Forward*. In it, a middle school teacher challenges his students to do something to change the world as their year-long homework assignment. It is a seemingly unachievable assignment for most of the students, but one of them comes up with a plan. He decides to do something positive for three people, and in return he asks that they "pay it forward" by doing the same for three others. As you can imagine, this student did something to change the world with the act of getting involved with just three people.

Offering more of your time and talent to our missions at St. Peter's could do the same thing. In the busy lives we lead, particularly during the holiday season, adding another thing to the calendar seems unachievable. So, I won't challenge you to add your time and talent this month, but will challenge you to do it in the next calendar year. We are always looking for people to help with various missions—Fellowship, Worship, Stewardship, Christian Formation, Communications, Newcomers, Outreach and Mission, Finance, Building and Grounds. Each of these missions has a Vestry representative who can give you information about where you might serve. The Goldenrod always has pop-up opportunities to serve, and your fellow parishioners are good sources for what's going on at St. Peter's. With the upcoming musical *Godspell*, there will be many opportunities to serve! I look forward to the blessed results of this part of the Stewardship campaign.

Sue B.

VESTRY NEWS —

Vestry Highlights—November 16, 2010

At its November meeting, St. Peter's vestry:

- Heard that pledges are lagging and that the Stewardship Committee will mail a second set of letters to members who pledged last year but have not this year.
- Heard a presentation by the parish Capital Campaign consultant, John Compton, about a feasibility study to decide whether St. Peter's will be able to raise money for a building program.
- Passed a resolution to request the Generation-to-Generation Fund trustees to release up to \$7,000 in funds to pay for the feasibility study.
- Voted to apply \$3,500 in savings on the purchase of an air handler for the main building toward fall cleanup costs.
- Approved a change to the Communications Committee charter to monitor more of St. Peter's electronic activities.
- Appointed Jim B., Lisa L., Bruce J., and Catharine G. to be members of St. Peter's Personnel Committee for 2011. The incoming Senior Warden will join them.
- Approved a Housing Allowance for the Rev. Ann Martens and a furnishing allowance for the Rev. Dr. Craig Phillips.
- Decided on a 2011 Vestry Retreat at St. Mary's Catholic Monastery near Baltimore.

ADULT FORUM —

Adult Forum sessions on Sundays at 10 a.m. are designed to serve our community by stimulating our thinking and actions in the Christian faith, exploring timely issues in our church and the world, and as an occasion for discussion about the ongoing activities in missions, worship, education and stewardship at St. Peter's. Topics range from aspects of our faith and worship, to books of the Bible, figures in Christian history, ethical dilemmas and contemporary issues of interest to our community. Discussion leaders come from within our parish community or sometimes are specially invited outside guest speakers, and we try to have two complementary forums to choose from each Sunday. Please contact Jonathan S. with ideas, feedback or to volunteer to lead a discussion.

December 5—Second Sunday of Advent

Option I: Inquirer's Class: Anglican Theology—Led by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips

Option II: Practical Spirituality: Internet Resources for Prayer, Devotions, and Reflection—Led by Catharine G.

December 12—Third Sunday of Advent

Plenary Session: Inquirer's Class: Anglican Spirituality—Led by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips

December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Option I: Inquirer's Class: The Sacramental Rites: Unction, Marriage, and Ordination—Led by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips

Option II: Introduction to the Service of Lessons and Carols—Led by Peter M.

December 26—First Sunday after Christmas

Plenary Session: Inquirer's Class: Episcopal Church Polity—Led by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips

SOUTH AFRICA MISSION —

ST. PETER'S MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

Why are we going?

St. Peter's is a faith community that believes outreach, both within our community and to the larger world, teaches those who are helped as well as those who are helping to live more giving, Christ-like lives. South Africa is a new democracy founded on the Christian principles of forgiveness and reconciliation. It is also a nation with among the highest incidences of HIV/AIDS in the world. Some members of our parish with ties to South Africa had a desire to plan a mission trip on which children and adults could learn about and interact with children in a world completely different and infinitely poorer than the one they know. They connected with former St. Peter's parishioners Rusty and Diana Higgs in Simons Town, South Africa. The Higgs' parish, St. Francis Anglican Church, has answered their bishop's call for every parish to sponsor one orphan home in the Diocese of Cape Town. These homes, much smaller and more personal than traditional orphanages, follow a specific design meant to provide children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic a family atmosphere in which to grow and learn.

SOUTH AFRICA MISSION (CONT.) —

What has been done so far?

The St. Peter's community has so far raised and sent over \$25,000 to help build a home in the township of Masiphumelele sponsored by the Higgs' church. This is approximately half the cost to actually to build the house and furnish it with the basics. A house mother has been trained and hired and the first of the planned six permanent residents has moved in. She is two years old and has lost both her parents to AIDS, and now she has a home again. But there is a lot that still needs to be done: an endowment is necessary for the continued upkeep of the house, as well as to paint the interior and put in a vegetable garden, play equipment, solar water heater, paved driveway, and some trees. Many of these tasks—painting, building, planting the garden and trees, and constructing a play set—will be tackled by those going on the mission.

How has the whole parish been involved?

The mission planners decided that rather than raise funds primarily to pay for travel, they would concentrate efforts more on raising the money needed for the home and its continuing success. Everyone realized that this would mean that perhaps not all who wanted to join the mission would be able to go to South Africa. As with every mission St. Peter's undertakes, however, every member of the parish has had the opportunity to become involved with the project. Last year's movie ticket sales for *Invictus* and the St. Peter's Pedalers' sponsored ride to Shrine Mont, along with help from the Commission on Outreach and Mission and the Vestry, enabled us to raise the funds already in use at the home. Beyond that, there have been many opportunities for fellowship with an emphasis on South Africa: Nelson Mandela Day at church, African pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, movie nights (don't forget that another is rapidly approaching), and the book club at which all are welcome. And now there is the Quilt Project. Parishioners going on the mission hope to be able to take to each child who will be living in the home a quilt made with squares put together by St. Peter's youths (and any adults who would like to contribute). These will be tangible reminders for the children that there are people on the other side of the world who love them and are praying for them. Additional projects (car washes, glow-stick sales, this year's movie ticket sales) have been undertaken to help families offset travel costs for children under 18 planning to go along.

What can everyone do to help?

The last big fundraiser (from which all the profits will go to the St. Francis Trust, which runs the home) is a gala evening. "The Fruits of Freedom—Celebrating South Africa" is a chance for everyone to enjoy lovely South African food, wines and juices; to bid on lots of silent auction items (if you have anything to donate, please let the office know); to hear from an embassy official (we're hoping for the ambassador) on the country's ongoing efforts to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS; to hear from a wine importer about the South African vineyards that are giving part of their profits to train black South African viniculturists; and to visit with old friends from St. Peter's and new friends from the South African community in this area. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has donated their wonderful conference space at Ballston, so the event is nearby and easy for everyone to attend.

Why not work closer to home?

St. Peter's does mission work in this area, and in other areas of the U.S. But we are also a part of the larger world, one with which many of us rarely have a chance to interact. We would also like to work with children affected by AIDS closer to home, perhaps by partnering with either Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., or with one of the hospitals in northern Virginia that works with kids with HIV/AIDS. This may be the way to continue the work of the last two years, and all who are interested in such a ministry should get in touch with one of us working on the South Africa mission. Those of us planning to travel to South Africa next July/August hope that we go with the prayers and interest and understanding of our whole St. Peter's family.

Betty L.

SOUTH AFRICA MISSION (CONT.) —

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 13, 2011—FRUITS OF FREEDOM: CELEBRATING SOUTH AFRICA

Come join us for a very special evening celebrating the Fruits of Freedom in South Africa. On Thursday, January 13, 2011, from 6 to 9 p.m., St. Peter's South Africa mission committee will host a special night offering tastes of all things South African. The event will be held at the NRECA Conference Center in Arlington and will include special South African wines, tropical fruit juices from Ceres, South African cuisine, and African music and art for sale. In addition, we will feature a wonderful silent auction with lots of interesting items.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| What: | Fruits of Freedom: Celebrating South Africa gala fundraiser |
| When: | Thursday, January 13, 2011 |
| Time: | 6 to 9 p.m. |
| Where: | NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22203 (Free parking underneath the building and close to Ballston Metro) |

In order to make the fundraiser a success, we would be grateful for whatever donations of auction items you can obtain. On the next page is a donation solicitation form. These are the types of things that are easy to obtain and that sell well at an auction:

- Restaurant gift certificates
- Service items gift certificates (e.g., hair or nail treatments, yoga classes, car washing, dog walking, lawn care, pool closing, mosquito spraying, etc.)
- Autographed items (books signed by authors, autographed DVDs, signed sports paraphernalia)
- Technology (iPod, iPad, iTouch, Wii, Nintendo DSI, etc.)
- Gift items (jewelry, cookware, fashion accessories)
- Experiences/Outings (golf, bowling, kids' parties, dance lessons, private tours of museum or zoo, etc.)
- Sporting and performing arts events (tickets or season tickets to pro sports, theater performances, opera, symphony, or other concerts, etc.)
- Vacation homes (keep in mind the general public will also bid)
- Professional services (catered meal by a good chef, landscaping, estate or financial planning, nutritional counseling, interior design or architectural services, etc.)

Indaba Wines will contribute a portion of the wine purchases towards a scholarship program to encourage disadvantaged farmers to study viticulture. All of the evening's proceeds will go towards final capital improvements of the Homes to Grow orphan home in Masiphumelele, as well as establishing an operating fund for the home. The children living in the home are eligible for state stipends; however, it can take up to two years before that money is received. The home will be self-sustaining but an operating fund is necessary and prudent until the state stipends kick in.

In the Bible, ancient Israelite farmers were commanded not to harvest every last scrap of grain and to leave some fruit hanging on the vine so that poor and needy people could scrounge enough to feed themselves (see Leviticus 19 and 23). This practice was known as gleaning.

Perhaps the most famous gleaning story comes from the Old Testament Book of Ruth. The husbands of Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, have died, leaving them widowed. The two have moved from Moab back to Israel, poor and destitute without men to provide for them, as required in that culture. Ruth goes out into the fields of Boaz, Naomi's kinsman, and gleans behind the harvesters. Boaz kindly instructs the harvesters to leave plenty for Ruth to glean, sharing the fruits of his labors.

In a way, you can think of our celebration that evening as a modern way of sharing our fruits with those who have very little. Please join us for a special night!

Fruits of Freedom: Celebrating South Africa
Silent Auction on January 13, 2011
To Benefit The St. Francis Trust Homes to Grow
(Homes for Children Orphaned by HIV in Masiphumelele, South Africa)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
4250 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207
703-536-6606

<http://www.saint-peters.org/wp/ministries/mission-commission/south-africa-mission/>

St. Peter's Auction Contact for Donation _____ **(email)** _____

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST —

NOT JUST YOUR ORDINARY CHURCH COOKBOOK

The Icon on the cover of St. Peter's Church cookbook should clue you in that this cookbook is not, despite its hundreds and hundreds of taste-tested recipes, primarily about cooking. Published in 2006, *Feeding the Flock* is a book about food and community. It is a book of memory, a record of celebrations. It is an invitation to try something new, a goad to the reader's curiosity, and a how-to manual for hospitality. In its 400-plus pages is a snapshot of our church community and a touchstone to the past and a gift to the future of St. Peter's, a church that began 50 years ago in Ed and Elizabeth Campbell's living room.

Since that beginning, St. Peter's has welcomed many into its community. Considering its location just outside the nation's capital it is not surprising that recipes for Korean Braised Pork, Tandoori Cornish Game Hens, Pad Thai and Spanakopita rest comfortably side by side with recipes for Colonel Hearne's Cough Stopper, Mae Mae's Oyster Dressing, and Smithfield or Country Ham.

The people who labored long and hard to make this book brought themselves to the task with skill and heart, making a special book for all of us to share. The cookbook committee was made up of Paddy Link, Mimi Barringer, Brooke Kane, Karen Sorenson, Barbara York and Marcy Dresser, with the assistance of many friends and spouses. The recipes were taste-tested by those who "suffered weight gain with shameless satisfaction." In fact, the tasting sessions were many times special events in themselves. Even the icons that richly illustrate the cookbook were all written in the St. Peter's Icon writing class taught by Irena Beliakova on Saturdays at noon.

Feeding the Flock is for those who love to cook and those who love to eat good food. It isn't just for those who have the time to cook, either. Menus at the back of the 412-page book make suggestions for Super Bowl party food, New Year's Eve, Christmas dinner, and Thanksgiving. There are recipes for snack foods like Laura and Libby's Guacamole, and dinner in a pinch like Last-Minute Chili. Recipes for the soups served at the church bazaar are listed, as well as the Gourmet Shop's "secret" recipes for Dilly Beans and Penny Dreadfuls. Vegetarians will be happy with recipes indexed just for them and dishes with names like Zinguini (linguine with zucchini). There are easy and elegant hors d'oeuvres, including Parmesan Palmiers, and labors of love like Paddy's Pumpkin Cheesecake and Birthday Bunnies Carrot Cake.

With some exceptions, the names of contributors were not included with the recipes, but rather listed collectively at the beginning of the book. The decision to list the names of contributors in this manner is consistent with the tradition of icon writing that holds that icons are never attributed individually to their writer, but shared and passed on for the benefit of those yet to come. Both arrangements speak to the nature and purpose of a Christian community that, rather than celebrating any individual in isolation, is united in fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the worship of God, and service to others.

**St. Peter's Adult Choir
With Orchestra and Soloists
Don Witman, Conductor**

Presents the 20th Annual

**MESSIAH
SING-ALONG**

**Sunday, December 12, 2010
7:30 pm**

Admission Is Free

(Donations accepted, and contributions of non-perishable food items for the food bank are encouraged)

Bring your Handel *Messiah* score
or purchase or borrow a score at the door

Join us at a reception afterward
Childcare provided during the sing-along

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

4250 N Glebe Road
Arlington VA 22207
703-536-6606
Fax: 703-536-6608

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
E-mail: info@saint-peters.org
Web Site: www.saint-peters.org

Staff:

The Reverend Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D., *Rector*
The Reverend Ann Martens, *Assistant Rector*
Elyse Gustafson, M.Div., *Assistant to the Rector*
Don Witman, *Director of Music*
Emily Koons, *Youth and Junior Choir Director, Organist*
Nikol Destatte, *Office Manager*
Christopher Neumann, *Sexton*
Thomas Gillis, *Sexton Emeritus*

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egustafson@saint-peters.org
stpetersmusic@verizon.net
organistfriend@yahoo.net
ndestatte@saint-peters.org
cneumann@saint-peters.org

Vestry:

Chair: The Reverend Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D.
Senior Warden: Kathi A. (2010)
Junior Warden: Barret H. (2011)
Register: Paul S. (2010)
Sue B. (2011)
Margaret C. (2011)
Jeff C.(2012)
Katie E. (2012)
Catharine G. (2010)
Gary G. (2011)
Peter M. (2012)
Gwyneth R. (2012)
Jack S.(2010)

Volunteers:

Treasurer: Don Campbell
Key Editor: Rob Gibson

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <h1>DECEMBER</h1> <h1>2010</h1> | | | 1 6:15pm - Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm - Godzilla 7:30pm - Adult Choir Practice | 2 5:45am - SOME 10:15am - Thursday Ears | 3 7:30am - Women's Bible Study 5:30pm - Nicholas Fest | 4 1:00pm - Icon Writing |
| 5 8:00am - HE, Rite I 9:00am HE, Rite II, Godly Play 10:00am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11:00am - HE, Rite II 7:00pm - South Africa Book Club | 6 | 7 7:30pm - First Tuesday Meetings | 8 6:15pm - Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm - Godzilla 7:30pm - Adult Choir Practice | 9 10:15am - Thursday Ears | 10 7:30am - Women's Bible Study 11:00am - Meals on Wheels | 11 9:00am - Sunday School Pageant Rehearsals 1:00pm - Icon Writing 1:00pm - <i>Godspell</i> Auditions |
| 12 8:00am - HE, Rite I 9:00am Sunday School Pageant and HE, Rite II 10:00am - Adult Forum, The 10 Spot, Sunday School 11:00am - HE, Rite II 11:00am - Children's Choir Practice 12:15pm - <i>Godspell</i> Auditions 7:30pm - <i>Messiah</i> Sing-Along | 13 7:30pm - Prayer Group 7:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting | 14 7:30pm - Second Tuesday Meetings | 15 <i>Key Articles Due</i> 6:15pm - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30pm - Adult Choir Practice | 16 10:15am - Thursday Ears | 17 7:30am - Women's Bible Study | 18 1:00pm - Icon Writing |
| 19 8:00am - HE, Rite I 9:00am HE, Rite II, Godly Play 10:00am - Adult Forum, The 10 Spot, Sunday School 11:00am - HE, Lessons and Carols 4:00pm - Greening of the Church 6:00pm - Family Christmas Xtravaganza | 20 | 21 12:00 - Lunch Bunch 7:00pm - Vestry Meeting | 22 6:15pm - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30pm - Adult Choir Practice | 23 10:15am - Thursday Ears | 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:00pm - HE, Rite II - Family Service 8:00pm - HE, Rite II - Candlelight Service 10:00pm - HE, Rite II - Candlelight Service | 25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00am - HE, Rite II |
| 26 8:00am - HE, Rite I 9:00am HE, Rite II, Godly Play 10:00am - Adult Forum 11:00am - HE, Rite II | 27 <i>Office Closed</i> 7:30pm - Prayer Group | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 11:00am - Meals on Wheels | |