

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

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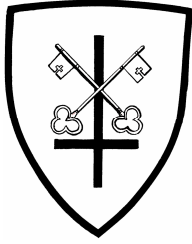
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY PARISH MEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

May is Usher Team 6: Richard A., Alan B., Rusty H., Bruce J., John P., Bob S., Ed W., Mary Jay H.

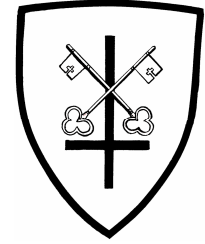
	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
<u>Acolytes</u>					
8:00	Corey K.	Need Volunteer	Jacqueline M.	Need Volunteer	Austen A.
9:00	John Ramirez, Elsie G., Meredith R.	Alison B., Kirsten K., Emily L.	John R., Sarah L., Emily L.	Elsie G., Neil Gi., Sarah L.	Alex G., Micaela G., Alison B.
11:00	Jack W., Grace R., Caro- line M.	Erin G., Micaela G., Alex G.	Chrissy R., Grace R., Mere- dith R.	Claire C., Sarah C., Angel H.	Zoli M., Hayley M., Caroline M.
<u>Chalicians</u>					
8:00	Tootie K.	Mike L.	Bill M.	Ed W.	Tootie K.
9:00	Kathi A. Laura D.	Sue B. Georgeanne J.	Thad K. Sharon S.	Kathi A. Laura D.	Sue B. Georgeanne J.
11:00	Larry S. Bob W.	Keith A. Alan B.	Jeff C. Jim L.	Judith L. Andy O.	Paul S. Larry S.
<u>Lay Readers</u>					
8:00	Bob W. Sally H.	Tom B. Suzanne B.	Chris A. Bill S.	Bill S. Bill M.	Sharon S. Bill M.
9:00	Elsie G. Thad K.	Lisa L. Kirsten K.	Emily L. Steve C.	Peter H. Neil G.	Erin G. Jan G.
11:00	Jill R. Ralph H.	Beth B. Alan B.	Paddy L. Taffy G.	Jean S. Jack S.	Don W. Nora S.
<u>Altar Guild</u>					
Weekly Capt.	Suzanne B.	Nan W.	Karen S.	Pam P.	Katie E.
<u>Greeters</u>					
9:00	Kathryn H.	Katie E.	Caroline G.	Karen M.	Jim R.
11:00	Taffy G.	Jim and Bettie J.	Bill and Judy W.	Catharine G.	Alan and Jan B.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE KEY

MAY 2009



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

FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

"What is the church?" Google this question and you will get some interesting answers. On wordnet through Princeton University you find it is everything from a body of Christians worshipping together to the physical space to the rites of worship. Other sites point out that it is a song by "T-Pain," whoever that is, and a stop on the Buffalo Metro Rail system. Still others list it as an Australian rock band from the 1980s as well as an Italian horror movie.

For us the church is many things. But at best it is indefinable and the embodiment of love, with all of its messy complications.

This past weekend, I saw church modeled beautifully. I'm writing this as I come down from my "Shrine Mont high" and the wonderful time we had at our annual parish retreat. For those of you who couldn't join us this year or those who have never been, my apologies, but I must take this opportunity to reflect on the weekend.

We were more than two hours away from the structure of St. Peter's. We were in the mountains, at a space for which hundreds of others share a sense of ownership. The only church-structure anywhere around takes the shape of an outdoor shrine made of lumber pews and stone work and a small screened-in chapel behind it. So church is not the structure.

And church is not the other things listed on the Internet. Not even the answer that it's "a body of Christians worshipping together." The church is something almost beyond our comprehension; something more along the lines (when at its best) of "I know it when I see it." The church is a living, breathing body, full of all of the emotions and challenges every body has.

This weekend, I heard that body laugh in the children as they played on Saturday morning and in the giggles of our teenagers as they led those children through the obstacle course they constructed. I saw it smile and shout at bingo on Friday night as every generation gathered around tables and in circles of chairs to play together. I felt it embrace me through a squeeze on the shoulder in the dining room, a hug by the pond, a kiss during the Peace on Sunday. I even heard it cry, from the seemingly trivial cries of a child who didn't want to stop playing to go eat dinner to the cries of adults enjoying a moment of the Spirit's presence. I saw that body energized as it ran from the spring to the Shrine to the ball field as it participated in a scavenger hunt and I saw that body tired, catching a nap in a rocking chair on the porch of the Maryland House.

The church is a living breathing body, it is THE body—the body of Christ with all of its joys and scars. It is the only body with which Christ has to participate in the world today. It is how Christ breathes life into us, how He loves us, hugs us, heals our wounds, laughs with us.

At its best the body acts as a whole as it did this past weekend. And at its best it steps forward to serve the world, as a whole. So the question then becomes, how can we share these giggles, touches, moments, and cries with the world? How do we at St. Peter's as the body of Christ reach His hands to the world? I encourage you to consider this question and, especially, to offer some of your help and support to our mission team. We will be extending our arms to the Dominican Republic again this summer to serve the community there. Our mission team is a part of our body, and

DATES TO NOTE:

- 1,8,15,22,29 - Women's Bible Study
- 2,9,16,23,30 - Icon Writing
- 2 - Fiesta! And Silent Auction
- 3 - St. Peter's Concert
- 5 - 1st Tuesday Meeting
- 6,13,20,27 - Choir Practices
- 7 - SOME
- 7,14,21,28 - The Thursday Ears
- 8, 29 - Meals on Wheels
- 11 - Finance Committee Meeting
- 11,25 - Prayer Group
- 12 - 2nd Tuesday Meetings
- 13,27 - Godzilla
- 19 - Third Tuesday Lunch Group
- 19 - Vestry
- 23 - Men's Breakfast
- 25 - Office Closed
- 28 - Trivium After Work

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they need our support, from financial contributions to prayers to hugs.

The beauty, the unexplainable essence of the church, is found in its love—the love that bonds it together, the love that moves

it, and the love that pours forth from it. Thank you for being the church.

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Mary Demmler

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN —

Ah, spring! It brings a peak point in the Church calendar, as we move with all Christians through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter towards Pentecost. Families that live by the school year calendar are approaching a peak activity point, too, as final exams, performances, and projects compete for attention with plans for the summer and next year.

Our parish life responds to both calendars. As a “program-size” church, St. Peter’s activity level does ebb and flow to some extent along with the academic year. Along with the extra services for Lent and Easter, spring brings the busy-ness of the play, our retreat at Shrine Mont, Christmas in April, a final choir concert, and the parish picnic. All the while we are wrapping up Sunday School, laying plans for summer mission work, and keeping up our regular commitments to programs like Meals on Wheels and S.O.M.E.

Amidst all this seasonal peak of doing and planning, I find the relative steadiness of Sunday morning worship to be a worthwhile weekly peak of its own, more tranquil, kind. Like all parish events, worship requires an investment of time and attention, whether we’re participating as musicians, ushers, coffee-servers, or members of the congregation. That investment is repaid in the opportunity Sunday mornings give us to reflect on our lives as a whole, not just as a sometimes crowded series of activities.

Catharine G., Senior Warden

PARISH NEWS —

CAR WASH FOR MISSION TRIP

Car washes to raise money for the mission trip will be held on the mornings of May 10, Mother’s Day, and June 21, Father’s Day. Additional car washing hands are always welcome, but most of all bring us your dirty cars!

SENIOR DINNER

Help us celebrate the accomplishments of our high school graduates! Join us for a dinner in their honor on Sunday, May 17, at 6 p.m. At the time this article was written, the location was TBD, so please look in the goldenrod and on the youth bulletin board for more information. All are welcome and dinner is provided!

THIRD TUESDAYS LUNCHEON: WARTIME REMINISCING

This month we’ll gather on Tuesday, May 19, and in honor of Memorial Day we’ll be sharing our wartime memories. Please bring any memorabilia and photos you’d like to share. We’d like to extend a special invitation to all of our veterans to join us for this luncheon. To RSVP, please either call or e-mail the Rev. Mary Demmler (mdemmler@saint-peters.org, 703-536-6606) or sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board in the narthex. Lunch is provided and friends and neighbors are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School teachers: Please plan to attend our wrap-up on Saturday, June 13, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. The last day of Sunday School is June 14. There will be a joint activity that day. Also, please try to attend the 9:00 service on June 14 so you can be recognized.

NEW FAMILY CHOIR

The first Sunday of every month an informal choir of families and interested adults joins together to sing an anthem for the 9:00 a.m. service. It would be wonderful if you would consider adding your family’s voices to our group. If interested, please see Emily Koons or just come to the sanctuary the first Sunday of the month at 8:30 a.m. to briefly rehearse a simple anthem or hymn to sing at the offertory at that Sunday’s 9:00 a.m. service. We hope to see you there!

PARISH NEWS (CONT.) —

YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS IN MAY

- **Thursday, May 7:** First Thursday Women's Book Group at Chesterbrook Starbucks. For more information, contact the Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionne at St. Mary's, 703-527-6800
- **Thursday, May 14:** Trivium Bare Bible Study, Così at Virginia Square, 8-9:30pm. For more information, contact the Rev. Mary Demmler, mdemmler@saint-peters.org.
- **Sunday, May 24:** St. Peter's Young Adults Monthly Brunch, at Portabello's in Cherrydale following the 11am service.
- **Thursday, May 28:** Trivium After Work, 6-8pm. Contact the Rev. Mary Demmler for location details.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: GODZILLA

Wednesday, May 13, 7pm with dinner

Wednesday, May 27, 7:30pm, no dinner

EVENTS HONORING EDMUND AND ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

There are two special events honoring Edmund and Elizabeth Campbell in May to which members of St. Peter's are invited. On May 16, 2009, at 12:00 p.m., at the Edmund and Elizabeth Campbell Elementary School located on Carlin Springs Road, there will be a ceremony celebrating the renaming of the school and the dedication of the Elizabeth Campbell rose garden and outdoor classroom. On May 31, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Shirlington Library, there will be a ceremony unveiling the historical markers for Edmund Campbell and Elizabeth Campbell.

ADULT FORUM —

May 3

Option I: Stewardship—Led by the Rev. Phillip Cato

Stewardship is about our relationship with God, with one another, with our church, with our community, and with the greater world. It is about living out the commitment we made in our Baptismal Covenant to go forth in the power of the Spirit to seek and serve Christ in all we do. The Rev. Phillip Cato will lead us in a discussion of Stewardship and what it means for us both as individuals and as a parish.

Option II: Dominican Republic Mission Trip—Led by Suzanne B.

The folks leading the upcoming mission trip to the Dominican Republic will provide an overview of their trip's objectives and fundraising efforts. If you have ever considered going on a mission trip abroad, this forum will provide an opportunity to learn more about it.

May 10

Plenary Session: The Problem of Evil—Led by Jonathan S.

One need only look at recent headlines to be reminded that we live in an unjust and dangerous world, where evil challenges our relationship with God. The Right Rev. N. T. Wright, Bishop of Durham, is a prominent thinker on the subject of evil, and at this forum we will view a 50-minute film based on his book *Evil and the Justice of God*.

May 17

Plenary Session: Washington and Lincoln—Led by Larry Suiters and Bob W.

Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are two of the most studied leaders in American history, and each in his own way was a father to the nation. Join Larry Suiters and Bob Woody for a colorful exploration of the religion and politics of these two fascinating figures.

May 24

Plenary Session: Godly Play Overview—Led by Scott R.

St. Peter's offers families of children ages three through first grade the opportunity to participate in Godly Play, an imaginative approach to working with children built upon Jerome Berryman's interpretation of Montessori religious education that supports, challenges, nourishes and helps guide children's spiritual quests, and through which participants experience a Christian community. Godly Play helps children know God, and helps them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Program leaders Scott Radloff and the Rev. Ann Martens will provide parents and curious parishioners an in-depth look at the program and how we use it at St. Peter's.

ADULT FORUM (CONT.)—

May 31

Plenary Session: Spiritual Issues and End-of-Life Care—Led by Nora S.

While most patients, religious or not, avoid aggressive end-of-life therapy to prolong their time on earth, a new study shows that religious patients may seek aggressive therapy at three times the rate of non-religious patients. This finding leads some to question why health professionals don't address the issue of religion with their patients more often, when it informs so many medical decisions, particularly in end-of-life care. This forum will explore the role of religion in end-of-life care and how more explicit spiritual conversations might provide opportunities for an improved plan of care. We will discuss in particular the issue of miracles, and how expectations of miraculous cure ought not to preclude referral to hospice care.

June 7

Plenary Session: Converted and Converting: Matthew's World, Matthew's Gospel—Led by Mary T.

How does the place and time that Scripture was written affect the way the Word is shaped? Mary Thorpe will share some of the surprises to be found in the Gospel of Matthew as a result of when and where it was written, the subject of her thesis at Virginia Theological Seminary. It's not only about God, it's about Roman politics and population density and class warfare and more. If you learned something about India by watching *Slumdog Millionaire*, you'll learn about Antioch in 80 C.E. in just as colorful a way in this session.

MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S —

For the Beauty of the Earth

1864

Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 2 Samuel 7:22

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint – that's the unlikely name of the author of this great hymn. Pierpoint was born October 7, 1835, in Bath, England. After graduating from the University of Cambridge, he taught at Somersetshire College in his home area of Bath.

One day when he was 29, Pierpoint found himself walking in the countryside on a beautiful spring day. He saw the ocean of green, the blue dome of heaven, and the winding River Avon cutting through the flowery landscape. Overwhelmed with God's creative brilliance, he wrote this poem. He intended it primarily for communion services in the Anglican church, but when it jumped the Atlantic, it quickly became associated with the American Thanksgiving holiday.

In Pierpoint's original version, each verse ended with: *Christ, Our God, to Thee we raise/This our sacrifice of praise*. That line was eventually changed to, *Lord of all, to Thee we raise/This our hymn of grateful praise*.

Little else is known about Folliot Sandford Pierpoint. He resigned from his position at Somersetshire, and apparently moved from place to place, teaching some, writing hymns, and publishing poetry. He died in 1917.

For the Beauty of the Earth is one of only a few songs devoted purely to giving thanks. One of the strange things about the "attitude of gratitude" is that we tend to exhibit it in reverse proportion to the number of blessings received. The more we have, the less thankful we are.

Among the lessons Viktor Frankl learned in the Nazi death camps was to take time to be thankful and to count your blessings. He wrote that prisoners in the camps dreamed at night about certain things more than others. Bread, cakes and nice warm baths – the very things we take for granted every day.

Ralph Waldo Emerson observed that if the constellations appeared only once in a thousand years, imagine what an exciting event it would be. But because they're there every night, we barely give them a look.

One piece of evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is a gradual reversal of that twisted pattern. God wants to make us people who exhibit thankfulness in proper proportion to the gifts and blessings we've received. Why not take time to sing this hymn to the Lord right now?

Excerpted from: *Then Sings My Soul* (Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2003, pg. 149)

This article about the hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth* is part of an ongoing series of articles about hymns that appear monthly in the *Key*. Thanks to Jan G. for the contribution.

COMMISSION NEWS —

MISSION COMMISSION NEWS

In honor of Mother's Day this May, on all five Sundays, we will be collecting food and toiletries for women. These will be donated to the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, which has offices in Washington, D.C., and Arlington and serves the homeless population in the area. Lists will be available on the credenza in the Narthex for you to take, and we will collect your goods in an aluminum tub in the Narthex.

On May 2, we will hold our exciting fiesta fundraiser for the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Missioners will include folks from St. Peter's as well as from the congregation of Iglesia Cristo Rey, which meets at St. John's Church in Arlington. The St. Peter's missioners are: Libby C. (trip leader), Stephanie H., Hailey J., Katie R., Glenn M., Joy L. and Leonardo H.

Our fiesta will feature food, music and fun for the whole family! We will have barbecue and a full menu of food from the good folks of Cristo Rey. The fun starts at 7 p.m. on May 2.

Car washes to raise money for the mission trip will be held on the mornings of May 10, Mother's Day, and June 21, Father's Day. Additional car washing hands are always welcome, but most of all—bring us your dirty cars!

MISSION TRIP 2009

Another exciting mission trip is planned for July 12–20, 2009. We will again go to Montevallo and Mosovi (neighboring towns) in the Dominican Republic. We will most likely continue work on building a school for the local children and providing a week-long vacation Bible school. New this year is that in addition to St. Peter's, Iglesia Cristo Rey of Arlington will also send congregants to the Dominican Republic with us. The Vicar of Cristo Rey and Iglesia San José is the Very Reverend Catherine Campbell, and she will accompany the missioners to the DR.

The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern part of the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles island chain, southeast of Cuba (the western part of the island is occupied by Haiti). Originally settled in the 600s (C.E.) by the Taino Amerindian ethnic group, the island is the site that Christopher Columbus reached in 1492.

Much of the history of Hispaniola after the arrival of Europeans is similar to the history of other parts of the Americas. Spain and France sent many settlers to Hispaniola and both claimed the territory at various times over the centuries. Hispaniola was exploited for its gold and its land, which was used to grow sugarcane and tobacco for overseas trade. The Taino population had no immunity to European diseases and many people perished as a result. Africans were shipped to Hispaniola to work as slaves on the large plantations.

In next month's *Key*, we will go into a little more detail about the mission trip itself.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

4250 N Glebe Road
Arlington VA 22207
703-536-6606
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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 Phillip Cato, *Priest in Charge*
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*

On Sabbatical
pcato@saint-peters.org
mdeemmler@saint-peters.org
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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: 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
MAY 2009					1 7:30am - Women's Bible Study	2 12:00pm - Icon Writing 6:30 p.m. - Fiesta! Mission Trip Fundraiser
3 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II 4pm - St. Peter's Concert	4	5 7:15 p.m. - 1st Tuesday Meetings	6 5:30pm - Handbell II Choir Practice 6:30pm - Handbell I Choir Practice 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice	7 6:00am - SOME 10:00am - Thursday Ears	8 7:30am - Women's Bible Study 11:00am- Meals on Wheels	9 12:00pm - Icon Writing
10 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II	11 7:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting 7:30pm - Prayer Group	12 7:15 p.m. - 2nd Tuesday Meetings	13 5:30pm - Handbell II Choir Practice 6:30pm - Handbell I Choir Practice 7:00pm - Godzilla 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice	14 10:00am - Thursday Ears	15 7:30am - Women's Bible Study	16 12:00pm - Icon Writing
17 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II. 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II	18	19 12:00pm - Third Tuesday Lunch Group 7:00pm - Vestry	20 5:30pm - Handbell II Choir Practice 6:30pm - Handbell I Choir Practice 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice	21 10:00am - Thursday Ears	22 7:30am - Women's Bible Study	23 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 12:00pm - Icon Writing
24 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II	25 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i> 7:30pm - Prayer Group	26	27 5:30pm - Handbell II Choir Practice 6:30pm - Handbell I Choir Practice 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm - Godzilla	28 10:00am - Thursday Ears 6:00pm - Trivium After Work	29 7:30am - Women's Bible Study 11:00am- Meals on Wheels	30 12:00pm - Icon Writing
31 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum, Sunday School, The 10 Spot 11am - HE Rite II						