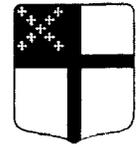


KEYNOTES

March 2015



The Quarterly Newsletter of St. Peter's Church, Lithgow

Saying goodbye to two friends....



Cynthia Cogswell was larger than life. More colorful, too.

She was a part of St. Peter's for many years, often showing up with one or two dogs, but always showing up with style. For years she handed out beautifully dyed pheasant eggs on the church steps at Easter and was always ready to host a visiting preacher or church dignitary. She had a streak of generosity from which many of us benefited over the years, although that is only one of the things about Cynthia that we shall miss.

At the time of her death, Cynthia was living in Atlanta, where she moved last April to be closer to her daughter-in-law and her three grandchildren; her son Jamie died in 2005.



Eric Shrubsole, at 102 St. Peter's oldest parishioner, was a smile-maker—he always wore one and had a wonderful knack of letting you know that he was glad to see you.

Eric came to the U.S. from England before World War II to open an American branch of his family's silversmith business. (The St. Peter's silver collection is, for the most part, thanks to Eric.) The company, S. J. Shrubsole, was founded in London in 1912 and opened in New York in 1936. It is still open for business on 57th Street and is now run by Eric's stepson, Timothy Martin (son of Karin Shrubsole).

Eric was an active and well loved member of St. Peter's for over 50 years. We already miss him.

From the Vicar's Desk



Dear friends of God:

Lent is a holy season also known as *Quadragesima*, meaning *fortieth*. We mark the beginning of the passion story of Jesus that ends on Easter Day. As we move toward this holy festival, we also experience the lengthening of days. More sunshine, more light. Nature

is renewed. St Peter's has now embarked, with the Church universal, on the 40-day-long journey toward Easter and the transformative light of Christ's resurrection.

We had a glimpse of this *radiance* on Sunday, February 15, when the appointed lectionary readings took us up to the mountaintop with Peter, James, and John, and when the hidden light of Jesus that was present throughout the two-month-long Epiphany season was spectacularly revealed. I spoke about the sacredness of the natural order, including human flesh and blood, in the 8 a.m. sermon. (You can see it on the website: stpeterslithgow.org/worship). Later that morning, we had a special Valentine for Eric Shrubsole from many of his friends at St. Peter's; in the middle of a harsh winter, we bathed in the light of *a life well lived*. Eric was a great leader, mentor and inspirational character in our community. The message for us during the 40 days of Lent is to look for the holy in nature, in God's spectacular creation, and in one another. (The special tribute to Eric can also be found on the website.)

Lent is also a period of deeper self examination and reflection. In the coming weeks there will be several opportunities for us through worship, learning, and our common life:

1. The successful conversations with young parents and others in the congregation has led us to ask some other questions: "*How do we best spend our time, efforts and resources at St Peter's, not only around Christian Education for children and youth, but for everyone?*" This congregation has over 100 children and youth in our common life, and we might ask ourselves, "How do we build a truly intergenerational community for the 21st century?" How do we also improve communication within St Peter's and the wider community

we serve? These are all really good questions to ponder during Lent. (You will hear more about a questionnaire we would like you to respond to.)

2. The *Distinguished Speakers Series* was a great hit during the interim period and we are going to continue this tradition throughout the year as you can see from some of the guests who will be coming when the days are a little longer! On March 15th, we will have some international visitors with us who are in New York for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and Rev. Richard Witt will be preaching here in June about our local migrant and rural ministries.
3. Many members of our congregation have expressed an interest in the ancient practice of pilgrimage. Could we organize a pilgrimage to nearby places like the Natural History Museum or the Metropolitan Museum where we might learn about biblical archaeology or visit the new 9/11 Museum in Manhattan? I know several of you have recently visited Cuba (T. and Lynn Nolan, Catherine Howard, and Lillian Corbin) and we are planning an evening in April to discuss a possible parish trip to Cuba later in the fall. This trip might also be linked to an annual pilgrimage led by the Bishop of Southwest Florida with their strong connections to the Episcopal Church in Cuba. The Lenten journey is as much an inward dance as an outward one.

These are some of the questions and inner explorations that the holy Lenten season will facilitate at St Peter's in the remaining weeks. We share the journey with other churches in the area and I hope you will mark your calendars with the important dates we are sharing with you. Flesh and blood, young and old, the newly arrived and those who have been here for a long time all share in the pilgrimage towards inner and outer transformation that is at the heart of the Easter discovery. While our children laugh and play during the annual Easter egg hunt around the budding flowers and shrubs of St Peter's, and search eagerly for their treasures, I wonder what we might discover in our searching this Lent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Joy Ogle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "J".

Albert
Rev. Canon Albert Joy Ogle
Vicar

St. Peter's Calendar through June 2015

March

- 1 Sunday Services
- 2 *Explorations in Space* - a visit to St. Peter's by Millbrook School
- 8 Sunday Services
- 13 *Women of Faith. Women of Doubt* - Panel for the UN Commission on the Status of Women in NY. Panel presentation at the Riverside Church. All are invited.
- 15 Sunday Services. Distinguished Speakers Series: Maxensia Nakibuuka from Uganda
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Event at the Grace Church Hall. 6:30 pm
- 22 Sunday Services
- 29 **Palm Sunday Services** and beginning of **Holy Week**

April

- 1 **Holy Wednesday** Ecumenical Service at Lyall Memorial - 7:00 pm
 - 3 **Good Friday Service** 12:00-1:00 pm Last Words, with Rev. Matt Caulkins preaching at St. Peter's.
7:00 pm Evening Service, Canon Albert Ogle preaching at Grace Church
 - 4 **Holy Saturday** - The Great Vigil of Easter and Lighting of the Pascal Fire - 7:00 pm
Potluck to follow
 - 5 **Easter Sunday Services** - 8:00, 9:00, & 11:00, The Easter Egg Hunt will be held during the 11:00 service.
 - 6 **Parish Annual Meeting** and Election of new Vestry members - 10:00 am, Old Rectory
- 18 to 20 - Eric Shrubsole's Funeral Weekend and his 103rd birthday memorial

- 19 Sunday Services and New Vestry seated
- 26 Sunday Services and parish meeting on proposed Cuba trip

May

- 3 Sunday Services and Indaba Weekend with three other Diocesan parishes
- 16 Saturday. The Blessing of the Fields - Ecumenical event led by Grace Church
- 24 9:30 - Memorial Day Service at St. Peter's Cemetery. The 8:00 service will be in the Church.

June

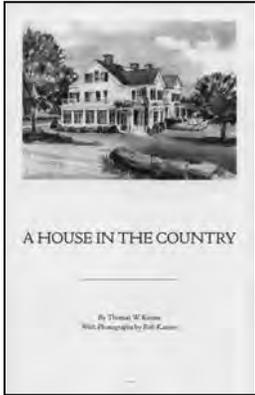
- 7 Rev. Richard Witt from Rural & Migrant Ministries preaching
- 29 The Feast of Peter and Paul: Distinguished Series will have a New Testament scholar who will explore the significance of the two founding saints celebrated today.



*Albert Ogle and Maxensia Nakibuuka
(see calendar: March 15)*

From the Editors' Desk

Woody Keesee has written a big, beautifully illustrated (with photos by Rob Karasis) book about his family's life in Millbrook, but the book is actually much more than that. It is a celebration, in words and photos, of a family, a community, a village, and a way of life. *A House in the Country* (see excerpt, page 6) tells the story of Deerfield Hill Farm—"the house we built, in which we raised our children, and in which we hope to live the rest of our lives."



With the help of architect Jimmy Crisp, the family moved in in 1999. Woody's book takes us through the place room by room—the formal reception rooms, the sun porch, the family quarters, even the attic, and then leads us outdoors to the barn, carriage house, pool, gardens. Along the way, artifacts and travels and family anecdotes,

stories about polo, shooting, golf, and lavish dinner parties, and—a favorite chapter for this reader—descriptions of the resident animals—house pets, cows, ponies, and the wild animals who venture onto the property. There are stories of the family's trips and safaris, anecdotes about the Keesee sons, photos of polo trophies, and family anecdotes. Deerfield Hill Farm is "more than just a house—it is a way of life and a labor of love." Woody's book is a delight to read, and an inspiration to anyone who wants to leave a lively and colorful record of a life well lived and a village well lived-in.

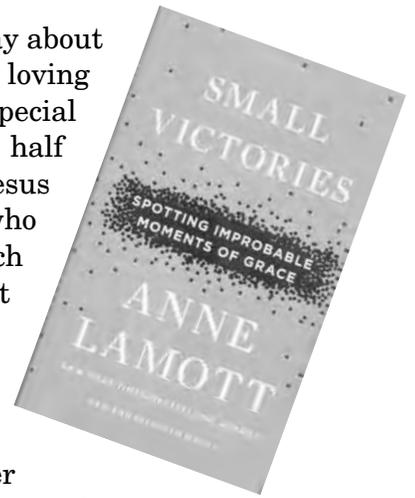
And here's a new book by a favorite author—Anne Lamott's *Small Victories—Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace* (Riverhead Books, \$22.95). The short chapters—in blue typeface—are really mini-sermons. When annoyed by a friend—and thinking "such awful thoughts that I cannot say them out loud"—she "prayed for a miracle; I wrote her name down on a slip of paper, folded it up, and put it in the box that I use as God's in-box. Help" I said to God." Later on, she remarks that "forgiving people doesn't necessarily mean you want to meet them for lunch." She tells of her family—joys and troubles both—and the "two good things" she learned about in high school—"the counterculture and the women's movement."

There's a fine essay about Ash Wednesday and a loving description of a very special dog, "half black lab, half golden retriever, like Jesus in a black fur coat" who was "mother, dad, psych nurse" and who taught comfort daily.

This smile-inducing, inspirational book ends with an upbeat note: "December and January have been so grim the past few years, and this year the power kept going out, and everyone was crazy as a rat. Yet here we are in February, with war drums and daffodils everywhere and poppies waiting in the wings."

This book is in the parish library.

Ann LaFarge



Eucharistic Minister Training

Some members of the parish have expressed interest in becoming Eucharistic Ministers, which is a wonderful ministry. Please speak to Albert Ogle or Cam Hardy if you are interested, and note the times of future trainings.

Scheduled Eucharistic Minister & Visitor Trainings

Saturday, March 14

St. Philip's Church, Manhattan

Link to event page:

<http://www.dioceseny.org/events/462>

Saturday, April 25

St. Peter's Church, Peekskill

Link to event page:

<http://www.dioceseny.org/events/463>

Saturday, May 9

St. John's Church, Cornwall

Link to event page:

<http://www.dioceseny.org/events/464>

To Embrace Wonder: Renewed Family Christian Education at St. Peter's

A reflection from the late Rev. Brewster Y. Beach, St. Peter's 29th Vicar: *From the first council of the Church in Jerusalem in the first century C.E., the leaders of the Christian religion have often come together to establish what shall be considered orthodox doctrine, what shall be the wording of our Creed, and what shall be considered an acceptable theoretical understanding of the nature of God. ...But throughout the ages of Christianity, there has been another stream: that of actual human experience. ... How can an inward experience be communicated if it exists primarily in feeling? The inward experience of faith is not the stuff of doctrinal pronouncements, but sometimes may be approached through poetry or art, and perhaps a similar experience may be...inspired by ritual or tradition. Perhaps this, after all, may be the greatest inheritance we have received from Christianity: not the findings of the fourth Lateran Council, nor how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, but an experience of basic goodness that transforms our perceptions of the world and each other, and calls us to participate in a joy that transcends our own personal boundaries.*

Heartening at this time in our troubled, violent world. Brewster wrote these words in 1994 at a turning point in the life of St Peter's, similar to our experience in 2015: families seeking a place for faith to come alive. It is tough to be a parent in the 21st Century, in a culture that pushes back against the values of unconditional love and forgiveness; a culture that makes it hard to find a place where we can (falteringly) express what grace feels like, where we take time to pray and be silent, to embrace wonder, to prioritize giving first and then saving and spending; where we can question and doubt and learn freely, to forge our faith journey.

Two meetings in January provided the space and time for St Peter's parishioners, particularly parents of school-aged children, to come together to share our concerns, questions, and faith experiences. Led by Fr. Albert, Rev. Cam, and DRE Marie Scagnelli, the ultimate goal of these two meetings

was to connect ourselves to one another, providing a foundation and vision for how we engage our children in their own faith development, and to create an educational program at St Peter's that provides just that counter-cultural experience of the Christian way.

The minutes from these two meetings are posted on the St Peter's website, but, in sum, we learned as much about our own values and hopes for our children as we did about what we have to offer programmatically. Though by nature this is a work in progress, we are excited to provide the following initiatives and details for the next steps in our Christian Education program. We hope that as you read this, you may be inspired to ask questions and offer your observations and talents—this is a parish-wide effort. Remember “It takes a village...”!

Moving Forward:

- Parish-wide Christian education survey (electronic and hard copy, if needed)
- Family and Youth Education Committee of parishioners and vestry members to evaluate and communicate programming issues to clergy
- Continued leadership and facilitation by Marie Scagnelli of the primary (aged 4-8 yrs) program.
- Published curriculum for “older” children facilitated by Rev. Cam, with classes monthly
- Monthly education newsletter with upcoming events and program materials
- Monthly inter-generational social and church-based programs
- Participation of children and youth in liturgy/services
- Expanded acolyte and youth reader program
- Establishing a new program for primary-aged children, including exploration of “God Play.” <http://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/>
- Social events for parents and families in the Millbrook area
- Support of parents and parishioners in providing assistance in supervision and teaching in the education program

*Rev. Cam Hardy
Associate for Christian Education*

The Scent of Boxwoods

(Excerpted from the book
A House in the Country by Thomas W. Keese)
(See review, page 4)

Just outside the entrance to the door of our guest bedroom hangs a pen and ink drawing of my maternal grandparents' house—Lynwood. This was the house my grandparents, Don and Carolyn Hartford, lived in when my mother was in college in the years immediately following World War II. It is the house where she and my father were married in 1953, as were my two aunts, her sisters, Cissie and Anne, shortly thereafter. And it is the house I always visited as a child during the 1960s when we went to the South for vacations with our relatives. In short, it is a house with many memories.



Lynwood is in Martinsville, Virginia, in the western part of the state. I remember travelling there by overnight train from Penn Station in New York City to nearby Danville. The train had Pullman sleeper cars with individual compartments and porters who would convert the seats into bunk beds when it was time to retire for the night. My sister and I would have an adjoining compartment to that of our mother. Each compartment had its own tiny bathroom with a fold-down stainless steel sink above the toilet. Funny, the things you remember as a kid.

In the morning, we would have breakfast in the restaurant car and watch the southern landscape go by out the window. I always knew that we had arrived in the South when I saw the change in the color of the earth, from dark brown when we were north of the Mason Dixon to dark red when we arrived in Dixieland. The seemingly ever-present kudzu vine, a plague imported from, of all places, Japan, climbed up the trunks of every tree in sight. My fa-

vorite was to have a “rebel breakfast” in the dining car. This gourmet meal consisted of eggs, bacon and hominy grits, a dish one only had in the South. By the time we got back to our compartment, the porter had converted the beds back into seats on which we would sit for a short while until the train pulled into the Danville station. There my grandparents would meet us on the platform and take us by car to Lynwood.

Lynwood was set on top of a hill, up a long driveway bordered by what to this day are the largest rhododendrons I have ever seen—all growing wild. There was a swimming pool down below the house in the shape of the State of Virginia. It was set behind a stand of enormous mimosa and willow trees. The house itself was surrounded by boxwoods, the scent of which always struck me as soon as the car door opened, letting me know that we had arrived. They say that of the five senses, scent is the one for which the human brain has the greatest recall and that remains longest in one's memory. I can certainly believe this, as to this day, when I smell boxwoods, I am instantly transported back to Lynwood.

It was a wonderful place to visit, full of memorable people and fascinating attractions, at least for a young boy. In addition to my grandmother and grandfather, whom I loved deeply, there was Johnsie, the cook, Willie, the groundskeeper and Joe, who took care of the cows. Johnsie always made us special dishes like peach cobbler and ham biscuits that were unheard of in the Yankee North. And her fried chicken would put Colonel Sanders to shame. Joe let me ride with him on the big tractor that he used to cut the lawns around the house, and my grandparents even bought me a toy tractor of my own to pedal around the driveway. One of the main attractions of a visit to Lynwood was the cows. My

*Joe and the
author on
the tractor -
1958*



grandfather kept a small herd of Herefords, which are beef cattle, down in a pasture by the river in the valley below the house. One of my favorite pastimes was to go to see them when he came home from work in the evenings; we would drive down there together in his car.

The cows were kept mainly as a hobby, but he did sell them once a year at a cattle auction. Joe would take care of them and was his partner in the venture, receiving a calf or two each year as his share of the profits. They started the herd by buying yearlings and selling them once they had fattened them up, but pretty soon the cows were producing calves of their own. At its peak, he had a herd of about forty. I think my best business deal to date is having bought a young calf from my grandfather a few days after it was born with \$25 that I borrowed, interest-free, from my mother and then selling it twelve months later as a yearling for \$125. That is what they call a 5x in the private equity business. The secret, however, was that Grandpa and Joe took care of the calf all year long without charging me a penny for its upkeep. That is called permanently deferred maintenance—or in this case, a gift from my grandfather and Joe.



Author's grandparents, mother (center), Aunt Cissie and Aunt Anne at Lynwood - 1949

Grandpa lived to be ninety-five. When he retired, he and my grandmother, who lived to be one hundred and two, moved to a smaller house nearer town. No one has ever actually lived at Lynwood since they left. When they first moved out, it was bought by a church group and used as a retreat. It was never clear who owned it subsequently, but according to my grandmother, whoever did allowed the property to fall into a state of some disrepair.

As a result, the house and grounds gradually deteriorated. She had visited it once or twice after they first moved into town, but decided never to go back again—she said that it just broke her heart to see the old place in that condition. She preferred to remember it the way it had been when she and Grandpa had lived there—full of light and life, with the sound of grandchildren playing in the swimming pool.

At their new house in town they transplanted a row of boxwoods from Lynwood, and each morning she and Grandpa would go out and smell their scent. And when we built our own house many years later, in the Yankee North, we planted boxwoods around our porch, just so that I could never forget what life was like at Lynwood.

Woody Keese

Would you like to join the St. Peter's Choir?

The St. Peter's choir generally sings for All Saints Day, Lessons and Carols (the Sunday preceding Christmas), Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost. Seasonal participation and/or short-term commitments are definitely an option.

While the ability to read music is helpful, it is not required. No previous choral experience is necessary; mp3 practice recordings can be made available on request.

Our ensemble usually consists of a blend of people with varying degrees of experience and expertise. Church membership is not a prerequisite.

Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings from 11:00 -12:00, usually from October-May.

We love receiving new members into our choir family! For more information about singing with the choir, or for general questions about the choral program, please contact Nancy Vanderlee, music director (navanderlee@gmail.com).

Recent Improvements in St. Peter's Infrastructure

Most of the time, the buildings portion of Buildings and Grounds is pretty uneventful. Aside from the major updating of the Vicarage, which will be addressed in a later newsletter, we have had a major leap in our audio/visual system at St Peters. The following is a list of the improvements:

1. We can now watch services live. A link can be found on St. Peter's web page at stpeterslithgow.org/worship.

2. Previous services are available on a YouTube link on the same web page. So far they have been viewed 1,794 times.

3. A new HD camera broadcasts high-resolution video to the parish hall.

4. People in the parish hall can see the HD broadcast on the new flat-screen TV, as well as computer-driven presentations.

5. Security cameras around the property record activity. Since the church is open 24 hours a day, we will have a record for the authorities in the case of vandalism.

6. We now have WiFi everywhere on the property. Network name: `stpeterschurch`
Password: `peter123`

7. Numerous behind-the-scenes improvements have also been made to the wiring, electronics, and infrastructure.

All if these upgrades were performed by Kurt Pragman of Pragman Associates. We have a few more modernizations planned, including automation of the service recordings, reviewing archived services in the parish hall, and other technical improvements.

Jimmy Crisp

St. Peter's Pets

If you have an unusual photo of your pet(s), we'd love to see it. Please send it to acgillis@optonline.net.



Darby Hardy tries to wrap himself around Nash.



Rosie Crisp has an exuberant hug for Chloe.



Ann LaFarge shares a kiss with her friend Eloise.

Parenting and Family Materials in the Parish Library

Following up on the recent family and youth ministry meetings, here is a list of materials that might offer ideas of interest to parents, their children, and others who work with young persons. All may be borrowed from the parenting shelves in the parish library.

Barbara N. Lindsley, Parish Librarian

- Berends, Polly Berrier. *Gently Lead: How to Teach Your Children about God, While Finding Out for Yourself.*
- Berendt, Jodie. *Praying the Scriptures for your Children: Discover How to Pray God's Will for Their Lives.*
- Books of the Bible.* (a 66-piece jigsaw puzzle)
- Brestin, Steve and Dee. *Building Your House on the Lord; Marriage and Parenthood.*
- Cloyd, Betty Shannon. *Children and Prayer: a Shared Pilgrimage.*
- Davis, Cathy. *Prayers for Bedtime. Prayers for Family. Prayers for Friends.* (board books for the very young)
- Eyre, Linda and Richard. *Teaching Your Children Values.*
- Fanstone, Michael. *Unbelieving Children and the Parents Who Love Them.*
- Gellman, Rabbi Marc and Hartman, Monsignor Thomas. *Where Does God Live? Questions and Answers for Parents and Children.*
- Grollman, Earl A. *Explaining Death to Children.* (pamphlet)
- Jackson, Anne Q. and Livingston, Susan. *Proverbs in Song. Psalms in Song.* (books with audio-tapes)
- Josh McDowell's Family Devotions.*
- Lazicki, Ted. *Where Does God Live?*
- Martineau, Andres. *What Can I Tell My Child about God?* (pamphlet)
- Omartine, Storme. *The Power of a Praying Husband. The Power of a Praying Parent. The Power of a Praying Wife.*
- Russell, Joseph P., ed. *The New Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education.*
- Sass, Sandy Eisenberg. *What is God's Name?* (board book)
- Sherer, Quin. *Prayers from a grandmother's heart; Asking God's Blessing and Protection for Your Grandchildren.*
- Wilkinson, Bruce H. *Family Walk; 52 Weekly Devotions for Your Family.*
- Wood, Stephen. *Christian Fatherhood; the Eight Commitments of St. Joseph's Covenant Keepers.*



Amos Gillis with 8-week-old Cleo.



Ed Johnston stands in front of what he calls a "miniature St. Peter's" in south Florida earlier this month.

A Tribute to Eric Shrubsole

During the 9:30 service on February 15, some of Eric Shrubsole's friends offered tributes. (To see the video of this, please go to stpeterslithgow.org/worship.) Below is a poem written by John Reid and presented during the service.

Epitome of elegance
The style of times gone by
The cynosure of many a glance—
Not just for his bow tie

Oh how the women flocked to him
Hung on his every word
And laughed and tittered at his jokes
No matter how absurd

For Eric always had a way
To keep the crowd amused
And with his twinkling eye, I'd say,
He'd never been refused

Of course he had to stretch a bit
When he was courting Karin
He thought the Bentley'd be a hit
But Karin wasn't carin'

But I've been told that at that time
Young Eric did not care
For he was set and in his prime
And full of "savoir faire"

That's French and hardly British
And he carried himself with class
That was no time for being skittish—
Best silver only, never brass

But doesn't that epitomize
This man we loved so well?
He certainly could theorize
But action's what he'd sell

Silver was his life's great work
"Antique, like me," he'd say
With humor that forever lurked
'neath his most English way

Probably a bow tie wearing,
A natty dresser every day
Bright eyes twinkling, ever sharing
That was Eric Shrubsole's way

And golf was a favorite pastime
Played for pleasure, never rage
Though he noted, perhaps for the last time
If he'd just add years faster, he might shoot
his age

He'll value the silver in heaven
As he did for our auctions for so many years
And he'll not be embarrassed, up there, to
leaven
The place with his jokes for appreciative ears

Here's one last thought, before I am going
It's Eric's best secret, or so I've been told:
Keep loving and laughing, and always keep
growing
You'll always have friends, and you'll never
grow old

Loving others, laughing with them
Kindness, helping, shunning praise,
That was Eric, we shall miss him
But we thank God for all his days

So good Eric, do go gently
Natty dresser, kindest heart
Through the pearly gates, in your best
Bentley
We all miss you, as you depart

St. Peter's loved you and will miss you
Witness the stories we've just been told
You were special, decent, loving
You may have aged, but were never old.

Deadlines for Keynotes

May 20

August 20

November 20

February 20

Please send submissions to: alafarge@aol.com & acgillis@optonline.net

A few items for your calendar....

A gathering of St. Peter's Outreach Teams

With the recent success in the turnout for St. Peter's family and youth ministry to have a conversation on what we do well and how to enhance it, outreach folks also want to meet. There are many, many parishioners who serve on local boards, foundations, food banks and English as a Second Language (ESL), as well as who write checks to important local charities like the Dover Food Pantry (\$1,000 a month!) or Rural and Migration Ministries. There is an enormous cry welling up from the parish to do something local where St. Peter's might make a difference. What might that be? Lillian and Peter Corbin have agreed to host a dinner for our wonderful community servants on Saturday, 18th April at 6.30 p.m. The focus will be on sharing what everyone is currently doing and interest in a possible local project where more of us might be involved as an intergenerational parish community. Please let us know if you can join us through the sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

Holy Baptism

An adult member of our congregation asked one of the clergy about the process for baptism at St Peter's, and when the next one might be celebrated. A good question. We will baptize our new members (children or adults) on Easter Eve, April 4th. Please contact one of the clergy asap to arrange for baptismal preparation.

Parish Survey

If you receive a short parish survey in your email, please do not discard it. The Vestry is very interested in your feedback, whether you have children or not, as to how to enhance all of our programs and events. We would like to become much more intergenerational and to put stronger emphasis and resources in places where the majority of members would give support. If you have not received a survey, please contact Anne Gillis or pick up a printed copy from the parish hall. Surveys should be completed by March 16th.

Distinguished Speakers Series

Maxensia Nakibuuka Takirambule is Secretary of the Council of the Laity in Kampala's Diocese in Uganda. Maxensia has extensive community-based health care experience in Uganda where she has just been appointed by the Roman Catholic

Archbishop to oversee the church's AIDS response programs. As a person living with HIV herself and an advocate for LGBT inclusion, she is developing inclusive models of home-based care and advocacy through several key coalitions, including the Good Samaritan Consortium.

She has spoken at several United Nations events, including the High Level meeting in 2012 and more recently on a panel at the World Bank on LGBT issues as a poverty issue. She has spoken several times at the UN and Washington National Cathedral on these pressing issues. She presented a paper on the Good Samaritan Consortium of Uganda at an African Sexual Rights and Health Conference last year in Cameroon, with our Vicar also speaking. She is visiting New York as a guest of our Vicar, attending meetings around the Commission on the Status of Women. She will be one of three panelists presenting on March 13th at the Riverside Church in New York on the theme *Women of Faith. Women of Doubt*—the positive and negative influence of faith-based organizations on gender and LGBT equality. A reception will follow, so we hope members of the congregation from New York will plan to attend. She will also be speaking at services on March 15th at St Peter's and in Millbrook.

Collaboration with Grace Church – St Patrick's Day March 17, Good Friday and *Blessing of the Fields*

Grace Church will be hosting a celebration of St Patrick's Day with St Peter's in their parish hall with Maxensia Nakibuuka. Wear green and bring your favorite Irish dish—corned beef and cabbage, soda bread, shortbread or your grandma's favorite recipe. Guinness is always good! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall to RSVP.

We welcome Rev. Matt Caulkins, Grace's new Rector, to preach on Good Friday at St. Peter's. The Vicar will preach later that evening at Grace.

On Saturday, May 16th, our clergy will lead *The Blessing of the Fields* celebration. There will be several stations at farms and institutions concerned with local ecology and farming where prayers and hospitality will be offered for the good earth that God is entrusting to us.



St. Peter's Church, Lithgow
PO Box 1502
Millbrook, NY 12545
(845) 677-9286

Winter 2015 in Millbrook

*The essence of
winter was caught
by Juliet Heyer
just outside the church....*

*...and the beauty of winter
was caught by Albert Ogle at the Vicarage.*

