

The Spire

Open Hearts. Open Minds.

THE EYES OF GOD

One of my favorite icons is at the Monastery of St. Catherine in Sinai, called Christ Pantokrator (ruler of all things)-I like it so much I have a copy hanging in my family room. Christ is depicted raising one hand in blessing and holding in his other hand a rather ornate, jewel encrusted Gospel book. But what is captivating about this icon is his face, particularly his eyes. One eye looks straight at you, its gaze clear and unwavering. The other eye looks slightly off to the side and is a little cloudy, but with a distinctly kind look to it. Together his eyes are a combination of clarity and compassion.

I think that is a good illustration of what the Lenten and Easter journeys are all about. With one eye, the Lenten eye, Christ looks at us clearly and unwaveringly –seeing us exactly as we are. This can be more than a little unnerving- as I sit in my family room at times the icon, Jesus, seems to be staring right into my very being and my instinct is to run and hide. We may experience this gaze of clarity as judgment as we realize we cannot really hide from the God who knows us better than we know ourselves. But this clarity of sight is not just God gazing on us; it is also part of our Lenten journey. A journey within to see ourselves more clearly, warts and all. It is a journey characterized by an honest assessment of who we are and what our lives say about us. It is a journey into the wilderness, where we confront that which we most fear-ourselves. Where we confront the changes we need to make in our mind, heart and soul in order to see with God's vision. It is not, however, a journey we make alone, for the God whom we seek is the same God who created us in love and accompanies us as we make our way into and through the wilderness.

Which brings me to the second “eye”, the eye of compassion. The God who looks at us so clearly and knows exactly who we are does so with the eye of compassion, the eye that loves us exactly as we are, while hoping and dreaming that we will live into our true selves. That is the story of Easter –the holding out of new and abundant life and the story of a love so profound that it never turns away from us, it accompanies us into and through death, thus destroying death.

ST. PETER'S BOOK—ON AIR *Sunday, February 5, 6:30-7 PM* **WOGL-FM (98.1 FM)**

Libby Browne and Al Heavens talk with WOGL-FM Radio's Brad Seagall about the book and St. Peter's Church today on "Philadelphia Agenda" Sunday, Feb. 5, from 6:30 to 7 a.m., on 98.1 FM.

A podcast of the 30-minute interview will be available on the St. Peter's History website, www.stpetershistory.org, in a couple of weeks.



THE EYES OF GOD, CONTINUED

This Lent I invite you to journey with us at St. Peter's and to hear the great stories of Scripture that challenge us to grow unto who we were created to be and comfort us with the knowledge of God's loving presence. I invite you to join us as we begin the 40 days of Lent on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) at the 12 noon or 6pm service. Perhaps as part of your Lenten journey you may want to join the meditation group on Wednesday morning or evening, engage in different experiences of worship in our Lenten Wednesday evening program or hear stories of the balance between contemplation and action in our 50 Minutes series. However you choose to make the Lenten journey, may you feel God's presence with you and may God's blessings be upon you and bring you to the joy of Easter.

Peace! Claire

PANCAKES AND MORE PANCAKES...

Tuesday, February 21, 5-7 PM

**St. John the Evangelist/Emmanuel Lutheran
1332 S. 3rd St.**

Traditionally, some Christians have prepared for the fast of Lent by eating everything in the house that was forbidden during the days of fasting: eggs, fat and sugar. In England and other parts of Europe that meant eating pancakes, lots of pancakes. Here at St. Peter's we continue to observe this tradition with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Again this year we will be sharing the supper with St. John the Evangelist/Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 1332 South 3rd Street. And again the youth group will prepare and serve the food and all proceeds will benefit Camp Get Along, our joint ministry that provides children with a safe place to learn and play. For only \$5 per person you get pancakes, sausage and beverages.

For more information contact Claire at nevin-field@stpetersphila.org

POWER

Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 PM,

Old First Reformed Church (4th and Race Sts.)

POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower & Renew) is a faith-based non-profit composed of about 40 congregations across the Philadelphia area with five core issues—jobs, educational opportunities, health care, public safety, and housing. Currently, the main focus of POWER's efforts is job creation—we would like to connect Philadelphians to 10,000 jobs within the next 5 years. In the very near future we will be preparing for upcoming meetings with all 17 City Council members to advance our Jobs Campaign. The Center City meeting is on February 28 at Old First Reformed Church at 4th and Race Streets at 6:30. All are welcome.

AN INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

During the service on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent, the priest invites the people to observe "a holy Lent" and encourages people to do so by prayer, fasting, self examination and repentance. For many, this has meant giving something up for Lent, a practice that you may or may not find helpful. For some, this observance includes deliberately engaging in acts of service to the world, following the example of Jesus himself. There are many ways to engage in service, many certainly can be found outside the church such as Habitat for Humanity, or one of the many homeless shelters or service organizations in Philadelphia, but St. Peter's also engages in service on a regular basis. Perhaps you and your children may want to volunteer or participate in Camp Get Along on March 3 or April 7 at St. John the Evangelist, or buy coffee in support of the Canterbury School in Guatemala, or distribute groceries for the Food Cupboard on a Saturday morning, or visit www.ONE.org to find out how to join the ONE campaign (of which St. Peter's is a member) in the effort to eradicate extreme global poverty. Teenagers who are studying for SATs or other vocabulary tests may want to visit www.freerice.com –a great website that rewards you by donating rice to the United Nations for every word you correctly define. These are just a few of the ways we can reflect the love God has for us onto the world and observe a holy Lent.

JOIN THE CHOIR IN CANTERBURY IN 2013

Your St. Peter's Choir is traveling to England August 17-26, 2013. We will be the choir-in-residence at the magnificent Canterbury Cathedral, seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury and mother church of the Anglican Communion. Getting an invitation from Canterbury is a singular honor, only choirs of proven excellence are allowed, and our singing at Christ Church, Oxford in 2010 led to this invitation.

As with our 2010 trip, there is room for friends and family of choir members on this trip! Parishioners are invited to consider joining us on this pilgrimage. Besides leading Choral Evensong each day, we take day trips to wonderful sites in the area and enjoy great fellowship. The housing and meals are very good, and we will have a great time together! Anyone interested in learning more about traveling with the choir in 2013 should simply inform Peter Hopkins, preferably by email; he will put you on an email list that will keep you informed of developments.

Christian Formation

50 MINUTES

*Sundays, 10 AM, in the 2nd Floor Auditorium,
St. Peter's School*

MARK'S GOSPEL

February 5 & 12

A presentation on Mark's Gospel by the Rev. Claire Nevin-Field (Feb 5) and the Rev. Joe Schaller (Feb 12); the Gospel of Mark shows the ministry of Jesus, and will set the stage for our Lenten time of reflection on faith and its call to discipleship.

POETRY OF TOMAS TRANSTROMER

February 19

A discussion by author and teacher Jeanne Walker on the poetry of Nobel Prize winner Tomas Transtromer will give a different take on reflection and faith.

THE MEANING OF LENT

February 26

Our Lenten series begins with a discussion of the meaning of Lent: rather than thinking of Lent as a time to "give something up," might we reimagine it as a time to think of what we can give of ourselves? Claire will lead a conversation about what Lent means to us in the 21st century.

LENTEN EVENING SERIES

Wednesdays during Lent

This year's series of Lenten Evenings will explore different forms of worship. As we reflect on our life of faith, these evenings will provide a chance to come together for worship in all its wonderful variety and to share a light supper and conversation. Stay tuned for more details in the weekly bulletin!

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sundays, 10-10:50 AM, St. Peter's School, for all ages

At our Baptism, a promise is made that we will continue in the Apostle's teaching, prayers and fellowship. One way to live into that promise is through deepening knowledge of the Bible and the teachings of the church- both of which can be done through church school at St. Peter's.

Ages 3-Kindergarten

Our littlest ones join Sue Mooney for Godly Play, a Montessori based approach to church school using storytelling and activities to help children hear and learn the stories of faith.

Grades 1-6

In response to popular request we are using Akaloo, a curriculum with a strong online component (and that you can access here) that allows parents to see both the church school lesson your child will do or did on Sunday and some supplemental material like games and puzzles from home. Akaloo (from the Greek word meaning "to follow") focuses on forming disciples rather than just presenting information. It does so through a series of age appropriate questions that increase in complexity and reach across the life span in each of 5 areas: Bible, God, Disciple, Church and World. As their website says, "We don't have all the answers, but we have some really great questions" such as "Who is God's Son?" "How can my family help others?" "What is God calling me to become?" Each Akaloo lesson responds to these questions and others, offering further questions and continued growth.

For more information go to the Akaloo website at home.akaloo.org/stpetersphila or contact Claire.

BEING®

Sundays, 10 AM, St. Peter's School, 1st floor

Based on the NPR radio program of the same name, this group reflects on what they heard and how it may or may not intersect with their own lives and experience. Open to all. It is helpful to have heard the program which is available on WHY? on Sunday morning from 7-8 am or by podcast beginning on the Thursday prior to the program's airing on WHY? at <http://being.publicradio.org/>

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD (YOUTH GROUP)

If you are in grades 7-12, you are invited to participate in the Journey to Adulthood program. This program gives you the chance to wrestle with some of life's concerns such as: self (who am I?), society (what kind of world do I live in, how do I navigate it and how do I serve?), sexuality (how do I live in this new body?) and spirituality (how do I have a relationship with God and why should I bother?). While the program has a teaching/conversation component, it also has a service and a fun component too. In the past few years our group has sung carols at a nursing home, cared for animals at the PAWS shelter, traveled to Guatemala to work at the Canterbury School and filled our pastoral care freezer with delicious meals for the sick and the homebound. And they have had a lot of fun; going to New York to participate in the overnight NightWatch program at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, to a Phillies game and to the Bishop's Bash to name just a few. Led by a dynamic team, the youth group currently has about 15 active members and always has room for more. If you have questions contact our leaders at j2a@stpetersphila.org or Claire at nevin-field@stpetersphila.org

TNT—BRUNCH

Sunday, February 12, 12:30 PM, Pizzeria Stella

Join TNT (Twenties -n- Thirties) for fun, fellowship and discussion! On February 5th we will be continuing our series exploring spiritual disciples and what that means for us today. And the following Sunday, the 12th at 12:30 after service join us for TNT brunch. TNT is an informal gathering of people in their twenties, thirties or thereabouts who worship at St. Peter's. There is no membership; all are welcome.

TNT is an informal gathering of people in their twenties, thirties or thereabouts who worship at St. Peter's. There is no membership; all are welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

BOOK GROUP

Monday, February 13, 7:30 PM

The Wohlsens' home

The Book Group usually meets on the second Monday of each month to discuss books, both fiction and nonfiction, and occasionally a movie or play. The meetings are held at members' homes. Call Ann Wilkerson at 215-627-0394 with questions.

The group does not have a designated leader for discussions. People attend as many or as few meetings as they choose.

Feb 13 *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam* by Eliza Griswold

Mar 12 *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese

*All books are available from Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street.

KNITTING GROUP

Tuesday, February 14, 5-7 PM

Anne Eiswerth's home

Join this lively group of St. Peter's parishioners (and sometimes guests as well) for knitting, crocheting, mending, etc.—or just come for conversation and refreshments! The group meets monthly from 5–7pm in a member's home. Bring your knitting or come for instruction if you've been thinking of learning to knit. Beginners welcome! For information, contact Judith Beck at 215-842-0007 or Ann Wilkerson at 215-627-0394.

SAGES

Wednesday, February 15, 12:30 PM, 313 Pine St.

The Sages will meet to hear parishioner and award winning poet Jeanne Walker read some of her recent poetry and lead a discussion. Her most recent book of poetry is *New Tracks, Night Falling* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2009). Her poems and essays have appeared in many periodicals, including *Poetry*, *The Georgia Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *Best American Poetry*. Among her awards are an NEA Fellowship, eight Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowships, The Prairie-Schooner Glenna Luschei Prize, and a Pew Fellowship in The Arts. Jeanne is a Professor of English at The University of Delaware, where she heads the creative writing program. She is also a mentor in the Seattle Pacific University Low Residency MFA Program and a frequent speaker at poetry festivals, conventions, churches, and universities. Her website is www.JeanneMurrayWalker.com

On March 21, Judith Beck will talk about her recent trip to the St. George School in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Please save the date.

EAT, PRAY, LAUGH

Tuesdays, 7:45 am, 313 Pine St.

Start your day with Morning Prayer followed by conversation about life and faith, coffee and pastries. All are welcome to participate. Tuesdays at 7:45 am in the parlor of 313 Pine Street.

SEEKING JESUS WITHIN:

Silent Meditation on God's Holy Word

Wednesdays, 7–7:45 AM & 6–6:45 PM

Give yourself 45 minutes one or two times per week for silent prayer. We meditate on a passage of Holy Scripture. No prior experience with meditation or prayer is needed; guidance is provided. Meetings are held in the Tower Room in the church.

Led by the Rector. Questions? Ask Ledlie.

THIS CHRISTIAN LIFE

Last Wednesdays of each month, 6:45 PM

On the last Wednesday of each month, any who would like to talk for an hour with others about "this Christian life", issues of God, faith and every day life, are welcome to join Claire at 6:45 in 313 Pine Street for a light supper and conversation, concluding by 8 pm. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are invited to make this part of the way. For information, contact Claire at nevin-field@stpetersphila.org

For the next two meetings (February 29 & March 28) this group will join the Lenten Wednesday evening program.

BIRTHDAYS

Best wishes to those celebrating birthdays in February:

- 4 Matthew Kwiecinski
- 6 Thomas McCabe
- 24 John Lloyd
- 24 David Stevens

WELCOME

We welcomed new members at special services on January 22:

- Keith & Mimo Betten
- Ethan Betten
- Jane Grabias
w/ Laura & Helen

Ben Lutz

Walt Peters

Roger Rengert &
Alicia Travis

We welcome recent visitors to St. Peter's:

- Colleen Wood
- Karen Kaluza
- Neil & Dale Budde
- Jessica Johnson &
Rob Douglas
- Ida Lee Goodman
- Walt Peters
- Elizabeth Kroberger
- Ann Cinque Pease w/ Evie
- Bruce & Robin Herndon
- Molly Jordan & Andrew Kim

Two new choir members:

- Jim Keller
- Markus Weidner

THANKS

Many, many thanks to:

- Dana Hall for sharing her faith story.
- Robert Moskowitz for the great lunch at the annual meeting and Ben Houck for helping out.
- Kevin Chu, Kevin Dill and Kathleen Stephenson for their years of service on the vestry.

The presenters at the annual meeting: Bill Cass, Vincent DiPentino, Greg Duffy, Kat Dunne, Hildegard Kent, Laura Lane, Jacquie Lewis and Claudia Stowers.

Theresa Smith for organizing the Food Cupboard glove drive.

Welcome to new vestry members:

- Peggy Hatch
- Jim Keller
- Hildegard Kent

Reelected vestry members:

- Greg Duffy
- Jacquie Lewis

MEET THE DEAN FROM JERUSALEM

Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 PM, 313 Pine St.

The Rev. Graham Smith, the new Dean of St. George's College, Jerusalem, will describe life today at St. George's College, the premier Anglican center of pilgrimage and continuing education in the Holy Land, amid the conflicting hopes and struggles of the three faiths in Jerusalem.

The event, free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Philadelphia Theological Institute, the Middle East Study Committee of the Diocese of PA, and the North American Committee for St. George's College, which is chaired by Bishop Bartlett. Nine diocesan clergy and lay persons who recently returned from the two-week "Palestine of Jesus" course at St. George's are assisting in arrangements.

Dr. Smith, experienced in pastoral and mission leadership, was most recently Rector of St. David's, Glenview, Ill. He holds degrees from Episcopal Divinity School and the Virginia Theological Seminary.

BAPTISMS

We welcome you into the household of God:

- Alice Elizabeth Duffy
- Tucker Ives McFadden
- Ethan William Nordick

VESTRY

- Gregory Duffy
- Barbara Elliott
- Dana Hall
- Peggy Hatch
- Jay Hummel
- Jim Keller
- Hildegard Kent
- Jacqueline Lewis,
Accounting Warden
- Lathrop Nelson, *Secretary*
- Janet Plosser
- Samuel Reeves
- Claudia Stowers,
Rector's Warden

STAFF

- The Rev Ledlie I. Laughlin,
Rector
- The Rev Claire Nevin-Field,
Assistant Rector
- The Rev Dr. Joseph Schaller,
Assisting Priest
- Peter Hopkins,
*Director of Music Ministry
and Choirmaster*
- Paula Pugh Romanoux,
*Artist-in-Residence
and Principal Organist*
- Kate Randall,
Parish Administrator
- Colin Dill,
Administrative Assistant
- Ed Manwaring,
Parish Accountant
- Wayne D. Simms,
Sexton
- Gary Rodriguez,
Assistant Sexton

St. Peter's Church
313 Pine Street
Philadelphia, PA
19106-4212

215-925-5968

E-Mail: laughlin,
nevin-field, hopkins,
romanaux or randall
@stpetersphila.org

Or visit us on the Web at
www.stpetersphila.org



313 PINE STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PHILADELPHIA PA
PERMIT NO. 7063

SUNDAY

- 9 AM Holy Eucharist
Children's
Service
- 10 AM *50 Minutes,*
Being®, or Church
School
- 11 AM Holy Eucharist
with choir
Storytelling in the
Tower for
children in grades
4 and below

**EAT, PRAY, LAUGH
(TUESDAY MORNING
PRAYER)**

Prayer begins at 7:45 AM;
Bible study at 8:00 AM.

What's Up at St. Peter's

2-04-12 **Choral UnEvensong**
Saturday, 6:30 PM
Thomas Jefferson University Alumni Hall

2-12-12 **TNT — Brunch**
Sunday, 12:30 PM
Pizzeria Stella

2-13-12 **Book Group**
Monday, 7:30 PM
The Wohlsens' Home
Join us to discuss *The Tenth Parallel:
Dispatches from the Fault Line Between
Christianity and Islam* by Eliza Griswold.

2-14-12 **Knitting Group**
Tuesday, 5:00 PM
Anne Eiswerth's Home

2-14-12 **Meet the dean from Jerusalem**
Tuesday, 7:30 PM
313 Pine St.

2-15-12 **Sages**
Wednesday, 12:30 PM
313 Pine St.

*For additional information about church programs and
activities, look inside.*