

We will cover a broad range of topics with our guest speakers: from social justice, to Philadelphia's current needs, to the church of tomorrow and the changing face of St. Peter's. Be part of this exploration of God's dream for the people of St. Peter's and help make it a reality.

After listening to our speakers, we want to know what you think. Opportunities to respond will be provided at each session and on our website at www.stpetersphila.org.

A selection of books written by our great speakers will be available for purchase each Sunday.

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PHILADELPHIA PA
PERMIT NO. 7063



Shane Claiborne



Rev. Dr. Gary Dorrien



Paul Levy



Jeremy Nowak



Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

St Peter's Church
313 Pine Strteet
Philadelphia PA 19106



FALL / 2011

50 Minutes



Faith in Action for the *Next* 250 Years . . .

For the last few years we have been celebrating the remarkable history of St. Peter's Church and its 250 years of serving God at 3rd and Pine.

This Fall we are going to look ahead to the next 250 years with a series of noted speakers, theologians, dreamers and revolutionaries for Christ who will help us think about how we are going to be Christ's hands and heart for our neighborhood and for our city.

The speakers' ideas and insights will inspire us to think about how we are to live out our faith here and now, how we are to engage the issues of our day, and how we plan for the issues of tomorrow.

9/18

Celebrating 250 Years of Ministry

It's a Party!

- A special service commemorating the first worship service celebrated at Saint Peter's in 1761, with visiting dignitaries, special prayers and music; the Rector will preach.
- 10:00 o'clock service followed by celebration picnic.



9/25

Social Ethics for Social Justice

The Rev. Dr. Gary Dorrien, Reinhold Niebuhr professor of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary, Professor of Religion, Columbia University, New York.

- Professor Dorrien will focus on economic globalization, the economic crisis and the opening for initiatives in economic democracy (worker ownership, infrastructure banks, et al) that exist today—all in the context of Christian social ethics and ecumenical Christianity.
- He is the author of numerous books and hundreds of articles that range across the fields of ethics, social theory, theology, philosophy, politics, and history. He is described by Princeton University philosopher Cornel West as “the preeminent social ethicist in North America today”.



10/2

Center City: So Much Accomplished, So Much Remaining to Be Done

Paul Levy, PhD., President & CEO, the Center City District; 2005 recipient, The Philadelphia Award.

- As a champion of urban renewal and the redevelopment of Center City, Mr. Levy will reflect on what has been achieved in this neighborhood and throughout downtown in the last 50 years and what challenges and opportunities are before us in the coming decade.
- He is the founding chief executive of Philadelphia's Center City District, serving in this capacity since January 1991. He directs the \$18.7 million downtown management district, which provides security, hospitality, cleaning, place marketing, promotion, and planning services for the central business district of Philadelphia.
- Afternoon discussion: 12:30 – 1:30

10/9

Our Hopeful Future: Vital Ministry in a New Generation

The Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, author of Reframing Hope & Tribal Church is pastor of Western Presbyterian Church, an intergenerational congregation in Washington, DC. committed to serving the poor of that city.

- Drawing upon her knowledge of postmodernism and her experience as a young mainline pastor, Ms. Merritt proposes hope as the virtue for vital Christian community, especially for the younger – often missing – generations.
- Afternoon discussion: 2:00 – 4:00



10/16

Sharing Our Gifts, Serving Our Neighbor – So You're Baptized, So What?

The clergy of Saint Peter's

- Being a Christian is hard. The vows we take (or are taken for us) at baptism are almost impossible to live into fully and completely. So how do we make sense of them? What difference does it make to be baptized. Join Claire for a conversation about baptismal life. Or join Ledlie and our stewardship visitors for a conversation about sharing the gifts we've been given.



10/23

The Changing Face of Saint Peters

Saint Peter's Annual Parish Gathering:

- A presentation and discussion of recent changes, new opportunities, the working of the Holy Spirit, and plans for the near future. Led by the Rector and many others.
- 10:00 o'clock service followed by lunch and meeting.



10/30

Evoking an Alternative Community

Shane Claiborne, co-founder of The Simple Way, an intentional faith community, North Philadelphia.

- With tears and laughter, Shane unveils the tragic messes we've made of our world and the tangible hope that another world is possible through peace-making, social justice, and faith in Jesus Christ.

- His varied ministry experience ranges from ten weeks working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta, to one year serving a wealthy mega-congregation at Willow Creek Community Church in the Chicago area.



11/6

21st Century Philadelphia: The Dilemma of Historical Depth

Jeremy Nowak, PhD., President & CEO, William Penn Foundation; founder of The Reinvestment Fund; 1995 recipient, The Philadelphia Award.

- History and tradition can be an asset or a constraint in a global economy. Given our present positioning as a community and a city; as a congregation and a region, how do we maximize the value of this history?
- The author of numerous articles, his recent publications examine policy options for distressed cities and the role of art and culture in neighborhood regeneration.



11/13

Empowered by the Spirit: Commissioned for Ministry

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church.

- With prayers written specially for this occasion, the Presiding Bishop will commission the people and clergy of Saint Peter's in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed in years to come.
- She has been vocal about the Church's mission priorities, including the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals, issues of domestic poverty, climate change and care for the earth, as well as the ongoing need to contextualize the gospel.

