



*St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley*

# *The Beacon*

*"In thy light shall we see light."  
Psalm 36:9*

*February 2010*

***FROM THE RECTOR . . .***

## ***You Are the Light of the World***

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)*

YOU are the light of the world! Who, me? God's good news always takes us by surprise. We can hardly believe our ears because we keep expecting God to say something like, "You should be the light of the world" or "You must become the light of the world."

Yet Our Lord says, straight out: "You are light." That's the surprising Good News!

We are light because the Creator of the universe says so. It's not up to us to decide whether we are or not. It's not even up to us to decide whether we like it or not. Jesus tells us we are and it is so. He describes who we are as the basic stuff of life because we are the basics he needs.

Sometimes it's hard to believe that the Holy One from all eternity, the One who divided the light from the night, the One who set in motion the sun and the stars, this One would take our human nature and become our kind. And sometimes, perhaps much of the time, it's hard to believe that this same Holy One needs the likes of you and me. **YOU ARE LIGHT.** You are . . . so go and be.

Be light. It is essential to life. Light warms, light cheers, light nourishes, light sustains.

Light welcomes weary travelers. So be light. Be visible and leave the light on.

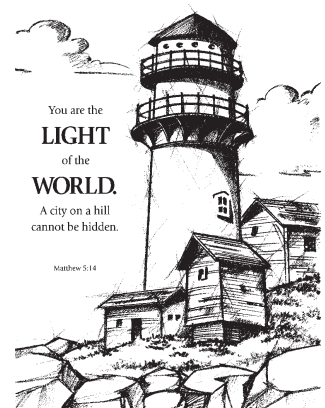
Be light right here in Chester County and beyond because God needs us to be light for one another. God needs us even in small, seemingly inconsequential amounts because even small quantities make a difference.

Remember what it's like after a big storm blows through at night? The power goes out and the darkness is so close, so deep, that it swallows up everything around you. It's scary to stay put and it's risky to move and all the while, the darkness deepens. Your eyes try to adjust to pick up some faint form—the kitchen table, the overstuffed chair, but there's nothing . . . even the tiny red light on the surge protector is extinguished. You might call out but perhaps you're home alone. And even if others are nearby, they, like you, are squinting in their own corner. It is dark and deep, and just as your mind turns to the possibility of creepy crawlers, you see it. Off in the distance, faint at first but, yes, definitely there—a light! Thank goodness!

Thanks be to God! You realize that you've never quite appreciated just how much light one little pocket flashlight can throw off, or how much light one stubby candle can produce, or how much just one, just one of God's children can reflect the light of Christ.

**YOU ARE LIGHT.** You are. Go. Be.

Blessings,  
Anne +



## How Do We Get to Grover's Corners?

by John Orr

Do you remember filling in a questionnaire to determine interest in staging a play? Even though you haven't heard much about the project since then, we have been moving ahead on it. With the vestry's blessing to go ahead with this fellowship-cum-outreach event, we announced the hoped-for formation of the "St. Peter's Players" in early October and close to fifty parishioners indicated their interest either in auditioning for a role or in participating in various behind-the-scenes activities.

Because of this very gratifying response, over the last few months we have been making plans to perform *Our Town* on June 3, 4 and 5. Key production people have been tapped and committees are being formed. Katie Franz will be the stage manager, and Jean Duncan will serve as business manager.

This month we are ready to take the next step: holding auditions for acting roles in the production. All are welcome—not just those who returned the October questionnaire. In light of everyone's busy schedules, we have scheduled three different audition dates to enable everyone to attend the session that best fits his or her schedule:

**Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.**

**Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.**

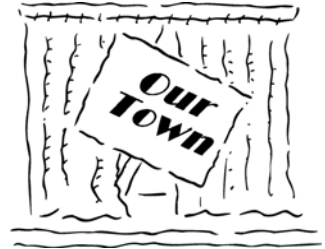
**Saturday, February 27, 9 A.M. to noon.**

Since everyone will audition individually in the first round, actors are invited to come at any time during one of the scheduled blocks. Anyone who wishes to audition but cannot attend any of these sessions should contact John Orr (jorr@lefton.com or 610-644-8463).

Acting experience is not necessary to participate in *Our Town*, which offers roles for all ages. Those interested in a speaking part should read the play before auditioning. Those wanting only a non-speaking role in the ensemble are asked to come to an audition to indicate their interest. Rehearsals will start after Easter Day.

Everyone interested in helping in "off-stage" ways should let Jean Duncan know. There are many opportunities for involvement—helping with tickets, selling programs and ads, aiding with publicity, and ushering to name a few.

We will get to Grover's Corners by combining all our sundry talents and working together as The St. Peter's Players on this production of *Our Town* . . . enjoying fun and fellowship along the way.



St. Peter's in the Great Valley

### The Beacon



"In thy light shall we see light."

The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley  
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Submissions are invited and are subject to editing. Submit articles by e-mail (preferred) to beacon@stpetersgv.org or by fax: 610-644-7967 or leave in *Beacon* file in church office  
Publication date: First of month  
Deadline: 15th of month preceding

Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Bonnie Michael, Molly Hardy, Char Mark, David Graves



Parish  
Family  
Milestones

St. Peter's welcomes **John and Nancy Buford**, recently transferred from Trinity Church, Gulph Mills.

**William Town Andrews**, father of **Andy Andrews** and his wife **Sue**, grandfather of **Anna and Emmy**, was laid to rest at St. Peter's on January 16. Bill is also survived by his widow, Sue.

In January, **David Graves** became an emeritus professor in Penn's Dept. of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, where he taught for forty years.

## Ash Wednesday

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls this year on February 17.  
Our services that day are at noon and 7:30 P.M. in the historic church,  
with nursery care available for both.**

The Lenten season may be likened to an annual spiritual check-up when we as individuals and as Christian community consider our spiritual health. The ultimate purpose of Lent is to strengthen our spiritual lives, and St. Peter's in the Great Valley will offer many opportunities to do so. Begin the Lenten season this year by attending one of the Ash Wednesday services and pick up your copy of *Keeping a Holy Lent on the Holy Hill 2010*.



## *Haiti: The Three "Rs" of Disasters*

*by Rob Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief and Development*

It is important to remember that all disasters have a life cycle: "The Three Rs of Disasters." Right now, we are in the "**Rescue**" phase. All hands are on deck to save lives and property. This phase involves finding and treating the immediate medical needs of survivors and stabilizing ongoing hazards, such as shifting buildings. As such, it is best left to the heavy lifters—government and military search-and-rescue teams. These groups have heavy equipment that can clear roads and debris, as well as large specialized operations with mass distribution systems that have pre-positioned warehouses. The "Rescue" phase typically lasts a week, but with the extraordinary logistical hurdles being faced in Haiti, it may take longer.

The next phase is "**Relief**," when the focus is on creating temporary safe and sanitary conditions. As I saw during Hurricane Katrina, the church is often one of the first places people go to seek assistance and shelter. We have already heard that in rural and outlying areas around the earthquake zone, existing clinics are seeing patients who were able to get out of Port-au-Prince. Some of these clinics are expanding patient care to schools and church buildings. The "Relief" phase typically lasts a few months.

Finally, we get to the third and final phase, "**Recovery**." During recovery, the emphasis shifts to restoring services, rebuilding houses and buildings, and returning to self-sufficiency. The Diocese of Haiti has a very large and vibrant social infrastructure and we fully expect that Episcopal Relief & Development will be there for the long haul supporting their important and vibrant ministries.

The challenge of the "Recovery" phase is that most of the television cameras have moved on, but the human suffering has grown. It is a chronic state, not a crisis. It is, however, the phase at which Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners excel, because we work with churches that are part of the communities and know the needs best and how to meet them. This phase will last years. The unmet needs in a place like Haiti, which already struggles with immense and chronic poverty, will be monumental.

Right now Episcopal Relief & Development is focused on preparing for the "**Relief**" phase and securing the resources for the "**Recovery**" phase. For more information on the Haiti earthquake and on Episcopal Relief & Development's response, please visit [www.er-d.org/HaitiCrisis](http://www.er-d.org/HaitiCrisis).



## ***FROM THE ASSISTING RECTOR . . .***

### ***“I See You”***

*by the Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid*

A recently released film seems poised to break attendance and revenue records worldwide. While advertising for it has been abundant, it seems that word-of-mouth publicity largely accounts for the record crowds drawn to *Avatar*. It has a plot that has already been better presented and its character development and dialogue are somewhat juvenile, but it has absolutely breathtaking computer-generated imagery that creates the impression of being immersed in an entirely different and captivating world. *Avatar* is likely to be looked back on as a milestone in film, ranking in importance with *The Jazz Singer* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Don't miss it, and be sure to see it in 3-D.

*Avatar* has a simple, attractive spiritual theme and an underlying theology of pantheism, the view of the holy that says that all of reality is interconnected, that life plays a special role, and that God simply *is* the sum total of the interconnectedness of the cosmos. A venerable Christian theology called *panentheism* (as opposed to *pantheism*) provides a much better and fuller interpretation of the world portrayed in the film. Panentheism says that God interpenetrates every part of nature, and extends timelessly beyond as well. Briefly put, in pagan pantheism, “God is the whole”; in Christian panentheism, “The whole is in God.”

The alien race in the film is depicted as cat-like, with a culture reminiscent of Native Americans. The people use a phrase to respectfully greet each other and all life—even the game that they hunt for food—“I see you.” This greeting is meant to convey the idea that “I have looked into the heart of you and have glimpsed your relationship both to me and to the cosmos” and serves as a fine jumping-off point to talk about the season of Epiphany when we see the light of Christ as God made manifest in the world, and to talk to our young people about how Christianity incorporates the best of the ideas conveyed in the film.

In this season of Epiphany our scripture readings tell us that in the coming of Jesus, God is made manifest on the earth. We can understand that to mean that the Incarnation of Jesus Christ has made it possible to say, “I see you” to God. And in saying, “I see you” to God in Jesus Christ, we also glimpse *our* proper relationship to all that is: to our loved ones, to strangers, to our world, and to the universe. Just as it took time for us to understand what the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ meant in terms of vile human habits such as the enslavement and subjugation of others, so it has taken time for us to understand what Jesus Christ means in terms of our relationship to God's creation, our proper care for the environment of our island Earth and beyond. God's light permeates all that is and illumines our understanding, but having been made in God's own image, we were given the freedom to close our eyes to our interconnectedness, to curve in upon ourselves, and to live in sin. The raping and pillaging of the environment of any world, as conveyed in the film, is *definitely* living in sin.

Films like *Avatar* can speak to what young people in particular see as missing in their lives. Christians should see this film so that they are prepared to meet people where they are and introduce them to the ultimate richness of the light of Christ. It is also important for Christian parents to experience how captivating this technological breakthrough in entertainment is and so they can be prepared to help young people learn the best lessons that such immersion can offer and to resist temptations to spend too much of their lives living in fantasy worlds, however spiritual those worlds seem to be. God has illumined *this* world into which we have been created so that in it we can be his eyes, ears, hands, and heart in building relationships—not only with other people but also with our entire universe. The blockbuster *Avatar* offers Christians a great teaching opportunity.

#### ***A Postscript from the Rector***

*We are thankful that the Rev. Paul Reid will  
be able to remain with us through Easter Day!*

*A. B. +*



## *St. Peter's Makes a Joyful Noise unto the Lord*

by Martha Johnson

St. Peter's has a rich heritage of commissioning new works for the church and this year we have been particularly blessed by the anthems of our composer-in-residence, Daniel Shapiro. This year, on the occasion of Paul Reid's December ordination, Dan wrote a setting of George Herbert's poem "At Heaven's Doore" that will be presented again at the 11 o'clock service on February 7. Composed for voice, piano, and bells, the work weaves a halo of cascading sonorities into Herbert's remarkable words that call us to God's service.

Dan continues his composition studies at Curtis Institute this year and has received some important commissions. On February 26, his new chamber work will be premièred for "Curtis on Tour" and will be performed throughout the United States, including at Lincoln Center. A recording of "The Church Floore," which Dan wrote for the 2009 choir residency at Durham Cathedral, can be heard at our website. It is a privilege to have Dan with us!

Previous compositions written for St. Peter's include Bruce Neswick's "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" (for the dedication of the barn), Tad Cavuoti's "God Be with You" (for the final service celebrated by the Rev. John Tampa), Carol Doran's setting of Carl Daw's "Foundation Stone," (commissioned for the service celebrating the Rev. Frank Harron's ministry at St. Peter's), and Jackson Hill's "O Light Invisible" (in honor of the late Ted Davis, a St. Peter's parishioner), along with numerous psalm settings and children's choir anthems. These works have become part of our choir repertoire and most have been published for the church at large. We sing "Foundation Stone" every year at the Confession of St. Peter, which we celebrated on January 24 this year.

### *Lenten Evensong Set for March 28*



**Lenten  
Choral  
Evensong**

Save Sunday afternoon, March 28, for a very special Lenten Evensong. The 4 o'clock service in the church will feature Passiontide music from the seventeenth century. Service music by Thomas Tomkins will be followed by Passion motets of Heinrich Schütz as well as a dramatic performance of his *Passion according to St. John*.

### *Our Talented Young Choristers*

Three stalwarts of the Children's Choir, Hanna Leon, Nicholas Scott and Alexander Weir, will attend a one-day Chorister Festival at the Philadelphia Cathedral on **Saturday, February 6**. The children will work on anthems with guest director Dr. Bradley Roberts of Virginia Theological Seminary and then will sing for a special 3 P.M. service of Lessons and Anthems at the Cathedral. All are invited to attend.

### *Thanks and Appreciations*



- To the “Bad Boys for Jesus”—Dixon Bridgers, Bob Lytle, Darryl Muck, Rusty Nash, Lloyd Reynolds, and Tom Stewart—for the landscape work and brush clearing they do. Their work on our grounds is having a positive impact on our budget.
- To Bishop Shand and Father Sam for their perseverance in working with Paul Reid through his discernment and ordination process.
- To the 172 people who attended Paul’s ordination.
- From Paul, a thank you to all for their work in bringing the Holy Spirit to the warm and intimate service. This was the first ordination in our barn—a hallowing of the space.
- To Meggin Elliot for her service in keeping the buildings and walks clean during our recent meteorological challenges—rain, ice, and snow.
- To the Property Commission who have been good stewards of our property. A recent meeting with an energy audit company brought lots of positive comments for the work being done here.
- To Donna Shreiner for her successful marketing of the High Point, which helped our budget situation.
- To the 150 people who attended the wonderful Lessons and Carols on December 6.
- To the parishioners who provided freshly cut evergreens for our Christmas decorations and made donations to the Christmas memorials.
- To the Flower Guild for creating the beautiful Christmas displays on our Holy Hill.

### *Vestry Update*

On January 8 and 9, the vestry held its annual retreat to discuss the Mutual Ministry review and to begin planning for our next vision process. On Friday night, we spent time getting to know our personality types and how to communicate with those who are different, an extremely educational and amusing experience! Thanks to all who participated in this hard work (that also generated lots of laughs). On Saturday we focused on the vision for St. Peter’s for the next thirty-six months. We will ask the congregation for input on the work done by the vestry. Stay tuned as we schedule opportunities for everyone to participate in this important project.

A special thank you to Tim Thomas for his wonderful leadership, clarity and sense of humor and for keeping us focused and working as a team during the retreat. And thanks also to Linda Holden for typing up the notes written on about 30 “idea sheets” taped on the walls of the Sunday school rooms by the end of the day.

### *Women’s Retreat—Sign Up Now*

We will hold this year’s women’s retreat at the Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester, from May 1 to May 3. This year’s theme, “Taking Care of Ourselves,” will focus the weekend’s discussions and activities on health, nutrition, self-care and, of course, fun.



Temenos can accommodate twenty overnight attendees, but since it is nearby, on Saturday we can also include women who can be with us only for the day. Our hope is that women who cannot commit for the whole weekend will be able to join us for the day.

As in the past, scholarships are available and we will also be happy to provide funds for a babysitting voucher for child care. We expect the costs to be the same as in the last few years (\$175 for the weekend, including five meals, and \$75 for Saturday only), but watch for final details in the coming months. As in the past, dinner will not be served on Friday evening, but participants are invited to bring some munchies and wine to share that evening. There’s always plenty of food!

To sign up and get answers to any questions you may have, please contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358).

## ***Pastoral Care***

*by Mary Ann Tatum*

The Pastoral Care Commission incorporates many ministries that serve different areas of parish life. Its purpose is to nurture the St. Peter's family by providing loving care and compassion to all parishioners in their daily lives, in times of both need and joy. The ministries under the Pastoral Care umbrella are:

### ***Angel Food Ministry***

- Casseroles are available for those parishioners who need a meal during difficult times.
- We have started a "make-it-take-it" soup ministry. The freezer in the barn is stocked with quart-size bags of frozen soup, donated by parishioners who have made more than enough for themselves. Parishioners are invited to take a bag or two of soup to someone who can use it. This ministry depends on our bringing an extra soup to the freezer as well as on our taking it to someone. There are labels to use when donating soup and also a sign-out sheet for soup that has been taken.

### ***Card Ministry***

- Notes are sent to parishioners on special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries.

### ***Cradle Guild Ministry***

- This new ministry welcomes newborns to the St. Peter's family with a small baby gift from the parish and a casserole, delivered within the first weeks after the baby's arrival.

### ***Eucharistic Visitor Ministry***

- Six active Eucharistic visitors take the Eucharist directly from the altar on Sundays to ailing or homebound parishioners.

### ***Hospital and Home Visit Ministry***

- The clergy currently handle these visits, but this fall, seven parishioners received pastoral care training and now comprise "The Care Team," which will be commissioned on February 7 and begin to make pastoral care visits under Mother Anne's supervision. Request a visit by calling the parish office.

### ***Moms' Ministry***

- Activities for moms, dads, and children are organized and advertised in the *Beacon* and Sunday leaflet. Contact Anne Caterino (da.caterino@verizon.net or 610-695-0932) if you want to join the fun.

### ***New Member Ministry***

- This vital ministry coordinates the welcome and involvement of those seeking a church home. Coordinator Johnna Capitano is looking forward to expanding this ministry in the coming months.

### ***Prayer List Ministry***

- Currently, about seven people meet in the parish hall at 10:30 on Thursday morning to pray for those on the prayer list, which is published weekly in the Sunday leaflet. Everyone in the parish is invited to come on Thursday mornings and join in the prayers.

### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

- A group gathers in the parish hall on the first Saturday each month at 10 A.M. to knit, converse, and support each other. More shawls and more knitters of any age, gender, or skill level are needed; the regulars are happy to teach non-knitters. If you have questions, contact Suzanne Roth (610-827-7527) or Lori Wrenn (610-644-4558). There's more about this group on page 8.

### ***Transportation Ministry***

- We are blessed with parishioners willing and able to transport parishioners to and from church on Sundays and to any church function or activity. If you need a ride or are willing to drive others, contact Larry Morgan (mrgnlrrym@aol.com or 610-296-5659).

In addition, two new ministries will soon be up and running. The ***Altar Flower Delivery Ministry*** will take altar flowers to parishioners who are ill, homebound, or unable to get to church. The ***Prayer Chain Ministry*** will establish a phone chain of volunteers willing and able to pray for those facing an immediate need or crisis.

If you or someone you know can benefit from any of these ministries, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mary Ann Tatum (maryanntatum5@gmail.com or 610-644-1549) or the parish office.



## *Let the Games Begin!*

Don't forget Game Night on **February 13**. We will gather in the parish hall at 5:30 for the quiz, always the source of much hilarity. We will then nourish ourselves with a light supper before moving on to an evening of "not-so-serious" competition. Everyone age 13 years and above is invited to attend what has become a St. Peter's winter tradition.

Please use the sign-up sheet near the coffee areas in the church and barn during January to let the planners know how many are coming and whether you will bring soup or dessert for the supper. If a snow or ice storm should interfere with our fun and games that night, we will just move the frivolity to the following evening, February 14 (same hour and place).

For answers to any questions you may have, please email Linda Holden ([ultraquist@comcast.net](mailto:ultraquist@comcast.net)).



## *Teachers Still Needed*

- One Sunday school teacher is needed to teach the spring session 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class (March 14 to June 6). Contact Debi Lynch ([lynchkg2@comcast.net](mailto:lynchkg2@comcast.net) or 484-320-8299) if you can help with this wonderful ministry.
- Holly Hardester and Jen Farmer lead children's chapel on most Sunday mornings, but they need assistance for crowd control! Helping in this way is an easy way to get involved, meet new friends, and check out all the fun your child is having. If you are willing to assist on a Sunday or two, please contact Jen Farmer at (610-363-1506 or [jen.farmer@comcast.net](mailto:jen.farmer@comcast.net)).



## *Resource Library*

- The bookshelves in the children's chapel room on the lower level of the barn contain many wonderful books and resources for children of all ages. Feel free to browse and borrow!

## *Love in a Knit and a Purl*

*by Suzanne Roth*

Now in its seventh year, the prayer shawl ministry continues to gather on the first Saturday of the month at 10 A.M., either in the parish hall or the gathering space of the barn. After knitting and conversing, the group enjoys a light meal together before adjourning around noon. Anywhere from fifteen to twenty people come on Saturdays, while others who can't join us in person participate at their own pace by knitting at home. And, by the way, this ministry is not limited to parishioners, so we encourage everyone to bring an interested friend. Knitting experience is not a prerequisite for joining this ministry and enjoying the fellowship: we have taught many novices to knit and encourage new members to join us.

The prayer shawls don't do much good on a shelf: they work best when shared with anyone in need who would benefit from one, regardless of church affiliation. All parishioners can join in this ministry by taking a shawl from the shelf of the left-hand coat closet in the church foyer and giving it to a friend or relative. We ask everyone to use the sign-out book (also on the shelf) to let us know who is receiving the shawl and why. We use this information only to name those who have received our shawls in our prayers.

This year we provided more than fifty knitted watch caps for the Christmas bags St. Peter's gave the Seamen's Church Institute. The cap is a small and very portable knitting project, and directions are available. Anyone interested in knitting a cap or a shawl—or in any aspect of this ministry—is invited to call Suzanne Roth (610-827-7527) or Lori Wrenn 610-644-4558).



## *The Challenges of the New Year*

*by Jamie McArdle*

St. Peter's Preschool registration for 2010-11 is open, and I'm thrilled (but also rather chagrined) to report that we're very nearly full! As I always say, we are small on purpose: our approach is to get to know every child, and every family, as well as possible. Much as I hate the thought of having to turn away any family, we don't simply add adults to a classroom with one teacher and an aide to accommodate more children; we cap our 2-day, 2-year-old class at eight to ten; our 3-day, 3-year-old class at ten to twelve; and our 4-year-old pre-K class at sixteen.

But don't let the robustness of next year's registration deter you from taking a tour of the preschool if you haven't had one yet! Changes typically occur between January and September, and spaces can become available; this year, in fact, we could open a 3-day afternoon program because of the high demand for such a class. While we can't guarantee another big program change next year, we do want to serve our community as fully as possible.

Previously during my tenure as director here, our primary challenges were getting out the word about St. Peter's and keeping tuition affordable while maintaining competitive salaries for our terrific teachers despite our small class size. Next year, while we may not feel quite as challenged by the need to publicize what we offer, we cannot presume that our reputation precedes us and must remember not to rest on our laurels! We must, and will, continue to offer high quality, affordable early childhood education to as many families as we can.

Spring is coming, and that means the preschool rummage sale is coming too—this year, on **March 20**, from 9 A.M. to noon! This fundraising event is a “win-win-win”: it closes a gap in the preschool budget, it helps (even encourages) preschool and parish families clean out their closets, attics, basements, and garages, and it brings new faces up our holy hill and into our blessed barn. And the fourth “win” comes at the end of the rummage sale: we donate whatever has not sold to local charities, thus benefiting the larger community in these tough times.



The rummage sale is not without its own challenges, especially spatial ones. As St. Peter's becomes increasingly well known in the “outside world,” its popularity as a site for receptions, recitals and meetings is increasing as well. St. Peter's has graciously given us full access to the barn the week before the sale for collection of donations (March 14-19, henceforth known as “donation week”), but we can have no onsite storage *until* that week. Since we know that for some who may have donations for us, keeping those items until donation week is not a viable option, we have come up with a solution. We'd like to rent an offsite storage unit for February and part of March where those who can't store their donations until March 14 can bring their items by appointment, and then we will rent a truck and move the whole shebang to the barn at the start of donation week. As a bonus of sorts, the offsite storage unit could also house unsold items until the charities with whom we partner can collect them. The rental costs for storage unit and truck will come from the proceeds of the sale.

What if you cleaned out your closets thoroughly last spring (congratulations!) and kept them so empty this year that you have nothing to donate but still want to help the preschool through the rummage sale? Perhaps you might consider donating \$5, \$10, or \$20 to help defray those rental costs. Just look for “sponsor sheets” in the gathering spaces in the barn and church throughout February if you are able to help in this way. Thank you!

## *Alternative Christmas 2009*

*by Helen Ockenden, Outreach Commission Chair*

On behalf of the Outreach Commission, I thank everyone who contributed to our outreach ministries through Alternative Christmas. In spite of a recession, an ice storm, and a major blizzard, we are once again able to make funding gifts to Aerie House, Chester Children's Chorus, The Clinic, Good Works, Home of the Sparrow, and Seamen's Church Institute, each of which helps a host of people in many ways.

I also want to thank the intrepid volunteers who set up, took down, moved (and staffed) tables in two buildings and at three services on three Sundays. What stamina and dedication!

Job well done, contributors and volunteers! Thank you, one and all.



## 2009 Financial Results

|                          | <i>December<br/>2009</i> | <i>Year-to-date<br/>2009</i> | <i>Budget<br/>2009</i> | <i>Year-end<br/>Variance</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Pledge Income</b>     | \$66,700                 | \$478,470                    | \$531,000              | -\$52,290                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | 99,885                   | 626,091                      | 668,162                | -42,071                      |
| <b>Total Expense</b>     | 44,074                   | 632,389                      | 674,165                | -41,776                      |
| <b>Surplus/(deficit)</b> | 55,811                   | -6,298                       | -6,003                 | -295                         |

### *A Look Back at 2009 and Ahead to 2010*

*by John Stanger, Finance Commission Chair*

As it was for many businesses and nonprofit entities, 2009 was a challenging year financially for St. Peter’s. While we finished the year with a small deficit of about \$6000, we were able to overcome a larger deficit thanks to a very strong November and December. We could cover the \$6000 shortfall by temporarily borrowing from another account but will be required to replace those funds in 2010.

Our “Pledge and No Pledge” income (cash in plate and other non-pledged contributions) fell short of our goal by about \$42000, but at the same time we had some highlights that offset the shortfalls, like the generous matching gift offer that ultimately generated \$18000 (approximately 80%) more than we anticipated. In addition, our rental income from The High Point was \$18000 over plan, an outstanding accomplishment. Both of these factors enabled us to overcome the much larger deficit that we were facing at midyear. Although none of us is happy with a deficit, we feel that in light of the overall economy we fared well.

Thanks to considerable work on the part of the Property Commission, we now feel we have a firm handle on all our facility costs. We have budgeted very conservatively for 2010 in all areas and are forecasting a balanced budget for the year.

### *The Lay Assistant Schedule at Your Fingertips*

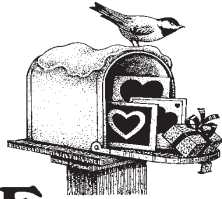
*by Jamie McArdle, Webmistress*

Are you a lay assistant who serves on the Flower or Altar Guild or as an acolyte, greeter or reader, or have you volunteered to provide goodies for Sunday coffee hour? If so, are you aware that you can find the master schedule for all lay assistants on the St. Peter’s website with just a few keystrokes? Just go to the St. Peter’s homepage ([www.stpetersgv.org](http://www.stpetersgv.org)) and locate the “Lay Assistants Master Schedule” link under “Who We Are” (the upper left pane of the four boxed panes). Click the link, and *voilà*— the master schedule, beginning with the upcoming Sunday, should appear.

But wait—there’s more! If you want to find out *all* of your lay assistant assignments, you can click the “Searchable Lay Assistants Schedule” link, located just below the “Master Schedule” link on the homepage. After typing your last name in the box at the top of the page that appears, check the box beside each ministry in which you participate. Then click the “search” button at the bottom of the page, and again, *voilà*—a listing appears of each service you are scheduled for and of your role/roles that day! (A tip: since I have several roles on Sundays, I often just check *all* the boxes to be on the safe side!)



You can help keep this tool accurate and useful by kindly contacting the coordinator for your ministry or the webmistress (that’s me) through the parish office ([parishoffice@stpetersgv.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpetersgv.org)) when you trade with another lay assistant or can’t serve as scheduled. By doing this you enable us to update the schedule in a timely way.



## **FEBRUARY**

### **February 6**

- \* Prayer shawl knitters (p. 8)  
10 A.M.
- Murder mystery book group  
12:30 P.M.

### **February 10**

- \* Gathering of Women (p. 11)  
7:15 P.M.

### **February 13**

- \* Game Night (p. 8)  
5:30 P.M.

### **February 17**

#### **Ash Wednesday**

- \* Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes (p. 3)  
12 NOON and 7:30 P.M.  
(nursery care available at both times)

### **February 23**

- \*Auditions for *Our Town* (p. 2)  
7:30-9:30 P.M.

### **February 24**

- \*Auditions for *Our Town* (p. 2)  
7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

### **February 27**

- \*Auditions for *Our Town* (p. 2)  
9 A.M. to NOON

\*(Related article appears here)

## **Moms' Group**

**Wed., Feb. 17, 7 P.M.**—Moms' night out at the movies. Join other moms for a movie, followed by drinks/dessert. RSVP to Anne at [da.caterino@verizon.net](mailto:da.caterino@verizon.net). We'll choose which movie and theater as the date approaches.

For more information about St. Peter's Moms' Group, contact Anne Caterino ([da.caterino@verizon.net](mailto:da.caterino@verizon.net) or 610-695-0932).

## **Meet Some Biblical Vamps and Tramps**

At this month's Gathering of Women on **February 9**, the evening's theme will be "Bad Women of the Bible and What We Can Learn From Them." We will look at some Biblical "vamps and tramps," searching for the lessons these women have to teach. We will also look for some comparable examples in contemporary life . . . pushy women, those with a need to control, those too ready to seduce or be seduced! Some were bad from beginning to end, some just made life-changing mistakes, and some learned and turned their lives around. With humor and insight we will discuss the nature of sin and goodness.

We hope all imperfect women in the parish will join us in the parish hall at 7:15 that evening for some decadent chocolate and other "sinful" gustatory indulgences. Anyone who has questions about the group or who needs a ride to the gathering is invited to contact Bonnie Michael ([bonnie.michael@westtown.edu](mailto:bonnie.michael@westtown.edu)) or Shannon Almquist (610-436-0302).

## **Save the Date**

Bridge of Hope Garden Luncheon and Auction  
Saturday, March 20, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.  
The Desmond Great Valley, Malvern  
Reservations: 610-380-1360, ext.106, or [www.bridgeofhopelcc.org](http://www.bridgeofhopelcc.org)

*Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist Denise Cowie ("My Backyard") will speak on "Extraordinary Gardeners: The Art of Cultivating People and Plants"



## St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley

2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355

Telephone: 610-644-2261 Fax: 610-644-7967

E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

The Reverend Anne Bridgers, Rector  
The Reverend Paul DeWitt Reid, Assisting Rector  
Dr. Martha N. Johnson, Organist/Choirmaster  
Dr. Bruce Glenny, Associate Organist/Choirmaster  
Susan House, Parish Administrator  
Kathleen Herbster, Parish Secretary  
Jamie McArdle, Preschool Director  
Donna Shreiner, Marketing Director  
Meggin Elliott, Weekend Facilities Manager

### **Our Mission:**

*by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
to nurture people of all ages in the  
knowledge and love of God in Jesus Christ,  
and to make Him known  
in the wider community.*

The deadline for the  
March Beacon is  
**February 15**

### **Every Week at St. Peter's**

#### **Sunday**

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I\*  
9 A.M. Family Eucharist\*\*  
10:10 A.M. Christian Formation\*\*  
11 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II\*

#### **Wednesday**

12 NOON Brown Bag Bible Study\*\*\*

#### **Thursday**

10:30 A.M. Prayer Group\*\*\*

#### **Friday**

7 A.M. Gathering of Men\*\*\*\*

\*Church

\*\*Barn

\*\*\*Parish Hall

\*\*\*\*Parish House



### **This Month's Scripture Readings**

#### **February 7**

##### **5<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Epiphany**

Isaiah 6:1-8,[9-13]

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

#### **February 14**

##### **Last Sun. after Epiphany**

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28-36,[37-43a]

#### **February 17**

##### **Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Psalms 103

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

#### **February 21**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Sun. in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2,9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

#### **February 28**

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35