ST. PETER’S CHURCH

OPEN DOORS OPEN HEARTS
Dear St. Peter’s Community:

The widow’s mite is a famous story in Jesus’ life.

Jesus was quietly sitting by the Temple Treasury as people entered presenting their offerings. Some contributed large sums: coinage that rang loud when it landed in the box, so you could hear and guess the amount. Then came a poor widow, who offered her two mites (see left), her two copper coins, two pennies in gratitude to God. Jesus looked at his disciples and said, “Come and see this woman. She has put in more than all the others. They have given out of their wealth, but she, poor as she is, put in everything, all that she had to live on.”

Why was Jesus so moved by her? Why did she capture his imagination? She gave out of thankfulness; not from the leftovers that would not be missed. Her offering was her next meal. It was her security for tomorrow. She took the leap of faith not knowing what the next day might bring.

Imagine how you would feel this year if Jesus were our treasurer, and you had to explain your generosity to him? What would we have to say to him about our
gratefulness to God for what God has done in our lives?

It doesn’t matter how much you give. It matters why you give. We give because Christ Jesus gave himself for us, so that we might have a new and intimate relationship with God. It is in faithfulness for his gift to us that we give, not because of what others do or say, or because the Church is a nice place, or because we don’t want to seem out of step with our friends. In God’s eyes this giving is what makes the universe turn. And God, yes God, is grateful for what you have given, and what you will give this year to Christ’s ministry at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. God is grateful that you believe enough to give anything at all, and that you are willing to act on your faith in God. God is grateful to you that you trust that God is a Real Presence in your life.

Enclosed is a pledge card to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church for the year 2020. We are a family of faithful people who know that this community of faith is a gift from God. St. Peter’s needs your support to accomplish our ministry. I am asking for you to be generous this year, and to do your very best to honor your faith in Jesus.

Faithfully,

[signature]

The Reverend Robert G. Trache, Interim Rector
WORSHIP—Love and Gratitude

At St. Peter’s we worship God both inside and outside the walls of our church:
- We worship monthly with nursing home residents at Morris View Healthcare Center
- We worship at bedsides in hospitals
- We celebrate Communions with the homebound
- Volunteers joyfully serve at St. Peter’s every Sunday
- We worship wherever we are called

SACRAMENTS—God is Present

- Every touch that involves God’s love is a sacrament: an outward sign of an inward and invisible grace.
- In addition, we usher, greet newcomers, read the lessons, serve Communion, and take up our offerings.
- In preparation for Sunday’s Eucharist, our Altar Guild and liturgical servers spend hours every week ordering and arranging flowers; cleaning the sanctuary; preparing the candles and elements; as well as cleaning up after each service.

CHILDREN OF GOD—Learning & Growing

- On Sundays, we focus on faith formation through both our Church School and our Youth Group, for middle and high school students. In addition, Confirmation Class is offered for any students in eighth grade through high school, who desire to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church.
- We provide nursery care for the youngest among us, and a special “Prayer Space” in the back of the Chapel, where young children can quietly play and read during the service.
- This year, we plan to continue our exploration of how Christians can effectively influence climate change and reduce plastic pollution.
- We also have big plans to travel to West Virginia on a trip simultaneously serving as a pilgrimage, mission trip, and cultural immersion, so we can experience God’s love in a new place.
Music to Glorify God

Director of Music

Joshua Stafford has been Director of Music at St. Peter’s since 2013. Hailed for his “meticulous technique, innate yet highly mature musicality, and constant musical engagement,” he was the recipient of the Pierre S. du Pont First Prize of the Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition in 2016.

Adult Choir

St. Peter’s Adult Choir is comprised of approximately 30 members, both professional and volunteer, who come from a variety of musical backgrounds. In addition to singing for the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service, they sing for various concerts and services throughout the year, including our annual Advent and Christmas services of Lessons and Carols. Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. September through June. To get involved with the Adult Choir, please contact the Director of Music.

Concerts

Throughout the year, the Music Department at St. Peter’s presents concerts of exceptional quality. Solo artists, visiting choirs, and orchestras are some of our regular fare. Particularly notable is St. Peter’s 1930 Skinner Organ, which is often featured both in solo recitals and in the accompaniment of silent films! Volunteers are always needed to help with our many events throughout the year.

Chorister Program

Providing music at services each Sunday, the St. Peter’s Choir School functions as an afterschool program, offering children a world-class musical education at no cost to their families. In addition to providing music at services, Choristers are trained in voice and music theory, developing skills in teamwork, leadership, and musicianship. Each summer, Choristers have the opportunity to spend a week away attending Choir Camp at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center, in Lebanon, N.J.
We Grow in Wisdom

Christian Education—Growing in Wisdom

We are curious and thoughtful. We learn alone and in groups.

- Women’s Bible Study
- Adult Education
- Sunday School & Youth Group
- Christine Mary & John Shelby Spong Lecture Series
- Classes on becoming an Episcopalian
- Guest Speakers

Prayer—Our Hopes and Wishes in Seeking God’s Face

We pray daily for ourselves and others—in gratitude, for those in need, and for the departed. We pray to experience God’s presence within us.

- Prayer Bowl Ministry to those in need
- Prayer Group prays for all on our prayer list
- Prayer Shawls: handmade with love

Fellowship—Draw near with a true heart

We enjoy each other’s company throughout the year: Sunday breakfast; First Fridays Piano Night; Vestry fund raisers; Thursday luncheons with guest speakers; Newcomer Dinners at the Rectory; Delivery of Altar Flowers to ill and homebound; and a family potluck dinner to mark the end of the Vacation Bible School season. We welcome Diocesan Events: the Senior Ministries for the Diocese for the Rev. David P. Hegg Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kentucky Derby Day
Hat Contest Winners
Free Farmers’ Market

Every Wednesday, St. Peter’s opens the Parish House for the Free Farmers’ Market. Families in need receive fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products donated by local businesses. Over 300 bags of groceries are distributed each week.

Community Soup Kitchen

St. Peter’s Parish House is the location for breakfast and lunch served to 100 guests by the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center every Saturday. Twice a month, 10-12 volunteers from St. Peter’s cook and serve these much-needed meals.

Outreach Donations—Throughout the Year

St. Peter’s makes donations throughout the year, including:

- Christmas gifts for children from the Youth Consultation Service, and men and women from the Morris View Center
- Personal care items for prisoners in the Morris County jails.
- Formula, financial support, and diapers for the North Porch Women and Infants’ Center

Meditation on Wednesdays

Designed to give a broad overview of what meditation is, its different styles, techniques, and ways it can help us in our daily lives.

Overall...

The Inreach and Outreach ministries of St. Peter’s cares for our friends in our community, including:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Spanish Speaking AA
- Al-Anon
- Boy Scout Troop 228
- Altar Flower Delivery
- Lending Closet-Medical Equipment
- Bridge-Beginners and Beyond
We Take Care Of

The Afterschool on South

Now in our fifth year, our program opened the 2019-2020 academic year with 57 children in grades Pre-K3 – Grade 7, and we hope our growth will continue. The state-licensed program provides children with a safe learning environment, supported by a nurturing, and loving community. Children arrive on school buses, and they have a healthy snack, spend time on homework; work on creative activities; enjoy recreation time (outside whenever possible); and take part in special classes (e.g., soccer or science). One-on-one tutoring is provided by three certified teachers, and with parental permission we communicate with teachers to target a program specific to each child. Children also have the opportunity to receive vocal training as choristers in the St. Peter’s Choir School. We accept vouchers from families participating in the Child and Family Resources Program, and we offer some additional scholarship money as available.

Vacation Bible School- Summer Camp

Camp 2019 was truly enjoyable. It ran for six weeks and enrolled 87 kids in grades from K–7th grade. Our curriculum this year focused around creation and being good stewards of the earth. Chapel started and ended our days, and then we encountered Bible study, arts & crafts, reading and writing Spanish, daily swimming at Burnham Park Pool in Morristown, and field trips. We are thankful to our many volunteers that helped us with teaching Spanish, serving lunches and tutoring in math and summer homework help. Due to our generous grants the camp price was able to remain affordable to our community allowing all a unique opportunity to attend. Children received water bottles, goggles, and backpacks from sponsors who, along with us, see the need for this program, and are willing to go the extra mile.
Morris School District – Afterschool Program

From October through May, volunteers provide reading and math tutoring in the Parish Hall every Monday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. to students identified by the District who could use a mentor or a tutor. This year we will begin again with a new group of first graders. This program is managed by the Morris Tutoring Collaborative. Other faith organizations involved in this program are The Presbyterian Church, Bethel AME, and the Church of God in Christ. Additional enrichment is offered through special programs, arts and crafts, and recreation time.

The Encore Thrift Shop

Our Encore Thrift shop opened in 2017, and we are blessed to have a small group of dedicated volunteers. Encore Shop welcomes donations of new and gently used clothing size 3 and up, home goods, jewelry, and wood furniture. *Sorry we cannot accept baby items or toys.* We help raise money for St. Peter’s Ministries. We welcome our parishioners and those from our neighborhood and business community to purchase quality goods at outstanding values. Many Encore customers enjoy the selection of furniture and home goods at our shop. Donations may be brought into the shop when it is open or placed in the white bin in the alleyway between the Parish Hall and the shop.

Homeless Solutions

For over 25 years, our partnership with Homeless Solutions has enabled us to provide dinner to homeless individuals and families. We serve dinner at the Homeless Shelter on Hanover Road to approximately 60 to 70 people on the second Sunday of every odd month. This effort enables St. Peter’s to offer support to those looking to start a new and better life.
**Worship, Music, and Basic Operations**

46% ($685,000)

This category includes services of Holy Eucharist, and other liturgical services, as well as: the altar preparations; our Music Ministry; Pastoral Care; InReach programs; Christian Education; Church School and youth ministry; Morris View ministries; welcoming ministry; fellowship and hospitality; and the administration related to these services.

**St. Peter’s Out in the Community**

38% ($562,000)

Our outreach to the community includes our After-School Program and Vacation Bible School; South Kitchen; Morris School District Tutoring Program; North Porch; the Encore Thrift Shop; the Spong Lecture Series; the Music at St. Peter’s Concerts; and the portion of time our staff spends with these ministries.

**Buildings and Maintenance**

16% ($236,000)

This is the current budgeted amount for the utilities, and the estimated repairs and maintenance costs for our Church, Parish Hall, Rectory, and 80 Maple Buildings.
Capital Investments, Improvements & Initiatives

- Ten year Deferred Maintenance Study completed
- Plaster repairs completed throughout the Parish Hall
- Upgrade bathroom facilities in Parish Hall
- Upgraded electrical work in the Rectory
- Plaster and paint repairs in Rectory
- Upgraded lights in Sanctuary
- New Security system installed in Undercroft
- Security lighting with horn and strobe in Undercroft
- Slate stone walkway repaired into Parish House (photo above)

I’m Ready to Make a Pledge

Make a Pledge
By making a pledge you will experience a sense of communion as we move towards our vision for Morristown and the world. You will also enable parish leadership to better plan for the future with life-changing outreach, best-in-class music programs, and the ability to maintain our house of prayer for generations to come.

Gifts of Stock
Some find it convenient to make a gift of stock which can be done at any time of the year. If you chose this method, please indicate this is your preferred method, so we can make sure it is reflected on your statements, and we can give you information about how you can make the gift.

Matching Funds
Does your company have matching funds for 501(c) (3) organizations? Consider St. Peter’s and check the designated box on your pledge card, and we will send you more information.
St. Peter’s Year by Year

3 – Rectories built on the property (the first 2 were built in what is now the lawn next to the church); the current rectory was completed in 1899, at a cost of $32,000

37 – Original bells in carillon, all made in England at the John Taylor Foundry in Loughborough. The bells have since been augmented by French bells, and now total 49 bells

1887 – Cornerstone laid on November 1st; the architectural firm was McKim, Mead, and White from New York City

1894 – The first permanent window installed was the Louis Comfort Tiffany window, (the “Sunday School Window”) placed in the chapel at a cost of $2,000

1899 – Rectory completed

1910 – Last stone placed in the tower

1911 – Church consecrated

1915 – Parish House was completed

1971 – AA Meeting

1984 – Saturday Community Soup Kitchen

2012 – Vacation Bible School-Summer Camp

2013 – Free Farmers Market

2014 – Morris School District- Afterschool Program

2014 – After School on South

2015 – Industrial Areas Foundation

2016 – Refugee Assistance Morris Partners

2016 – Meditation

2017 – Encore Thrift Shop

2017 – Living Waters Spanish Church

2017 – Morristown Cultural District

2018 – Spanish Episcopal Mass

2019 – Search for the 18th Rector for St. Peter’s Church

And the ministry to our neighbors continues to grow.