

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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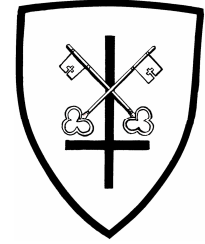
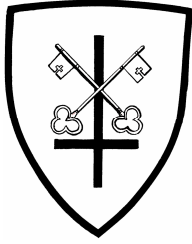
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY PARISH MEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

February is Usher Team 3: Gary C., Margaret C., Bob H., Andy O., Mark M.,
Jack S., Sharon S., Bill S.

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<u>Acolytes</u>				
8:00	Austen A.	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Jacqueline M.
9:00	Elsie G., Emily L., Kirsten K.	Neil G., Sarah L., Emily L. Claire C., Sarah C., Angel H.	Jack W., Alison B., Meredith R.	Chrissy R., Kirsten K., Sarah L.
11:00	Erin G., Alex G., Micaela G.		John R., Zoli M., Hayley M.	Grace R., Caroline M., Elsie G.
<u>Chalicians</u>				
8:00	Ed W.	Tootie K.	Mike L.	Bill M.
9:00	Thad K. Sharon S.	Kathi A. Laura D.	Sue B. Georgeanne J.	Thad K. Sharon S.
11:00	Keith A. Bob W.	Alan B. Jeff C.	Jim L. Andy O.	Judith L. Paul S.
<u>Lay Readers</u>				
8:00	Tom B. Suzanne B.	Chris A. Bill S.	Rob W. Suzy W.	Sharon S. Bill M.
9:00	Elsie G. Thad K.	Neil G. Jill R.	Jack W. Steve C.	Kirsten K. Paddy L.
11:00	Carol K. Laura D.	Ralph H. Lisa L.	Alan B. Suzy W.	Taffy G. Jean S.
<u>Altar Guild</u>				
Weekly Capt.	Jessie N.	Suzanne B.	Nan W.	Karen S.
Flowers	Sue B.	Sue B.	Joan T.	Joan T.
<u>Greeters</u>				
9:00	Caroline G.	Jim R.	Peter and Karen M.	Matt S. and Francine R.
11:00	Alan and Jan B.	Karen S.	John M.	Ward L.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE KEY

FEBRUARY 2009

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

FROM THE RECTOR

On February 4, Meta and I leave for a nineteen-week-long sabbatical. We do so with great excitement and a certain amount of trepidation. We leave behind family, friends, and the many parishioners at St. Peter's. We also leave behind all those things that we still have to do, those endless chores and tasks that seem to keep us perpetually busy. I am sure that you know what I am talking about. It seems like there is always something to be done and that we are never finished with all of the tasks, big and small, that fill our days.

The idea of taking a sabbatical from work is deeply rooted in the biblical call to balance work and rest ("Sabbath" in Hebrew). The story of creation tells how God worked for six days and then took a day of rest. The Torah calls all who follow the Lord God of Israel to model their lives on this plan—this balance of work and rest. The requirement for Sabbath rest was more than the admonition to take a day off each week. It was to be applied to every area and aspect of human life, even agriculture. For six years a field was allowed to be cultivated but in the seventh year it was to lie fallow so that the land could rest and be renewed (Leviticus 25: 2-6). A sabbatical from work is comparable to letting the field of one's life lie fallow for a time so that new and renewed life can emerge from it.

As we begin this sabbatical in the seventh year of my time at St. Peter's, I must admit that I have no idea what rest really means. I know how to work until I am exhausted and then collapse, but I am not sure that I know the real meaning of rest. Perhaps none of us today really does. While I cannot tell you now what sabbatical rest and renewal look like, Meta and I hope to be able to give you a description of it on our

return and share what we have learned with you.

Sabbaticals taken from work are not as common as they once were. Where once people from many different occupations took regular sabbatical time off from work, now sabbaticals are mostly given to professors and clergy. On their sabbaticals, professors are supposed to write books for publication—so it is only a rest from teaching, not from work. Clergy sabbaticals are time set aside from the work of the parish to allow for genuine rest, renewal, and transformation to take place. Rest and renewal are often undervalued, primarily because they cannot be seen to produce anything of monetary value. We often forget, however, that they do produce something of spiritual value.

People often ask us what we plan to do on our upcoming sabbatical. Meta and I first had to answer that question when we applied for a grant from the Lilly Endowment. The central question the endowment asks applicants to its Clergy Renewal Program is, "What will make your heart sing?" Meta and I, along with the grant committee we formed, had to answer that question keeping two things in mind. First, we had to figure out what would make our hearts sing. What did we want to do? Where did we want to go? And how would we go about it? Second, we had to ask ourselves how the parish would benefit from our sabbatical. That was the more difficult question. The Lilly Endowment made it clear that while the sabbatical grant application had to demonstrate how the sabbatical might benefit Meta and me, at the same time they did not want the sabbatical to look like work. If you want money to write a book, they cautioned, look elsewhere for funding. After months

DATES TO NOTE:

- 1,7,8,14,15,21,22,28 - *Narnia* Rehearsals
- 3 - First Tuesday Meetings
- 4,11,18 - Handbell and Adult Choir Practices
- 5 - SOME
- 5,12,19,26 - Thursday Ears
- 6,13,20,27 - Women's Bible Study
- 7,14,21,28 - Icon Writing
- 8 - FYC: Church Basics for You and Your Kids
- 9 - Finance Committee Meeting
- 9,23 - Prayer Group
- 10 - Second Tuesday Meetings
- 11 - Godzilla
- 11 - Youth Choir Practice
- 12 - Trivium Bare Bible Study
- 13 - Meals on Wheels
- 16 - Office Closed
- 17 - Vestry Meeting
- 21 - Godly Play Training
- 25 - Ash Wednesday Services
- 26 - Trivium After Work
- 28 - Men's Breakfast

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of discussion Meta and I decided that what would make our hearts sing would be traveling and going places together. The next difficult decision was where we were going to go.

The committee decided to divide the sabbatical into two parts. One part of our sabbatical is to be something that would be of help to the diocese but also be in keeping with the focus on mission that we have at St. Peter's. In this first part of our sabbatical we will spend time in Ghana and in England. In 2006 Bishop Lee appointed me to the Triangle of Hope, a collaborative Anglican initiative to explore the legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and work for reconciliation between dioceses historically involved in that trade—the Diocese of Virginia, the Diocese of Liverpool, and Anglican Dioceses in West Africa.

When Bishop Daniel Sarfo of the Diocese of Kumasi in Ghana came to Virginia to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the first Anglican Eucharist at Jamestown, he invited Meta and me to visit Ghana so that we could continue to foster a deeper understanding and respect between the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church in Ghana. While in Ghana we will be in residence at St. Nicholas Theological Seminary in Cape Coast, Ghana. It is our hope that living and teaching in Ghana will connect us to Anglicans in West Africa and that we will learn from them and they from us.

Continuing the first part of our sabbatical we will travel to England, where we will be in residence at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, a seminary on the outskirts of Oxford. I am hoping to spend a good deal of time reading rare books in the Duke Humphrey's library of the Bodleian Library at Oxford University and at the British Library in London.

In the late 1990s I taught a graduate course at Temple University in colonial and postcolonial theory. At that time I became interested in the descriptions that 16th- and 17th-century European travelers gave of the religions and customs of the people they visited, particularly in India and West Africa. Following this interest, I traveled annually for a number of years to England to spend time in the rare book rooms at the Bodleian Library in Oxford and the British Library in London, developing a love of rare books that I seldom have time to indulge. Our experiences in Ghana will give new meaning to those travel narratives, while being in Oxford will allow me to read those books in the libraries that inspire me.

While we are in the U.K. we also hope to travel to Liverpool to deepen personal ties and make new friends so that we can help further the development and success of the Triangle of Hope project.

In the second phase of the sabbatical, Meta and I plan to explore the world of the early Christian Church in the Eastern part of the late Roman Empire. In the months of April and


May we will travel around Greece and Turkey. Our exact itineraries are not yet fully in place for this part of our trip. In Greece we plan to visit Thessaloniki and Athens and a number of early Christian and Byzantine sites. In Turkey we plan to spend time in Istanbul, Ephesus and Izmir. While in Thessaloniki, I will leave Meta for a few days so that I can visit the Eastern Orthodox monasteries on Mount Athos. I received permission from the Patriarch of Constantinople allowing me to visit the "Holy Mountain." We plan to take photographs that can be used in teaching on the New Testament and Early Christian history and literature when I return to St. Peter's. At the conclusion of the sabbatical our youngest son, Andrew, who is now 24, will join us for a vacation in the Greek Isles, where I am looking forward to visiting Santorini.

My love of early Christian literature and art goes back to my undergraduate majors in Religious Studies (Late Ancient Christianity) and Classics. While working on my M. Div. at Harvard Divinity School I also took course work in ancient Syriac and Byzantine history. Meta majored in Art History at Brown, and while I was a divinity student she took a few courses on Greek, Roman, Medieval and Byzantine art.

Both by breaking new ground in fostering the goals of the Triangle of Hope and by reacquainting myself with two areas of long-held interest, those of colonial and postcolonial travelogues and the early Christian period in the Aegean and in Asia Minor, I hope to return to St. Peter's in June rested, refreshed, and re-equipped for ministry. Our time spent in Ghana and England may lead to more mission opportunities for St. Peter's, and our time spent in Greece and Turkey may yield material for further adult education about early Christianity. All the benefits of the "fallow time" represented by the whole sabbatical cannot be specified in advance, but will flow from the personal and spiritual renewal that true rest allows.

Meta and I are extremely thankful for the opportunity afforded by the Lilly Endowment grant to grow in Christ in ways that we can only imagine as we embark on this period of rest. We are equally thankful for the warm support of the members of St. Peter's who have worked with us to make the sabbatical a reality. We look forward to our return in June and the opportunity to share with each of you our experiences as we resume our life in Arlington.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Craig A. Phillips

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN —

As we start a new year and wish our Rector Godspeed on his well-earned sabbatical, it is appropriate to review the path St. Peter's has taken over the last few years and how it has brought us to where we are now. Our church has grown considerably over the first six years of Craig's ministry among us. We have been busily building up the body of Christ—through mission trips, Godly Play, Adult Forums, regular worship, and a host of special activities. As Rector, Craig has been our spiritual guide amidst all this activity and now in his seventh year it's time for him to be refreshed.

During his sabbatical Craig will spend time in residence at a seminary in Ghana supporting the goals of the Anglican Communion's "Triangle of Hope"; time in Oxford, England, writing and conducting research; and time in the eastern Mediterranean traveling among the sites of early Christianity. The Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program, from which St. Peter's has received a grant to help fund Craig's sabbatical, intends this time to be an opportunity for him "to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining enthusiasm and creativity for ministry." St. Peter's can look forward to drawing upon Craig's regained enthusiasm and creativity when he returns in June. As an active and growing parish, we can expect to benefit greatly from this opportunity for our rector to have time for reflection away from the day-to-day concerns of parish management.

When St. Peter's called Craig as our new rector in 2002, the vestry made several decisions they hoped would bring about growth and promote the future well-being of the parish. They decided to increase the number of Sunday services and hire more clergy, staffing in advance for hoped-for growth. Those decisions bore fruit: since then St. Peter's has grown substantially in both members and programs. The growth became so pronounced that at the January 2008 vestry retreat our facilitator urged the vestry to face the question, "Why is God sending us all these people?" That question grew into, "Who is God calling St. Peter's to be or become?" and we found ourselves presented with the opportunity and need to take stock of where St. Peter's stands and to look for God's guidance on how to proceed.

At a second retreat a month later the vestry formed a 15-member Vision Task Force (VTF). Its charge was to address the question, "Who is God calling us to be/become?" by listening to as many parishioners as possible over two months at meetings, potluck suppers, Adult Forums, and in one-to-one conversations. The VTF distilled an eight-point Vision Statement from the many voices its members heard:

We the people of St. Peter's believe that God is calling us to:

- Strengthen our spiritual foundation so that people can deepen their knowledge of God and advance on their spiritual journey.
- Preserve our congregation's core values and nurture all we have been given.
- Welcome all who come to St. Peter's and help them find a place in our community where they can grow in faith and serve God.
- Be welcoming and creative in our programs for youth and children, recognizing that they are the future and lifeblood of the church.
- Be more intentional stewards through a focused commitment of time, talent and treasure.
- Improve our internal communication functions in order to support the congregation's awareness of and participation in a wide range of programs and ministries.
- Retain and nurture a strong, supportive and well-balanced clergy.
- Discern how we can achieve our vision in our church home.

When the Vision Statement and its accompanying report were presented to the vestry last summer, the vestry saw several strands coming together to form a picture of St. Peter's as a congregation undergoing growth and renewal as it approaches its 50th anniversary in January 2011. This is a very happy state of affairs—it calls to my mind the words of Psalm 103: "He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's." But even this happy state of affairs brings challenges.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN (CONT.) —

Managing growth is certainly a good challenge to have, but in looking at the VTF report the vestry realized that it is nonetheless a challenge that needs attention. Some of that attention is drawn by the church building itself—crowded classrooms, jostly Narthex, peripatetic coffee hours, at times unprayerfully noisy sanctuary space. These and similar concerns (including handicap accessibility, and space for youth and mission projects) compelled the vestry to ask the Building and Grounds Committee to conduct a review of our space use.

The results of that review included the ideas for renovations and expansion that were offered for comment at the congregational meeting on All Saints' Day. In order to make those ideas concrete enough to be discussed, priced, and held up to scrutiny by the parish, the vestry in December asked an architect to start the process of converting the parish's ideas into drawings.

The VTF report draws attention to other aspects of managing St. Peter's growth as well. Good communications, a diversity of programs, and ample opportunities for small-group fellowship are needed to keep us connected to one another as the size of the congregation grows. These programs require investment from all of us. They require us to be good stewards of the bounty God has given us in time, talent and treasure, giving of ourselves and our resources to serve Christ in those around us. They require that we (in the words of the Vision Statement) "retain and nurture a strong, supportive and well-balanced clergy" so that we can "preserve our congregation's core values and nurture all we have been given," and "strengthen our spiritual foundation so that people can deepen their knowledge of God and advance on their spiritual journey."

I am looking forward as Senior Warden this year to being part of this parish's ongoing process of growth and discernment. I am immensely grateful to all those members of St. Peter's who have given so generously of their time, talent and treasure over the last year. Steve C. as Senior Warden, Gretchen G. as Junior Warden, and Peter M. as chair of the VTF have been perhaps the most visible faces in this period of discernment and they deserve our hearty thanks. Many parishioner-hours of prayer, attention and reflection were distilled into the Vision Statement.

Now we have an opportunity to move forward using the Vision Statement as a guide. When renovation plans are available for inspection later this year I expect them to refocus our attention on (in the words of the Vision Statement) "how we can achieve our vision in our church home." But to do that we must keep reminding ourselves of our mission as a parish and our individual parts in it. We are all "called together in Christ, transformed by God's love, sent out to serve."

Catharine Gibson
Senior Warden

PARISH NEWS —

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS AT ST. PETER'S: CHURCH BASICS FOR YOU & YOUR KIDS

Join us Sunday, February 8, 5-7 p.m. to have all your questions answered about the church...or at least some of them! We'll gather at 5 p.m. for a potluck (pizza provided), then offer concurrent programs for parents and children. The parents will hear an overview of church life, a brief history of the Episcopal Church, introductory Bible stories, and more, with lots of time for questions with the Rev. Mary Demmler. At the same time, your children will participate in three 30-minute workshops about baptism, the Eucharist, and worship directed by the Rev. Ann Martens.

Please note this is a part of the Families with Young Children program (families with children 8 and under). Also, dinner will end promptly at 5:30 so as to allow for plenty of time for our workshops.

GET READY TO PASS ON THE GIFT!

Starting February 8, each Sunday School class will receive its own Heifer International project. Heifer International provides animals and other necessities to families living in Third World countries. During the Lenten season, the Sunday School classes will raise money for specific goals (e.g., perhaps a pig, chicken, or goat). Every Sunday during the program each class will present its fundraising venture and explain why their animal is so important. The final day for the fundraiser will be March 29, when all parishioners can come to the chapel to help give to those in need (we also need people who are willing to make treats or cookies for the final day). If you have any questions about this fundraiser or are willing to help, please contact Katie R. or Anna F. Please come out and Pass On the Gift!

PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN LENTEN SERVICES

Lent is fast approaching and it's time to get some important dates on your calendars. We are holding services specially designed with you in mind! We know it's difficult to get to them, but it is so important for you to make every effort to attend. By doing so, you are teaching your children the importance of Lent and Holy Week and helping to develop their spirituality. So please mark these dates:

Ash Wednesday, February 25, 6 p.m.: This 45-minute service will include Holy Eucharist with a children's sermon and imposition of ashes

Maundy Thursday, April 9: Traditional Seder dinner followed by Holy Eucharist (probably more appropriate for elementary school children and older)

Good Friday, April 10, 6 p.m.: Stations of the Cross (appropriate for all children)

Easter Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m.: Holy Eucharist with a children's sermon; an Easter egg hunt will follow the service

THURSDAY MORNING LENTEN PROGRAM

On Thursday mornings during Lent, from 10 to 11 a.m., we will look at the role of faith in the stories of Flannery O'Connor. The course will begin Thursday, February 26. You will need to read a short story each week for homework. The group is great and we will have fun! Please let the Rev. Ann Martens know if you'd like to come so she can order a book for you.

FRIDAY MORNING LENTEN STUDY, 7:30-8:30 A.M.

The Women's Bible Study will be holding an eight-week Lenten program beginning February 27 to study the last week of Jesus' life according to the Gospel of Mark. We will use as a basis for our study the book *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. In this book, the authors look at the events of the last week of Jesus' life through the lens of the events taking place in Jerusalem during the first century. Through this study on Friday mornings we will gain a better understanding of how the events of Jesus' life unfolded. Please let the Rev. Ann Martens know if you would like to attend so she can order a book for you.

PASTORAL CARE: WHO AND WHAT (AND HOW)

Who is the Care Team for? It's for young and old. It's for people who need help or just a word. It's for people who need a quick visit or a long-term caring relationship. It's for the sick or the worried or people who've just hit a bad patch. It's for people who need a prayer or a ride to the market. The care team is for teenagers as well as oldsters. It's for any of us and all of us.

What does the Care Team do? It takes meals to people who've had an operation—or a baby. It drives kids to school or soccer or ballet when their parents can't. It visits the sick. It talks to people who need someone to talk to. It walks dogs and mows lawns. It prays. It listens. It makes other people an intentional part of our lives and our worship.

Who is the Care Team? It's any of us and all of us. It's made up of young and old, new parents and grandparents. It can be students or teachers. Some of us have a lot of time to give and others a little. We'd like you to be a part of the Care Team and we'd especially like to invite St. Peter's teenagers. We need your gifts.

Please see the Rev. Ann Martens or any of the Pastoral Care Committee about being a part of the committee or if you think you might need some help.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON MARCH 15

Due to the play and its need for classroom space as dressing rooms, there will be no Sunday School on March 15.

PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

REBUILDING TOGETHER

Each year since 1989, St. Peter's parishioners have helped fellow Arlingtonians stay in their homes by providing a team to *repair and where necessary rebuild* the homes through what is now called Rebuilding Together. We still refer to it as Christmas in April—because it's like Christmas for the homeowner even though the activity is conducted on the last Saturday in April. Gratefully, no skills are required, and participation is open to anyone between 14 (with parent consent) and whatever—as long as you can hold a paintbrush. This year, the big day is April 25.

Allen S. has done the heavy lifting organizing the work day, with Bruce J.'s participation and support as Co-House Captain over these many years. We are prepared to lead yet again with parish support from the Mission Commission (St. Peter's also supports the project by providing some cash with which to buy supplies). The activity is more than just a commitment of money, it requires teamwork. About 40 members of St. Peter's have found a way to show up each year, and our expectation is that that will occur again this year. We won't know where we will be assigned to work until late February. However, we do know that our sponsorship and continuing support of the community project brings many rewards—not only to the homeowners but also to those who participate from the parish.

Allen and I will announce the event and let you know the details as they become known to us. A sign-up list will be in the Narthex in April. We know it is a busy time for the church, but the results are both heartwarming and truly amazing. Keep the date: Saturday, April 25, 2009.

Bruce J., Co-Captain with Allen S.

SHRINE MONT 2009!

Mark your calendar for April 17–19 for the annual St. Peter's weekend at Shrine Mont. For those of you new to our congregation, this April weekend is full of rest, relaxation, prayerful reflection, fellowship and fun. All of the time-treasured activities such as the ice cream social, hiking, World Famous Talent Show, Eucharist in the peaceful outdoor cathedral, spending time with friends in the cottages—just to name a few—will be back. There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities to pitch in and make this annual St. Peter's event a wonderful experience. Last year we had a record 317 people attend the weekend at Shrine Mont. If you have questions, please contact Steve C. by phone or email. Registration forms are in the Narthex or on the St. Peter's Web site. See you in Orkney Springs, Virginia, at Shrine Mont!

COMMISSION NEWS —

MISSION COMMISSION NEWS

Emergency Winter Shelter

Among the many service projects in which St. Peter's participates is the Arlington County Emergency Winter Shelter. Arlington County runs a shelter for men and women who need to come in from the cold during winter nights. An evening meal is served, and St. Peter's cooks and provides that meal (drop-off only) for approximately 50 adults on Thursday evenings. The EWS operates from November 1 through March 31 and we always need cooks to sign up for those Thursday meals. For information contact Lisa M. (see the directory); sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Mission Trips

As winter progresses, the Mission Commission will turn its attention to planning for mission trips in the summer. This year, we will be focusing on the Dominican Republic trip as well as travel that our fabulous young people might undertake. A spring fundraiser for mission trips is being planned.

Spring Activities

Other projects that will probably take place in the spring include a toiletries and “walking food” drive for the homeless clients of the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. We will also take part in the Rebuilding Together (aka Christmas in April) event (April 25, 2009).

COMMISSION NEWS (CONT.) —

2008 PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

Our wonderful parishioners contributed toward the mission work of St. Peter's and sent out their Christmas greetings to fellow parishioners once again in 2008. We raised a total of \$741.00!

Our beautiful card featured an icon of the *Theotokos* (Greek, meaning bearer of God), or *Mother of God* and was reproduced in our St. Peter's icon writing class.

The following parishioners signed the parish Christmas card:

Jan G.	Nora S., Len N., Hailey and Grace J.
Sally H. and family	Bill and Judy W.
Linda G. and Bill S.	Tom and Legare H.
Suzanne and Tom B.	Claire and Ward de G.
Gwyneth, Scott, Katie and Chrissy R.	The Chris and Genie A. and Family
Nancy and Jack S.	Craig and Meta P.
Taffy G.	Bill, Pat and Jacqueline M.
Paddy L. and Tim H.	Joyce P. and Frank B.
Barbara E. and Peter C.	Erika and Paul S. and family
Tootie K. and Mike L.	El and Jim L.
Patty F. and Gary G.	Nene H.
Lynn, Ed, Bob, Tom and Jack W.	Tillie S.

VESTRY NEWS —

Vestry Highlights--January 2009

Because of the inauguration on January 20, the Vestry moved its January meeting to January 27, 2009, far too late to include highlights in the February *Key*. However, your vestry accomplished a lot this January:

Elected Officers for 2009. The vestry held its first meeting of 2009 on January 4 and elected Catharine G. Senior Warden and Gretchen G. Junior Warden, both by acclamation.

Vestry Retreat and Goals for the Year. The vestry held its annual retreat at the College of Preachers building on the grounds of the National Cathedral. This is perhaps the last time we will meet there because it is closing. Carroll Sheppard again served as facilitator.

2008 in Review. With Carroll's help, the vestry realized that St. Peter's achieved many of its goals for the year:

- We convened the Vision Task Force (VTF), which met and delivered its report by summer.
- The Building and Grounds Commission took the first steps in following up on the VTF report by examining St. Peter's needs for space. There is a preliminary outline for possible building renovations and expansions in the future and the Vestry has commissioned a draft plan.
- The Communications Committee used a consultant to design and launch a new Web site.
- The Greeters Guild was commissioned and is up and running.
-

Still and all, there are miles to go and much to do, particularly in the realm of communications.

2009 Goals. St. Peter's, like many organizations, is in the midst of generational change. The vestry considered the parish's situation, hopes for its future, and impending changes before settling on five goals:

- Continue momentum on the VTF Report. This includes evaluating the building, but there are other items to follow up on as well—including increased opportunities for small-group fellowship and spiritual development.
- Develop and implement a communications plan. The vestry plans to use everything from the face-to-face approach of the VTF and space-use surveys to the *Key*, the Web page, FaceBook and—just maybe—Twitter.

ADULT FORUM —

- Develop new leaders in the congregation and involve more members.
- Provide more resources to meet our growing needs.
- Increase the spiritual foundation of our congregation.
-

The vestry is vitally interested in fostering the feeling that all members of St. Peter's are part of one body of the parish. St. Peter's is our church. Our church needs the participation and contributions of everyone.

ADULT FORUM —

February 1

Plenary Session: Godspeed Ceremony for Rector's Sabbatical

Join us as we wish Craig and Meta Godspeed on their sabbatical journey to Ghana, England, and the Holy Lands.

February 8

Plenary Session: Meet and Greet with the Sabbatical Rector

While Craig is on sabbatical, we will have a "sabbatical rector" filling in for him. Please join us for refreshments as we welcome him to St. Peter's.

February 15

Option I: The Life and Legacy of Martin Niemöller—Led by Doug M.

Famously known as "Hitler's Personal Prisoner," Martin Niemöller (1892–1984) was a war hero and Lutheran pastor who organized and led church opposition to the Nazi regime in Germany. During the postwar period he worked for peace and nuclear disarmament. Niemöller was a crewman and submarine captain in World War I, sinking over 100,000 tons of allied shipping—mostly in the Mediterranean. For his successes he was awarded the Iron Cross First Class. In an engagement late in the war, he sank a French destroyer near the port of Marseilles but hesitated to torpedo another destroyer that was picking up survivors. His realization of the evil, waste and tragedy of war was, as he described it, the turning point in his life.

Niemöller went on to serve as rector of one of the most prominent Lutheran congregations in Berlin. He, along with Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, led the "Confessing Church" in opposition to Hitler's Nazi puppet church. In 1937, Niemöller was sentenced to a concentration camp where he remained for eight years until liberation by American troops in 1945. While a prisoner he was scheduled for execution several times, but because of the broad international support for his cause, led by English bishop George Bell of Chichester, the Nazis backed off out of concern about the potential martyrdom of Niemöller.

Niemöller is perhaps most famous for his poem *When they came...*, which is widely quoted in various forms on monuments and memorials around the world:

When they came for the communists I remained silent;
I was not a communist.

When they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent;
I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out;
I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews, I remained silent;
I was not a Jew.

When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.

ADULT FORUM (CONT.) —

Option II: How to Use the Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs)—Led by Jeff C.

St. Peter's recently purchased and installed two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in the church building for use in a cardiac emergency. AEDs are designed to be simple for the layperson to use, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, first responder and basic life support (BLS) level CPR classes. Jeff will explain how the devices work and answer questions in an effort to help us all get more comfortable with them.

February 22

Option I: What St. Peter's Has in Common with Oberammergau's Passion Play—Led by Margaret C.

Margaret will give a brief overview of the Oberammergau Passion Play (its history, "actors," etc.) and describe how St. Peter's follows much the same mode with its plays every other year. Also discussed will be how passion plays have played a major role in spreading the Gospel to the masses and how we (St. Peter's) continue that tradition.

Option II: Healthcare Subject TBD—Led by Len Nichols and Nora Super

MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S —

My Faith Looks up to Thee

1830

But rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 1 Peter 4:13

In the early 1830s, Lowell Mason moved to Boston from Savannah, where for sixteen years he worked in a bank while directing church choirs on the side. In relocating to Boston, he wanted to focus exclusively on his musical interests. Soon he was directing three choirs, publishing hymns, compiling a songbook, and trying to get music education in the Boston public schools.

One day in 1832, he bumped into Ray Palmer. Palmer, 24, was exhausted. For years he had burned the candle on both ends, working as a clerk in a dry goods store, attending classes at Yale, teaching at a girls' school in New York City, and preparing for the ministry.

Now, Mason wanted Palmer to write for him, to compose some hymns for his projected songbook.

Palmer, too tired to produce anything new, hesitatingly opened his little leather journal and showed Mason a poem he had written about two years before. It was a personal prayer for renewed zeal and courage, composed in his rented room one night in 1830 when he had felt sick, tired, and lonely.

He later explained that he had wept that winter's evening upon finishing this poem: "The words for these stanzas were born out of my own soul with very little effort," he said. "I recall that I wrote the verses with tender emotion. There was not the slightest thought of writing for another eye, least of all writing a hymn for Christian worship."

After reading the words, Mason ducked into a nearby store for a piece of paper and hurriedly copied them down. That evening in his studio, he pored over the poem, hammering out a perfect tune for it. Shortly after, the two men met again and Mason told the young man, "Mr. Palmer, you may live many years and do many good things, but I think you will be best known to posterity as the author of *My Faith Looks up to Thee*."

Lowell Mason was right. Ray Palmer did go on to do many good things and to write many fine hymns. But he is remembered by posterity for his first hymn, one written before he had even entered the ministry.

(Excerpted from: *Then Sings My Soul* (Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2003, pg. 101))

REGION THREE NEWS —

ARLINGTON LENTEN PROGRAM

This year, instead of holding our own evening Lenten program, we are participating in a region-wide program with all of the Arlington Episcopal churches titled “Soul School: A New Look at Basic Faith Questions.” The series will take place on Tuesday evenings, beginning with a simple supper at 6:30, followed by the program at 7:30 and ending by 8:45. Some fabulous speakers have been obtained: our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) professors, and noted spiritual directors. A detailed schedule appears below. The series will culminate in a region-wide Easter Vigil service at St. Peter’s on Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m., with Bishop Jones preaching and celebrating the Eucharist. In order to accommodate the program, all of our regular Tuesday evening meetings will be moved during Lent. Please try to attend one or more evenings. It promises to be a fascinating time!

3/3 Is There a God? Led by the Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, Professor of Theology, VTS

Location: St. Mary’s, 2609 North Glebe Road

3/10 Who Was Jesus? Led by the Rev. Lloyd A. Lewis Jr., the Molly Laird Downs Professor of New Testament, VTS

Location: St. John’s, 415 South Lexington Street

3/17 How Do We Know What God Wants Us to Do? Led by the Rev. Margaret Guenther, St. Columba’s, Washington, D.C.

Location: St. George’s, 915 North Oakland Street

3/24 How Do I Pray? Led by Liz Ward, Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation Program Leader, Spiritual Director at VTS, and Retreat/Prayer Group Leader

Location: St. Andrew’s, 4000 Lorcom Lane

3/31 What about the Church? Led by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Bishop Co-adjutor of Virginia

Location: Trinity, 2217 Columbia Pike

4/7 Is There Life after Death? Led by the Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, Dean, VTS

Location: St. Michael’s, 1132 North Ivanhoe Street

S T. PETER'S PARISH RETREAT

SHRINE MONT RETREAT CENTER
 ORKNEY SPRINGS, VIRGINIA
 APRIL 17-19, 2009

To reserve your space, complete this registration form **before** SUNDAY MARCH 1st, 2009 and put it with a **NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT** of **\$25.00 per person** in either the envelope on Narthex bulletin board or the file folder on the desk in the Church Office. Make your check payable to **St. Peter's** and mark **Shrine Mont** on the memo line. Cost includes 2 nights, 6 meals, meal tip, & activity supplies. Scholarships are available; contact Church Office.

Balance due SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2009

"A place apart..."

WEEKEND COST: \$160.00 – per adult (13 years and older)
 \$110.00 – per child 8-12 years old
 \$ 60.00 – per child 4-7 years old
 \$ 25.00 – per child 0-3 years old

<u>NAME</u> as you would like it on NAME TAG	<u>GENDER</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>COST</u>
Adult: _____ (LAST) (FIRST) M/F		<u>xxxx</u>	\$ _____
Adult: _____ (LAST) (FIRST) M/F		<u>xxxx</u>	\$ _____
Child: _____ (LAST) (FIRST) M/F		_____ AGE	\$ _____
Child: _____ (LAST) (FIRST) M/F		_____ AGE	\$ _____
Child: _____ (LAST) (FIRST) M/F		_____ AGE	\$ _____
Child: _____ (LAST) (FIRST) M/F		_____ AGE	\$ _____

SUM OF ABOVE : _____
MINUS DEPOSIT: _____
BALANCE DUE: _____

TODAY'S DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____
 E-MAIL _____

Is this your first time at Shrine Mont? _____
 If you attended Shrine Mont last year, would you prefer the same housing **IF POSSIBLE?** _____
IF POSSIBLE, if there is another family you would like to have share housing, please list name: _____
 If you are a family of 3, **IF POSSIBLE** with whom would your child like to share a room? _____
 Are you willing to be housed where fellow parishioners might gather after planned evening activities end? _____
 Please list any special needs (i.e. dietary, handicap room): _____

QUESTIONS? Please contact: **LISA L.**
TAFFY G.
EL L.

2009 VOLUNTEER FORM

SHRINE MONT NEEDS YOU!
****CHECK AREAS WHERE YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HELP****

NAME _____ (please identify which family member will help)

- _____ Mailing Shrine Mont Information Letters –Wednesday, April 1, A.M. at Church at 10am
 _____ Assembling Shrine Mont Welcome Packets - Wednesday, April 15, A.M. at Church at 10am
 _____ Arts & Crafts – face-painting, mural making, beadwork, etc.
 _____ Banner Hanging – must be at Shrine Mont before 3:00 PM on Friday, April 18
 _____ Bonfire
 _____ Bridge, Card & Board Games
 _____ Family Olympics
 _____ Fishing Derby
 _____ Friday Night Kickoff & Ice Breaker
 _____ Golf on Friday before Shrine Mont Weekend begins
 _____ Group Grace
 _____ Guitar Playing
 _____ Hikes
 _____ Hospitality Host during Friday’s registration
 _____ Host for First-Timers to Shrine Mont
 _____ Host for Speaker
 _____ Housing – must be available for Reconnaissance Trip on Wednesday March 25 (all day)
 _____ Ice Cream Social
 _____ Jigsaw Puzzle
 _____ Name Tags
 _____ Nips & Nibbles – Saturday pre-dinner social
 _____ Photography
 _____ Placement of Direction Signs – must do before 3:00 PM on Friday
 _____ Registrar Trainee
 _____ Sing-Alongs & Transporter of Song Books
 _____ Tee-Shirt Coordinator
 _____ Transporter of Sound System
 _____ Sports: ___Badminton ___Softball ___Football ___Soccer ___Tennis
 _____ Volunteer Coordinator
 _____ “World Renowned St. Peter’s Talent Show”
 _____ Youth Activities: ___Senior High 9-12 grades ___Middle School 6-7 grades
 ___Elementary K-5 grades ___Pre-School
 _____ I will help anywhere needed

QUESTIONS? Please contact: STEVE C.

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 Very Reverend Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D., *Rector*
The Reverend Mary Demmler, *Assistant Rector*
The Reverend Ann Martens, *Assistant Rector*
Don Witman, *Director of Music*
Emily Koons, *Youth and Junior Choir Director, Organist*
Nikol Destatte, *Communications Director*
Christopher Neumann, *Sexton*
Thomas Gillis, *Sexton Emeritus*

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

Vestry:

Chair: The Very Reverend Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D.
Senior Warden: Catharine G. (2010)
Junior Warden: Gretchen G. (2009)
Register: Paul S. (2010)
Kathi A. (2009)
Sue B.(2011)
Suzanne B. (2010)
Jim B.(2009)
Margaret C.(2011)
Gary G. (2011)
Barret H. (2011)
Ward L. (2009)
Jack S. (2010)

Volunteers:

Treasurer: Mira B.
Key Editor: Rob G.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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FEBRUARY 2009

1 8am- HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II 12:30pm - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals	2	3 7:15pm - First Tuesday Meetings	4 6:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice	5 6:00am- SOME 10:00am - Thursday Ears	6 7:30am - Women's Bible Study	7 12:00pm - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals 12:00pm - Icon Writing
8 8am- HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II 12:30pm - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals 5pm - FYC: Church Basics for You and Your Kids	9 7:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting 7:30pm - Prayer Group	10 7:15pm - Second Tuesday Meetings	11 6:00pm - Youth Choir Practice 6:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm - Godzilla 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice	12 10:00am - Thursday Ears 8:00pm - Trivium Bare Bible Study	13 7:30am - Women's Bible Study 11:00am- Meals on Wheels	14 11:00am - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals 12:00pm- Icon Writing
15 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II 12:30pm - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals	16 <i>Presidents' Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	17 7:00pm - Vestry Meeting	18 6:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice	19 10:00am - Thursday Ears	20 7:30am - Women's Bible Study	21 9:00am - Godly Play Training 11:00am - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals 12:00pm - Icon Writing
22 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II 12:30pm - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals	23 7:30pm - Prayer Group	24	25 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:30am - HE, Rite II & Imposition of Ashes 6:00pm - HE, Rite II & Imposition of Ashes 7:30pm - HE, Rite II & Imposition of Ashes	26 10:00am - Thursday Ears 6:00pm - Trivium After Work	27 7:30am - Women's Bible Study	28 8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast 11:00am - <i>Narnia</i> Rehearsals 12:00pm - Icon Writing