

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
4250 N Glebe Road  
Arlington VA 22207

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# MAY PARISH MEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

**May is Usher Team 4:** Rich D., Jim B., Steve C., Chuck G., Gail H., Geoff H., Bob M., Bill S.

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
<b><u>Acolytes</u></b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>9:00</b>	Claire C. Graham B. Maria B.	Alison Bentley Tommy McCarthy Megan Zwicker	Elsie G. Tommy M. Roberta F.	Corey K. Elsie G. Michael F.	Kirsten K. Will L. Ward L.
<b>11:00</b>	John Pierce D.	Sarah Lettau Roberta F. Nadia S.	John Pierce D. Anna H. Sarah C.	Emily L. Nadia S. Anna H.	Meredith R. Sarah C. Volunteer Needed
<b><u>Chalicians</u></b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Ed W.	Ed W.	Tootie K.	Mike L.	Bill M.
<b>9:00</b>	Georgianne J.	Sharon S.	Kathi A.	Sue B.	Erin G.
<b>11:00</b>	Alan B.	Jeff C.	Erin G.	Judith L.	Andy O.
<b><u>Lay Readers</u></b>					
<b>8:00</b>	Volunteers Needed	Sally H. Bob W.	Tootie K. Mike L.	Bill S. Linda G.	Tom B. Suzanne B.
<b>9:00</b>	Justine B. Volunteer Needed	Eric S. Megan Z.	Roberta F. Jay H.	Steve C. Harrison F.	Volunteer Needed Thad K.
<b>11:00</b>	Volunteers Needed	Kathi A. Lisa L. Beth B.	Carol K. Lynn W. Lorraine G.	Nora S. Len N. Taffy G.	Jack S. Jean S. John Pierce D.
<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b>	Karen S. Anne J. Jennifer B.	Kathryn H. Diane C. Catharine G.	Katie E. Legare H. Fernanda F. Marian L.	Jessie N. Catharine G. Nene H.	Suzanne B. Linda G. Sharon J.

# ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## THE KEY



MAY 2011

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

### FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Dear Friends,

I love springtime. It's a time for new life and new growth. The birds are flirting and we'll have babies at our feeders soon. My hummingbird feeder is out, ready for their return. Spring seems a more appropriate time for starting fresh than January 1. (How many of us even remember our New Year's resolutions anyway?) The new blooms on the trees and flowers inspire me to start something new myself.

This theme of new growth is true at St. Peter's this spring. St. Peter's is at an exciting crossroads in its history. We are undertaking an aggressive and optimistic building campaign. Our 50th birthday is this year, and I think the building campaign is an exciting birthday gift for the parish. It reflects the gratitude we have for those who began this parish 50 years ago. It reflects our optimism in our parish and in our parish's future. It also reflects the value the parish has in our lives, and our determination that generations to come will experience its value.

Springtime...a time for turning over a new leaf. Perhaps one new leaf we can put out this spring is taking time for ourselves. It doesn't have to be a lot of time, but taking a little time can give us more energy and allow us to better care for others. But I said the dread word—time! A resource that is in much too short supply.

Of course, somehow we have the notion that we own time. In his book *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis has the devil exploit the notion that people own time as a way of keeping people away from God. The devil tells his deputies, "You must therefore zealously guard in their minds, the curious notion that 'My time is my

own.' Let them have the feeling that they start each day as the lawful possessor of 24 hours." The devil goes on to say, "The assumption which you want them to go on making is so absurd that, if once it is questioned, even we cannot find a shred of argument in its defense. Man can neither make, nor retain, one moment of time; it all comes by pure gift."

Time is a gift from God. We think of our material goods and wealth as a gift from God. We think of the earth as a gift from God. Have you ever thought about time as a gift from God? It is. It is not something we are owed or that we deserve. We don't own it. Each day is a gift. What do we do with that gift each day?

By the time most of us work, care for our families, run errands, cook dinner, help the kids with their homework, drive the kids to practice, etc., etc., all we have time for is to collapse into bed, only to begin the same routine over again. Taking time for ourselves, to do whatever it is we want to do, can help us keep going. Taking 10 minutes a day for ourselves will help us get those errands done faster, get our chores done faster, and give us patience when our loved ones want one more thing from us.

Our time, our precious 24 hours each day, is a gift from God. God loves us so very much and God wants us to treat ourselves lovingly. Running ourselves ragged day after day is not very loving behavior. Caring for ourselves is. We only have so much energy. Think of it like a bank. We have energy in the bank and we take it out every day, all day. If we never replenish it, we will soon empty the bank and we will be exhausted, irritable and resentful. But if we put a little bit back in the bank every

### DATES TO NOTE:

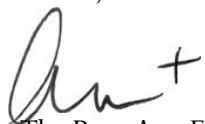
- 3 - First Tuesday Meetings
- 4 - Pastoral Care Meeting
- 4,18 - Godzilla
- 4,11,18,25 - Handbell Choir Practice
- 4,11,18,25 - Adult Choir Practice
- 5 - SOME
- 5,12,19,26 - Thursday Ears
- 6,13,20,27 - Women's Bible Study
- 7 - Rebuilding Together/  
Christmas In April
- 7,8 - Senior High Campout
- 7,14,21,28 - Icon Writing
- 9,23 - Prayer Group
- 9 - Finance Committee Meeting
- 10 - Second Tuesday Meetings
- 11 - Mom's Group
- 13 - Meals on Wheels
- 15 - Service of Remembrance  
(7 p.m.)
- 16 - Key Articles Due
- 17 - Vestry Meeting
- 17 - Lunch Bunch
- 22 - Youth Service (9 a.m.)
- 22 - Senior High Gathering
- 24 - Lay Visitor Training
- 30 - Parish Office Closed

day by taking some of that precious 24 hours for ourselves, then we will have more to give.

How about trying to take 10 minutes each day for yourself? It helps to put it on your calendar like an appointment. Do whatever you want to do during that time. Whatever you *want* to do, **not** whatever you *need* to do. Then next month, try for 15!

After all, it's spring! What better time for trying something new!

In faith,



The Rev. Ann F. Martens

## PARISH NEWS —

### CHRISTMAS IN APRIL 2011: REBUILDING TOGETHER

**When:** Saturday, May 7, 2011

**Time:** 8 a.m., rain or shine; please note, we'll ask morning or afternoon

**Where:** 1402 South Randolph Street, Arlington, VA 22204

**Sign-up:** In the Narthex at St. Peter's or e-mail a House Captain

**Tools Needed:** Gloves are always a good idea but we'll have most of the things needed for painting, cleanup, light carpentry, and outside work

**FOOD:** Coffee and doughnuts early; lunch from Backyard Barbeque caterers

We still call it Christmas in April (officially "Rebuilding Together") because that's how it got its name more than 30 years ago when a homeowner in Midland, Texas, upon seeing what a team of motivated volunteers could do to their home on the last Saturday in April, exclaimed, "It's like Christmas." St. Peter's first participated in this uniquely local outreach mission in 1988. This year about 1500 volunteers from 48 groups will work on 40 houses in Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church to make them better living spaces for their homeowners.

Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together is sponsored by the St. Peter's Mission Commission. It's local and only takes the part of the day you can share with us. It's the week after Shrine Mont—a very different parish experience—so there's no schedule conflict with that. Working side by side with another St. Peter's parishioner (whom you may not really know) while helping someone else is a very special experience.

Homes are picked carefully by the staff of Rebuilding Together Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church, an Arlington-based non-profit with significant St. Peter's involvement—Paul Schleifman, Allen Schirmer and Bruce Jolly are board members. This year our home is on South Randolph Street (off South 16th) on the hill overlooking South George Mason Drive between Columbia Pike and South Four Mile Run Drive. Our homeowner, Sidney Glazer, occupies a 950-square-foot home built in about 1905 that was last remodeled in 1945. It's as neat as a pin outside but can use our talents in many ways.

Our jobs include: cleanup of backyard (including removal of brush and ground cover), construction of landing for back entrance and walkway to driveway, small exterior house repairs, exterior painting of house, repair of ceiling in main part of house, interior painting, and general cleaning. Given the size of the house, we'll work inside in shifts. If you are ready for indoor work, please tell us whether you would prefer all day, morning or afternoon. Lunch will be served at noon, so both morning and afternoon crews can eat together.

If you have a question, you can call or e-mail your House Captains, **Bruce J., Allen S., or Tony P.**

### GODZILLA UPDATE

After taking a short break due to St. Peter's amazing production of *Godspell*, our youth group (affectionately named "Godzilla") has resumed meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We had a great time at our first few meetings after the play with an excellent discussion of the hit FOX series *Glee*. We also stuffed 600 Easter eggs for the parish Easter egg hunt! We will meet this month on May 4 at 7:30 (no dinner) and on May 18 at 7:00 (with dinner). We've also scheduled a trip to Kings Dominion for June 18, so there are lots of fun activities just around the corner!

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## PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

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### ATTENTION SENIOR HIGHERS!

Senior high students are invited to a Senior High camp-out night at St. Peter's! We will gather at the church at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, for a campfire, s'mores, and time with friends. Bring tents, a sleeping bag, and friends! Let Elyse know you're coming by RSVPing on the Facebook invite or by contacting her at [egustafson@saint-peters.org](mailto:egustafson@saint-peters.org) by April 30. Hope to see you there!

### A MILESTONE

Our rector, Father Craig, was ordained to the priesthood 30 years ago this month on May 1, 1981, at St. Laurence Episcopal Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma, by the Right Rev. Gerald McAllister. At that time Craig had served for a year as a hospital chaplain and was serving as the Vicar of both Trinity, Eufaula, and St. Lawrence, Muskogee.

St. Peter's will celebrate Father Craig's ordination anniversary on May 8th this year with a guest preacher at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services and a reception following the 11 a.m. service.

Our guest preacher that morning will be the Rev. Dr. Norman Hjelm, a retired pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church who was for many years Director and Senior Editor of Fortress Press, a theological publishing house that was based in Philadelphia during the time that Father Craig was teaching at Temple University there. Dr. Hjelm later served on the executive staff of the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland, and before retiring (in 1996) he was Director of the Commission on Faith and Order of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Besides having known Craig for many years he is also connected to St. Peter's through his son and daughter-in-law, Lars and Jeanne H., and their children, who are all parishioners here at St. Peter's.

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, SUNDAY, MAY 15, 7:00 P.M.

All are invited to a Service of Remembrance on Sunday, May 15, beginning at 7 p.m. The service is to remember, honor and celebrate the lives of friends and family who have died—whether the death was recent or long ago. The liturgy has been selected with care for this important service, which will include readings, prayers and music. A reception will follow, providing an opportunity for continued sharing and fellowship. Please join us, and invite others who may be interested.

### UPCOMING SUNDAY YOUTH SERVICE

At the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, May 22, the youth of St. Peter's will lead the parish in worship. Youth in 6th-12th grade will serve as ushers, readers, acolytes, chalcists, choir members, and even preachers. The children's choir will provide an anthem. There will be a required rehearsal at 7 p.m. on May 18. If you or your youth would like to participate, let Elyse know at [egustafson@saint-peters.org](mailto:egustafson@saint-peters.org). This promises to be a great experience!

### ATTENTION PARENTS OF GRADUATING SENIORS

The Key editors are asking for help in gathering the names of members of the class of 2011 for our yearly congratulatory list. If you have a graduating senior (high school or college) please send the name and the school from which they are graduating from to [key@saint-peters.org](mailto:key@saint-peters.org) or call Nikol in the parish office.

**Save the date:** The senior dinner will be held on Sunday, June 12, at 6:00 p.m. Look for more information in the goldenrod.

### LAY VISITOR TRAINING, MAY 24, 7-9 P.M.

Would you like to occasionally go visit a fellow parishioner who may be sick, lonely, having a rough time or who just had a new baby? The Pastoral Care Commission would like to train some folks to be able to do this. It would greatly augment the way we care for one another at St. Peter's. We'll talk about the purpose of the visit and how to get in and out the door as well as some listening skills. You do not have to make a specific time commitment or agree to make a certain number of visits. This is a ministry that can easily fit the most challenging schedule. Please note: this is not for lay Eucharist ministers or Stephen Ministers. These are just casual, friendly visits. The training will be May 24, 7-9 p.m. There is a very easy to read text at a cost of \$15. Please sign up with the Rev. Ann Martens if you are interested.

## PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

### ST. PETER'S COFFEE HOURS

St. Peter's Coffee Hours offer some of the most significant fellowship experiences at our church. They are opportunities for everyone who worships together, longtime parishioners, newcomers, and guests, to meet and greet each other and to develop lifelong friendships.

But St. Peter's Coffee Hours do not happen on their own! Each week, at least four volunteers are needed to make sure that the coffee, doughnuts, and snacks are ready and waiting following each of the 8 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. services.

Please help! Sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/coffee42>. Easy-to-follow instructions for a successful coffee hour are included on the Web site, and if you provide your e-mail address when you sign up a reminder will be sent to you two days before your scheduled activity. Should you have any questions, please e-mail Nancy M. Thank you!

### NEW LEGACY CAMPAIGN: HOW IT WORKS

The New Legacy Campaign is underway!

Here's how it works:

Every household in the parish will be contacted personally by a campaign visitor. If you haven't heard from anyone yet, you should expect a call very soon. This campaign is too important to leave to a mailing or a phone tree. We are looking forward to visiting with each and every household. A personal visit provides both fellowship (something the St. Peter's community generally does well!) and an opportunity for feedback (something else St. Peter's folks generally do well!).

If you're wondering whether you've missed your call, contact one of the Campaign Co-Chairs, Peter M. or Tootie K., or call the church office and ask to speak to our fundraising consultant, John Compton.

The campaign visitors are fellow parishioners who have already pledged to support the campaign and have volunteered to visit others to share information about the campaign and ask for your support. Regardless of your giving plans, do plan to respond to their call and try to arrange a visit.

Campaign visits take about 30 minutes and can be conducted wherever is mutually convenient—home, coffee shop, even church if a quiet corner can be found. The visitor will go over some printed materials about the campaign with you, solicit feedback, and try to answer any questions you have. Then he or she will ask for your financial support of the campaign and give you a pledge card.

You don't need to fill out the pledge card right then and there; we are all being asked to give at a level that requires prayerful consideration. When you have filled out the pledge card, you seal it in an envelope and return it to your visitor or to the church. Your pledge amount remains confidential. You will receive an acknowledgment of the terms of your pledge from the campaign treasurer. Only the church's financial staff and the fundraising consultant will know the terms of your gift.

The campaign goal is to complete visits to 220 St. Peter's households. If you'd like to keep up with the progress of the campaign, listen for the announcements at the end of each Sunday service, watch the poster in the narthex, or visit the church Web site and look under "Ministries," then under "Giving to St. Peter's."

### NEW LEGACY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF DINNER



On the evening of March 26th the St. Peter's community launched the New Legacy Campaign with a splendid dinner at the church. About 140 members of the church gathered for fellowship, food, and information in a church that had been transformed for the evening into a dining room with beautifully decorated tables, good food, and good service. In addition, about 30 children and youth had a pizza supper downstairs in the Sunday School. The whole affair was ably organized by Michael L.; everyone in attendance

## PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

benefited from his hard (but largely invisible) work. We are also grateful to Cecile's Wine Cellar and R&R Catering for their help with the event. Pictures from the evening are on the St. Peter's Web site.



Those who were able to attend the dinner heard from several speakers about both the inspiration for and the mechanics of the campaign. Special thanks are in order for Ed W.; it was his job as Master of Ceremonies to focus the attention of a cheerful crowd on the speakers and keep the program moving along. He had a few "Shrine Mont style" jokes in his arsenal. The evening's meal and our shared goals were ably blessed by Bob M.; Margaret C., the campaign's Spiritual Emphasis Chair, led the attendees in the campaign prayer.

The Rector and the New Legacy Campaign co-chairs, Peter M. and Tootie K., all spoke about the importance of the campaign and its goals. Tootie grew up here at St. Peter's and spoke movingly about the role this church has played in her faith journey, the legacy we share here, and the reasons that she believes this is the time to build a new legacy for the future. Father Craig's and Tootie's remarks are available on the Web site and are worth looking at if you missed them that evening. Father Craig's remarks are also reprinted in this issue of *The Key*, and Tootie's remarks will be included in next month's *Key*.

The climax of the evening's program was Bob Woody's announcement of the pledges received as of the kickoff dinner. Over \$1.7 million had already been pledged as of the kickoff dinner. The choir performed Lutkin's Benediction, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" to wrap up an enjoyable evening.

Now that the campaign is underway, look for weekly announcements in the bulletin and in the narthex detailing how many campaign visits have been completed and how much money has been pledged.



## THE FIFTIETH YEAR: A YEAR OF LITTLE CELEBRATIONS

In the coming year, there will be lots of little celebrations of our fiftieth "birthday." At Shrine Mont and at home, we will begin a "Family Tree" that you'll see in the chapel beginning in mid-May. The world's longest birthday card is in the works.

On June 5 come celebrate The Birthday with a bash. St. Peter's Day is a little more special this year, so wear your seersucker and come have a picnic after church. Bishop Jones, who will be retiring soon, will confirm this year's class and help us mark this special year in the life of St. Peter's. We've invited some familiar faces back for a homecoming. If you know of families or children that were a part of St. Peter's in the past, invite them to come along!

Plans for other activities are in the works: a '60s party in the fall (the Twist was all the rage in 1961), a special choir concert, a yearbook and more. If you'd like to help with any of it, contact Meta P. or Ron A.

Fifty years is a nice age for a person. It's the middle of life. There is a little wisdom. There is time for reimagining. In the life of St. Peter's, fifty years is a time to look back on our common life, but it is also time to look forward to the future. We can learn from the past and those who brought us this far. As we imagine our future we give thanks for them and all that sustained and still sustains them. As we celebrate the past, we pray God will sustain us as we step into the next fifty years with hope and anticipation.

## MISSION NEWS —

The South Africa mission trip planning is moving along rapidly. The quilts for the children and the housemother will be completed soon, with quilt squares drawn by St. Peter's Sunday School children. An end of the church school year event is planned for June 12, at which the children will learn more about South Africa and the many challenges in that country. The trip to South Africa is planned for July 30 to August 5, with 29 people signed up to go. Many activities are planned with the people of the Masi Township and the children at the orphanage we helped to build.

As noted elsewhere in the *Key* the Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together project will take place on May 7, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. until the project is completed. No special skills are needed; just bring yourself, your willing spirit and perhaps a pair of gloves (and a hat if you will be painting).

May is also the month during which, each Sunday, we will be collecting toiletries and "walking food" for women who are clients of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) in honor of Mother's Day. SMGW is a consortium of mostly Episcopal churches in the Washington area pooling resources to help homeless men and women get back on their feet. The main activity for SMGW is providing job counseling. However, the men and women served by SMGW need toiletries and food that they can carry with them during the day. We will also collect these items for men in June, in honor of Father's Day. Toiletries can be full size or hotel/sample size. Walking food can be individually wrapped snack bars or cans that have pop tops; mainly food that doesn't require preparation.

## VESTRY NEWS —

### Vestry Minutes, April 2011

#### At its April 26 meeting, St. Peter's Vestry:

- Heard a report from the New Legacy Campaign on the progress of fundraising visits and pledges received, and the need to plan for the next steps after the fundraising ends. Much appreciation was expressed for the hard work of John Compton, our fundraising consultant, and the stellar efforts of Sexton Chris Neumann and Sexton Emeritus Tom Gillis in setting up the church for the New Legacy Campaign Kickoff Dinner.
- Adopted a New Legacy Campaign Investment Policy designed to protect the principal received from the fundraising campaign. The policy delegates the responsibility to decide on appropriate investments and asset classes to the Finance Committee and the Treasurers.
- Adopted a recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Treasurer initiate a search for investment advisors for the New Legacy Campaign.
- Received a report from the Worship Commission that *Godspell* finished in the black.
- Heard the report of the Building Committee on the status of the sign replacement at the front entrance. Considered and approved a waiver of the three-bid rule for the purpose of selecting sign replacement.
- Heard a report from the Building Committee on the condition of the parking lot. A study of the problems reveals that the lot is in worse shape than anticipated, particularly the driving lane. Adopted the Committee's recommendation to make only essential repairs until after future church construction. Discussed need to consult the architects about possible digging in the lot to handle drainage from the building and future changes such as expanding the driveway.
- Heard plans of the 50th Anniversary Committee to celebrate in a number of small ways over the year. The main celebration will be June 5. Discussed closing off through traffic for that day.

## ADULT FORUM —

### 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 are specially invited outside guest speakers, and we try to have two topics to choose from each Sunday.

### How You Can Participate

If you have an idea for a topic, feedback on a past topic, or would like to volunteer to lead a discussion, please contact Jonathan Sullivan.

### Schedule for May

#### May 1—Second Sunday in Easter (Shrine Mont)

No Forums

#### May 8—Third Sunday in Easter

**Option I: Reflections on Thirty Years As a Priest—led by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips**

**Option II: Online Spiritual Resources—led by Jonathan S.**

#### May 15—Fourth Sunday in Easter

**Option I: The Faith of the Church, Part 1: The Doctrine of God—led by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips**

**Option II: David and Bathsheba—led by Jayne S.**

The story of David and Bathsheba is the pivotal story in the books of Samuel. In this forum we will explore how the relationship between these two marks a turning point in King David's reign and in the life of Israel.

#### May 22—Fifth Sunday in Easter

**Option I: God and Time, Part 3—led by Doug M., Jeff C. and Jonathan S.**

Man was designed by God to live within limits, and chief among those limits is time. From the day we are born we move ever forward with the arrow of time until we die. What is the nature of time and how does it shape our relationship with God? In this multi-part series, we will examine the latest scientific theories to explain how we experience time and what Scripture tells us about time in the context of our relationship to God.

**Option II: Handbell Choir—led by Sheridan C.**

#### May 29—Sixth Sunday in Easter (Memorial Day)

**Option I: The Faith of the Church, Part 2: The Doctrine of the Son of God—led by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips**

**Option II: TBA**

## OTHER ITEM OF INTEREST —

### “Our New Legacy Campaign”

#### Kickoff Dinner Remarks

The Rev. Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D.

March 26, 2011

When people first walk through the doors at St. Peter's we welcome them. And whenever we welcome people with open arms—with love and generosity—we welcome Christ into our midst. In the newcomer brochure that you hear me mention every Sunday here in this nave, you will read these words, “Let all guests who arrive be greeted as Christ himself, for He will say, ‘I came as a guest and you welcomed me.’” These words from the 5th Century Rule of St. Benedict remind monks in every monastery to welcome all who come to visit them. Benedict understood that welcoming others with generosity, openness, and love is central to the teachings of Jesus. As Jesus said, “Whatever you did—whatever you do—for even the least of these, you did it for me.”

Our “New Legacy Campaign” here at St. Peter's is about making this a place of welcome for all people who come to us. Young and old—and those in between—long-time members and first-time visitors are all welcome here.

The Vestry, the Vision Task Force, the Planning Team, the Building Committee, and others who have been involved in the process that has led to the formal kickoff of our New Legacy Campaign this evening have always kept in mind that St. Peter's is about people, not bricks and mortar. St. Peter's is a community of people, in the words of our mission statement, “called together in Christ, transformed by God's grace, sent out to serve.” Nevertheless we cannot ignore the effect of the church's physical structure on our ability to live out our mission statement. It is time to address the needs that in many cases have been unaddressed for years.

You will notice that the subtitle to our New Legacy Campaign is “Rebuilding Our Church Home.” St. Peter's Episcopal Church is our home. Our home, however, needs some renewing and some expansion. Our nave is almost 50 years old and our current chapel and office wing is over 30 years old. We, the people of St. Peter's, use almost every square inch of this building for more than one purpose. It is wonderful to have such a multi-use space but in many areas, like our Sunday School, we are so crowded that we cannot be as welcoming as we would like to be. Imagine having a narthex in which you have some space to move. Imagine a parish hall where we do not have to move tables and chairs every time we want to have a dinner or a reception. (I know that some of you have grown attached to the chairs and love moving them about, but the number of people who seek out the opportunity to move them seems to be dwindling!) Imagine additional Sunday School space in which our children can learn how to live as faithful disciples of Jesus. Imagine a kitchen that is not almost 50 years old and imagine being able to find a restroom when you need it on Sunday morning. And there is so much more we hope to accomplish with your help and with your generosity.

When you look at the conceptual design for renovation and additions to the building you will see that its most consistent theme is that of welcoming. This theme is borne out in the “top three” building improvements suggested by you, the people of this parish.

The first step in welcoming people to St. Peter's is to help them find the entrance, something that newcomers and visitors find challenging today. From a clearly identifiable entrance, people entering the church will now find themselves in a new Narthex space large enough to allow for conversation and coffee without blocking access to the sanctuary. They will find elevators, bathrooms, and doorways adequate for all. Additional Sunday School space, much of it multi-purpose to respond to changing needs and demographics, will welcome our children with less crowding. A more welcoming space downstairs where adults can gather outside the classrooms will mirror the main-level Narthex improvements.

Fellowship is one of the great strengths of the people of St. Peter's—the desire to greet, welcome, and visit with one another is regularly on display. A dedicated parish hall where coffee can be comfortably served on Sunday morning, receptions comfortably held after special services, and dinners served without large-scale furniture movement will make enjoying one another's company that much easier.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church has accomplished a lot in its fifty years in North Arlington. There is a lot to be proud of in our 50th Anniversary year. No matter how much we have done as a community of faith over the last fifty years, we can never rest on our past accomplishments and our past faithfulness. God continually calls us to be faithful in the present and to be open to the ways in which God is calling us anew. In every age we are called to respond to the opportunities and challenges God sets before us.

The founders of this parish, and all who have been a part of this parish since its founding, have bequeathed to us a vibrant, living community and fellowship. Now it is our time to honor the legacy that has been given to us in this place by leaving a legacy of our own. This will require sacrifice on all of our parts, but sacrifice is at the heart of our Christian faith. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave himself up for us—his life, for us and for our salvation.

In Acts 20:35 as St. Paul left the people Ephesus, a church he had founded, he reminded them of something Jesus taught. He said, “[Remember] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

I have often heard people say, “give until it hurts.” But that is not really helpful because it always hurts somewhat to give. Sometimes giving 10 or 20 dollars really hurts. Rather we should give beyond where it hurts. That is what sacrificial giving is about. If we are to reach our goal we all will have to pull together and give sacrificially out of the resources with which God has entrusted us.

Thank you for your generosity and love of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. With all of your help, we can make the dream of a new and renovated space here at St. Peter's a reality.

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**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](mailto:info@saint-peters.org)  
Web Site: [www.saint-peters.org](http://www.saint-peters.org)

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**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, *Handbell Choir Director, Organist*  
Nikol Destatte, *Office Manager*  
Christopher Neumann, *Sexton*  
Thomas Gillis, *Sexton Emeritus*

[cphillips@saint-peters.org](mailto:cphillips@saint-peters.org)  
[amartens@saint-peters.org](mailto:amartens@saint-peters.org)  
[egustafson@saint-peters.org](mailto:egustafson@saint-peters.org)  
[stpetersmusic@verizon.net](mailto:stpetersmusic@verizon.net)  
[organistfriend@yahoo.net](mailto:organistfriend@yahoo.net)  
[ndestatte@saint-peters.org](mailto:ndestatte@saint-peters.org)  
[cneumann@saint-peters.org](mailto:cneumann@saint-peters.org)

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**Vestry:**

Chair: The Reverend Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D.  
Keith A. (2013)  
Ron A. (2013)  
Sue B. (2011)  
Margaret C. (2011)  
Jeff C. (2012)  
Katie E. (2012)  
Gary G. (2011)  
Barret H. (2011)  
Nancy M. (2013)  
Peter M. (2012)  
Gwyneth R. (2012)  
Jonathan S. (2013)

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**Volunteers:**

Treasurer: Don C.  
Key Editor: Rob G.

