

ST. PETER'S NET

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 654 N. EASTON ROAD • GLENSIDE, PA 19038 • (215) 887-1765

Eighteenth to Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 2009

The Joy of Giving

It is sad to see that, in our highly competitive and greedy world, we have lost touch with the joy of giving. We often live as if our happiness depended on having. But I don't know anyone who is really happy because of what he or she has. True joy, happiness and inner peace come from the giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others.

~Henri J.M. Nouwen; Life of the Beloved

I came across this quotation recently and thought it was perfect for understanding our ministry of stewardship. Let's be honest. When we hear the word stewardship we don't immediately connect the word joy with it. And yet, stewardship, that is our commitment to be faithful stewards within our homes, our world and within our church community, is at its best joyful work. True joy does not come from having but from giving, Nouwen says. It comes from giving ourselves to others and to our faith community. It comes from giving back to God out of the great abundance with which God has blessed us.

This year we have much to celebrate as a parish. The long process of discernment is over! Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God has brought us together as priest and people and renewed our sense of mission and ministry. And so first and foremost, our commitment of time, talent and financial resources to our parish community is a joyful response to what God has already done on our behalf. I believe God wants us to spend time this first year together rejoicing in this new relationship with all its promise and possibility.

But, even as we celebrate how far we've come, I believe we are being called by God not simply to stay put, but to step out in faith and to embark on a new journey together. We are being called to figure out what it means to be St. Peter's Church not only here and now, but in the future, as well. Our stewardship to this community is a vital way we step out in faith and say to God and to our fellow brothers and sisters that we are willing to give of ourselves to one another in order to be on this journey together. We can't do this alone. We need each other. We need to make a commitment of our time and talent and yes, our money!

This stewardship season may we respond to God in joy for all the abundant blessings given to us as individuals and as a community. And may we have the courage to step out in faith believing wholeheartedly that God has great things in store for us and for our parish!

With joy & hope for our future together,
Emily+

Vestry News

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Carmen Gelinas,

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Please send articles, photos,
suggestions by the 15th of
each month for the
following month's NET

Thoughts from George Luskus, the Incoming Senior Warden

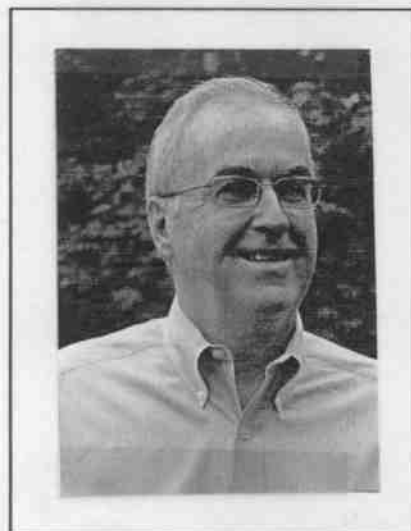
Change is a huge part of life, and our church life is no exception. St. Peter's Church has certainly been through a period of momentous change. As I reflect on the last two years, it is clear to me that the period between permanent rectors is a process, not an event. The search period forced all of us to take a hard look at ourselves and try to sort out just who we are and what we hope to become. A great deal of work has been done, and the groundwork has been laid for the future.

I was very pleased and honored to be asked by our new Rector, Emily Richards, and Senior Warden, Rob DeKalb, to consider serving as

Senior Warden when Rob steps down at the end of September. When Emily announced at the end of the Ten O'clock Service on August 23rd that Rob was ending his tenure as Senior Warden, he received a well deserved standing ovation from the congregation. We are all indebted to Rob for his solid service during a very challenging circumstance for a Senior Warden. His responsibilities were great, and he gave unsparingly of his wisdom, time and effort. Rob also served on the Discernment Committee which, in itself, was a tremendous time commitment. Thank you, Rob, for your service to St. Peter's Church and its congregation.

Polly and I have been members of St. Peter's Church for fourteen years. I was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, spent some time in the Presbyterian Church and finally arrived at St. Peter's. We have always treasured our membership in a community that is truly caring. I served on the Vestry ten years ago, sing in the choir, completed the four-year Education for Ministry (EFM) course, served as a Eucharistic Minister, moderated a Kerygma Bible Study course last year and am in the second year of this Vestry term. The reality, however, is that I am probably best known as "Polly's husband!" In my non-church life I am an attorney.

As I step into the role of Senior Warden, I am particularly delighted to work closely with our new Rector, Emily Barr Richards. This is a particularly fertile time for our congregation. We are open to new ideas. We are ready to follow the direction in which the Holy Spirit guides, or pushes, us. I appreciate the opportunity to work with everyone at St. Peter's. This is a great community. I am very happy to be here.



Thank You Rob!

A Faithful Servant

September was Rob DeKalb's last month serving as our Senior Warden. It is both challenging and rewarding to offer leadership during an interim period in the life of a parish. Rob led this parish with integrity, kindness, and a gentle spirit. We give thanks for his commitment and devotion to our community during this time of

transition in our life together. We pray that he may now enjoy some time of rest as the Holy Spirit renews him for future ministry in our church and in the world.

Below are some words of appreciation for Rob's ministry among us by members of the parish.

Rob is warm and gracious, a thoughtful listener, and deeply spiritual. Rob acts with integrity, is willing to be vulnerable about his feelings when appropriate, and cares deeply about St. Peter's.

Your grace, honesty, and foresight show
The giving and spiritual friend we know

Rob is a friendly and efficient person who is not easily flustered. With all of the problems that have occurred in his years at the helm he always appeared to have everything under control.

Whatever came along, Rob stayed right there, conveying calmness, speaking from his heart, and encouraging us to trust the process.

Thank you Rob
•For being a spiritual voice when we need it
•For leading us through the many changes that have taken place in the last two years with foresight, grace, commitment, and a giving heart.

For me, Rob was like the rock of St. Peter's. This was a difficult time for us and Rob was a faithful and calm presence in the midst of the storms. One of the things that I appreciate the most about Rob, is that he always speaks from his heart. He is a caring and sensitive man, with a great sense of humor. Thank God for that!

Rob has shown himself to be an effective leader at St. Peter's both on the Discernment Committee and then on the Vestry. He is deliberate, reasoned and calm when coping with the myriad decisions necessary for these committees. I relied on his skillful way of getting a group back on track when we began to wander.

Steady, sincere, thoughtful and kind

You didn't give answers unless thinking them through
Then came up with a solution to lead us anew

Everliving God, through the waters of Baptism you have called each of us to a life of service. We especially give thanks for the baptismal ministry of Rob DeKalb in this parish. Strengthen and sustain him and all ministers of this congregation, lay and ordained, that together we may faithfully follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, proclaiming in word and deed the good news of the kingdom; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

