

The *KEYNOTER*

St. Peter's Episcopal Church 115 St. Peter's Street Salisbury, MD

410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net

SPRING 2023

ST PETER'S TO HOST DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton will be held in St. Peter's Church this Saturday, March 4 beginning at 9am. The Bishop decided in 2020 to rotate the site of Convention among the Northern, Middle and Southern Convocations. Previous Conventions have been held at the Hyatt Cambridge, but the cost was deemed too great. The 2020 Convention was held in the Middle Convocation at Christ Church Kent Island. The Southern Convocation was supposed to host the next Convention, but the pandemic forced the Convention to go virtual in 2021 and 2022. Now in 2023 the Convention will be in the Southern Convocation, and St. Peter's is the host church.

The Diocese is paying most of the expenses for holding the one-day meeting at St. Peter's and the Southern Convocation churches including St. Peter's are providing the volunteers.

Every diocese in the Episcopal Church has an annual Convention, a meeting chaired by our bishop where all canonically resident clergy and lay deputies representing the 40 parishes and missions of the Diocese of Easton come together to elect officers and representatives, to pass a budget, hear reports from the leadership of the diocese and to debate changes to rules and resolutions on various issues of the day.



continued on pg. 2

LENT & EASTERTIDE AT ST. PETER'S

Last week's observance of Ash Wednesday on February 22 began this year's observation of the Season of Lent, a penitential season lasting 40 days (excluding Sundays) in which we are called to repentance and to follow the Way of the Cross. At the end of Lent comes Easter and the 50 days of Eastertide. Below are a list of events and activities planned for both seasons.

Lenten Events

Evensong on the Feast of the Eve of the Annunciation, March 24 at 7pm. This feast that celebrates the Angel Gabriel's visit to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a joyful break in the penitential season, with Father David Michaud as the officiant and St. Peter's Choir and musicians providing music.

Stations of the Cross, Friday March 31 at 7pm in the Church. Walk the Way of the Cross – 30 minute service in which participants walk around the church interior and make stops at the 14 stations of Jesus' passion and death.

Remember that St. Peter's has a public service of worship in the church every day of the week: Make attending a weekday service part of your Lenten observance: Mondays at 9:30am, Tuesdays at 5:30pm, Wednesday Noon Eucharist with Healing Service; Thursdays at 5:30pm; Fridays at 5:30pm; Saturdays at 8:30am.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 2 : Blessing and Procession of the Palms, reading of the Passion of St. Matthew

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 A Letter from the Rector
- 4 Sunday School News
- 7 Youth Group Happenings
- 9 Annual Meeting
- 11 Outreach Ministry
- 14 Vestry Notes

continued on pg. 2

Diocesan Convention continued from page 1

St Peter's will transform into a Convention site by repurposing some of the rooms in the Parish House and by turning the church into a Convention meeting space. There will be a break for lunch in the Parish Hall. Some participants have paid extra for breakfast, with all proceeds from breakfast sales going to St. Peter's.

The evening before Convention St. Peter's will be the site of the Convention Eucharist, presided by the clergy of the Southern Convocation with a sermon by Bishop Marray and the installation of the three convocation deans, including our Rector, Father David. The Eucharist is open to all to attend.

The Convention will also be live streamed, using St. Peter's technology. This will be the first Convention to use electronic voting. Participants at the Convention will also be voting to approve a new constitution and canons for the Diocese of Easton. For complete information about the Convention, including a link to watch the live stream broadcast, go to: <https://dioceseofeaston.org/convention2023/>.

Lent & Eastertide continued from page 1

Maundy Thursday, April 5: Remembrance of the Last Supper – Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar; foot washing: 7pm in the church

Watch with the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose: Thursday evening through Friday morning, April 5-6. Sign up for an hour.

Good Friday, April 7: Reading of the Passion of St. John, the Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, Mass of the Pre-Sanctified; 12noon in the church

Great Vigil of Easter, April 8: Lighting of the New Fire, singing the Exultet, reading the prophecies, Holy Baptism, the first Eucharist of Easter; 8pm in the church.

Easter Sunday, Easter Season

Easter Sunday begins the 50-day season of Easter or Eastertide. Easter Sunday Services on April 9 are planned for 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am with a Children's Easter Egg Hunt after 9 am service.

Flowering of the Cross, UTO Ingathering: April 16

Annual Parish Meeting and Commissioning of Vestry: April 23

Rogation Sunday, May 14

Ascension Day May 18: Holy Eucharist at 7pm

Senior Graduates Blessing May 21 at 9am worship service

Pentecost, May 28

Memorial Day May 29 Memorial Eucharist at 9am

Trinity Sunday, June 4 – Parish Picnic following 10am service.

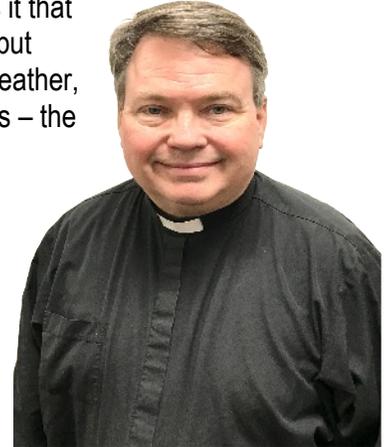


A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

We are now in the season of Lent. Lent is an Old English word meaning “Spring.” Why is it that the word Lent sounds so much more dour than the word spring? I don’t know about you, but thinking about spring brings me joy. I look forward to the promise of spring: the warmer weather, the blooming of flowers and trees, longer days of sunshine and times of life-giving showers – the Eastern Shore springing to life after the fallowness of winter!

What if we thought of Lent, our liturgical spring, in the same way and looked forward with the same joy to this time on our church calendar: a time to shed ourselves of bad and sinful ways, a time of trying some new spiritual practice, a time to get outside and enjoy God’s creation and thank God for all the life that is springing up around us, a chance for renewal and rejuvenation, an opportunity to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ?

And what if we shared all this together in Christian community, coming out of our homes and joining together in worship, in mission, in study and renewal? How much joy we could experience in this Lenten season, building up week after week here at St. Peter’s as we move toward our remembrance of Jesus’ mighty acts: his passion and death on Holy Week and his triumphant resurrection on Easter Sunday. I hope and pray that you find joy in your Lenten experience this year – our liturgical spring – and come out and participate in many of St. Peter’s events and activities this season.



MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Written by Senior Warden, Jeff Cottingham

I believe this is my last article as your Senior Warden. I have two Vestry meetings, two Executive Committee meetings and one Annual Meeting left – but who is counting. Bryan Newton is preparing to receive my key and fob and has already stated that Father David will not be taking any time off during his tenure. All joking aside, I have enjoyed my time in this roll, and I thank all of you that have given counsel or helped in any way in this last year. I have learned quite a bit in this role and would like to share some of my most valuable lessons during my tenure.

1. We have an incredibly efficient finance team. I will remember to always include a note in the memo line of checks to help the team know where funds go when not using a pledge envelope.
2. Our ministry team is passionate about serving the infirm and hospitalized. I have learned they aren’t mind readers. My wife and I will be sure to notify the office when we have a loved one ill or in the hospital to make sure loved ones are fully embraced and spiritually provided care.
3. The special teams providing cleanliness and infection control include all of us; I will be extra careful to put things back in their place.
4. Safety and security of our buildings depends on each of us. Keys and FOBS are crucial to keeping our worship space safe. We currently have a missing key ring – please check your pockets and car cubbies.
5. Lastly, volunteers are the Heart of St. Peters. Many hands make for light work so volunteer, volunteer, volunteer! There are so many ways it’s too long to list. There is always something for everyone. Reach out to any Vestry member, and we will find a way for you to help.



A LETTER FROM SEMINARY

Written by Elizabeth Phillips

My final semester at Virginia Theological Seminary is underway with an “off to the races” kind of start. Alongside an interesting line-up of classes, I am also making preparations for ordination and graduation ceremonies. I am excited to soon be embarking on the next chapter in my life in formal ministry, wherever the Lord leads me.

Classes for the spring semester include Liturgical Music, The History of Spirituality, Liturgical History & Theology, Priesthood in Context, and Teaching the Faith. My professors are top scholars in their field of study. I am honored and grateful for this opportunity to study under them. Graduation ceremonies take place on May 11th in VTS’s beautiful Immanuel Chapel.



In addition to taking classes at VTS, I continue to work at my current Field Placement site at Christ Church in St. Michaels, under the mentorship of Rev. Steve Moser. This time with Rev. Steve as was my time with Rev. Carl in Berlin, has truly helped shape and expand my understanding of parish life and leadership. My time with Christ Church will conclude on Easter Sunday.

The next step in my ordination process is ordination to the diaconate which I am hopeful will take place sometime this spring. I will serve as a deacon in the church for a minimum of six-months before being eligible for ordination to the priesthood. As my time on this journey has unfolded, I feel more convicted than ever that I am truly on the path that God has called me into.

My journey would never be possible without the love and support of my best friend and husband, Hank. His love and encouragement are truly gifts for which I am forever grateful.

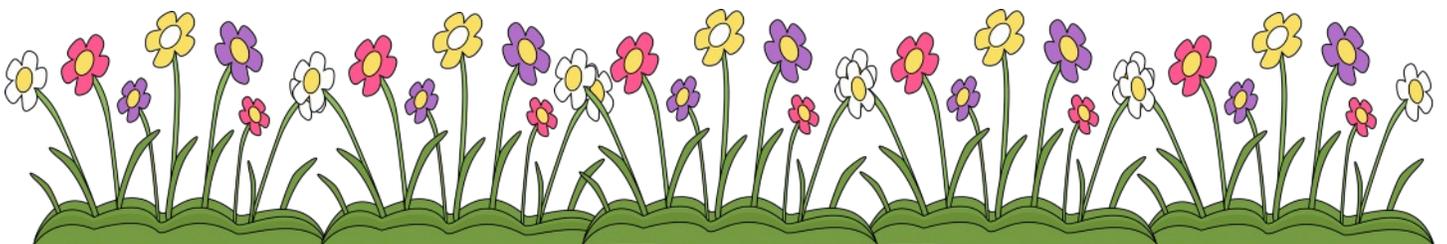
Thank you for your continued love and support on this sacred journey. You remain in my prayers today and always.

ONLINE WORSHIP TASK FORCE

Written by Kristin Mallory

The online worship task force is continuing to evaluate and investigate possibilities for expanding and/or improving the online worship opportunities at St. Peter’s. The task force is currently focused on the best way to collect viewing data and congregational preferences. Additionally, the group is investigating opportunities for learning more about successful online ministries through workshops, conferences, and/or continued research.

Initial review of limited viewing data demonstrates continued interest in the church’s online broadcasts. From February 2022 to February 2023 almost 1000 unique viewers watched a broadcast. The Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve services had the most viewers. More viewers watched the broadcasts live (55%) and 45% watched the recorded events. Most of the viewers live in Maryland and Delaware, followed by D.C., Florida, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. If you have anything you would like to share with this task force regarding online worship, preferences, and suggestions, please email Kristin Mallory at kleemallory@hotmail.com.





EASTER LILIES

YES!! I would like to order flowers for Easter.

Instructions: All orders for Easter Lilies are to be paid in advance. Please, attach your check to the order form below and place in the the Alms Basin, mail to the church office or online pay at <https://stpeterschurch.net/give/>

Make checks payable to St. Peter's Church.
(Indicate Easter Lilies on the memo line of your check)

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, April 2nd

Cost per Lily: \$12

Please, **PRINT LEGIBLY** the names as you want them to appear in the bulletin.

Enclosed is my payment of \$_____ for _____ plants.
quantity

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Please, make every effort to return your order by the deadline as the church office has a print deadline for the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Thank You.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Written by Emily Atkin & Jamie Scott

Thank you to Kate Dyer, the director of the 2022 Christmas Pageant; it was heartwarming and fun. Hope Morgan and family did a wonderful job setting up the pageant background. Thank you to Daniel Cherrix for the piano music. The kids did a wonderful job, and we are very proud of them.

We returned to the Education Annex in January for Sunday School lessons focused on the gospel lesson of the week. We continue to focus on prayer weekly. Father David visited Sunday School to share about his sabbatical trip with the children. He brought water from the Jordan River and other artifacts that he collected along his travels.

During the visit with the Bishop, we made dignity bags for the Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness shelter. We filled 40 bags with snacks and personal care items. Emily hand delivered them to the men at the shelter, and they were very thankful to receive the goodies.

We hope in the future to be able to have a Children's and Youth Director on staff to continue the Christian education of our children and youth. This was our goal from 2017 when Ministry Architects came to help us coordinate our Children and Youth Programs.

We look forward to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th. Thank you to our parents and everyone at St. Peter's for supporting our ministry

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday @ 10:15AM

St. Peter's Church - 115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury, MD 410.742.5118



YOUTH GROUP

Written by Atif Gaddis

St. Peter's Youth have been busy once again. This past January, our youth participated in several activities. They attended the diocese's Ocean City Youth Retreat, prepared dinner for the men in the HHEH Shelter, and took on roles in the 9 AM worship service on Youth Sunday. That was 3 out of the 5 Sundays in January! We took a little time off in February only having one event, but we are back at it starting in March right through the end of June. Check out a few of the events and opportunities coming up for youth.

Diocese Convention - You may have heard that Diocese of Easton Convention is March 3rd and 4th and what's more it is at St. Peter's! The church is looking for youth volunteers to assist at the Convention, the Bishop has requested.



There is the worship service on the evening of March 3rd, and I there is a need for altar servers and other roles. On March 4th is the business session.

and there are a variety of things to help with. Youth can volunteer anytime from 9am to 4pm for 2, 3, or 4 hour periods. Service hours are available to those who volunteer. Please contact Atif if youth are interested.

Youth Mission Trip - We have set a date and location for our Summer Youth Mission Trip. It will be from June 25th through June 30th in Harrisburg, PA, the state capital of the commonwealth to the north of us and Pastor Greg's old stomping grounds! He will also be joining us and will give us the insider's tour when we are there. We are glad to offer a mission trip again this year to our youth. It is a fun and special experience for all who participate, ask any young person who has previously done one. We will be having a follow up mission trip meeting at our TGIF! event on March 10th. If any families are interested, but unable to attend the meeting please call, text, or email Atif.



There is a non-refundable \$50 participation fee for any youth who would like to go on the mission trip. This is due by **Sunday, March 19th**. The total cost of the trip per person after the fee is currently \$400.00 and is due by April 26th. We want to make the trip affordable

for families of any St. Peter's youth who wants to participate. Moreover, like the Marines we don't leave anyone behind. We will be having some upcoming fundraisers to benefit our group, and I will be reaching out to some of our partners in the diocese and in the community who have supported us financially in the past, so that the cost for families can be reduced.

Also, we have several spaces available on our team and are planning to extend an invitation to youth who attend churches in the Southern Convocation and possibly other churches in the Diocese to join us. If families know of youth who attend these churches who might be interested in participating in a mission trip, please share Atif's email with their families.

Scholarships - For young people attending Maryland colleges or universities, State Senator Mary Beth Carozza. offers a scholarship to young people attending institutions of higher learning in the state. Contact her at marybeth.carozza@senate.state.md.us for details. For those pursuing visual, performing, playwright, media or communication arts as a minor or major, SWAC offers the Hyde Scholarships which offers up to \$3,000.00 per student. Applicants can be graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled in college. They must legally reside in Wicomico County or attend college in Wicomico County. Check out SWAC's website getswac.org for more details.



LENTEN EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Written by Father David

Take advantage of these opportunities to learn and explore during the Season of Lent.

"Let Us Pray"

The Well, Sundays in the library at 10:15am beginning February 26 will feature a study of prayer: "Let Us Pray." Led by both Father David and Pastor Greg. During this penitential season we will explore the many ways Christians engage in responding to God in prayer. All are invited to learn about the richness of prayers available to everyone in the church and how they can be applied to enhance the richness of one's prayer life. We will also call upon participants' experience with prayer and share with each other what has been meaningful in deepening one's relationship with God as well as people's frustrations and concerns. Click here for a schedule: <https://stpeterschurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Let-us-Pray-schedule.pdf>

Holy Week in the Holy Land

"Holy Week in the Holy Land" series in the Parish Hall 7pm on Tuesday evenings in Lent will be led by Father David, featuring stories and slides from his experience in the Holy Land related to Jesus' passion, from Palm Sunday on the Mount of Olives to the Resurrection in the tomb of Christ. We plan to livestream this series.

- Feb. 28: Palm Sunday: Mount of Olives and the Temple
- March 7: Maundy Thursday: Upper Room, Garden of Gethsemane
- March 14: Watch: Maundy Thursday to Good Friday: Denial, Trial
- March 21: Good Friday: Via Delarosa, Holy Sepulcher-Crucifixion
- March 28: Holy Saturday: Holy Sepulcher—Stone of Unction, Tomb

Book Discussion: First Fruits of Prayer

As part of our Lenten Discipline, Pastor Greg is extending an invitation to join him and Laura in reading the devotional book: First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journey Through the Canon of St. Andrew with commentary, reflections and questions by Frederica Mathewes Green.

In this fascinating and sometimes magisterial guided exploration of an eighth-century hymn that is central to Lenten religious practice for the Eastern Orthodox, Mathewes-Green encourages her readers not only to examine but also to personally apply fundamental Christian concepts like repenting, understand the nature of sin and experiencing God in prayer. While the orientation of the work is distinctively Eastern Orthodox, we who have been raised in the traditions of Western Christianity can gain much from it. Copies of the book will be available for \$15 donation at the church, or order online: AMAZON. Please plan for a weekly zoom conversation Sundays at 6pm. Send an email request to Pastor Greg: gph1952@icloud.com.

Retrace and Remember the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

30 minute liturgy of the Stations of the Cross

WALK THE WAY OF THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

March 31st - 7PM in the church

St. Peter's Church - 115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury 410.742.5118



All Holy Week Services are in-person worship and Livestream

Maundy Thursday 7PM Service	Good Friday Noon Service	Holy Saturday 8PM Service	Easter Sunday 7:30AM, 9AM & 11AM Services
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Holy Week at St. Peter's Church

115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury, MD 410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net

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ALTAR GUILD

Written by Kathy Fahey

The Altar Guild held its annual luncheon Saturday, January 28. There we said goodbye to Betsy Hanulak as she stepped down from her role as directress (but she will remain an active altar guild member — thank goodness!), and we said a glad hello to our new member, Cheryl Steczak. Julie Milliken and Kathy Fahey were installed as co-directresses at the 9:00 am service on Sunday.

Now we look forward to Lent and Easter. The most important liturgical season is the one that starts on Shrove Tuesday and ends on Easter Sunday. The weeks leading up to Easter are filled with music, vestments, and altar hangings that reflect the passion, suffering, mystery, and ultimately the triumph of Christ at His resurrection.

The tasks Altar Guild members perform during Lent and especially during Holy Week provide a visual enhancement to the sacred music and church services. They are visual sermons that complement the sermons delivered from the pulpit. And our ministry is more than a preparation for worship; it is worship itself. Through it we express our love for Jesus, the value we place on our fellow parishioners, and our care for the treasures entrusted to St. Peter's by the generations of worshippers who preceded us.

Holy Week is a joy that brings "all hands on deck." There is the drama of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and the Easter vigil — all culminating in Easter Sunday. The lilies and flowers that fill the church express the joy and renewal that is the essence of Easter, when we can say, "The Lord is risen," and echo, "The Lord is risen indeed."

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 23

St. Peter's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 23 at 9:30am in the Parish Hall. The meeting will be livestreamed as well, but you need to be present in the Parish Hall to vote. There will be no 9:00am worship service on that day. We are planning on an all parish breakfast beginning at 8:45am prior to the Annual Meeting. Worship will follow at 11am that day, with the Installation of Vestry members and officers.

Parishioners who have been active at St. Peter's for a year or more are eligible to vote in the elections. There are three 3-year Vestry positions open, as well as 3 Delegate and 3 Alternate positions for the 2024 Diocesan Convention. The Nominations Committee will be presenting a slate of candidates that will be publicized at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Those interested in these positions are encouraged to contact the Nominations Committee Chair Jeff Cottingham. Nominations can also be made on the floor on the day of the Parish Meeting.

Reports will be offered at the meeting by the Senior Warden and the Rector. Reports of St. Peter's committees and ministries will be available in print and on the website for download.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting the Vestry will meet to organize itself and elect officers.

Part of the ministry of the laity is "...to take their place in the life, worship and governance of the Church" (BCP page 855). Participating in the governance of the church through the Parish Meeting is part of your ministry as a lay member – please plan to attend your parish's Annual Meeting, an integral part of our life together as Episcopalians.



WHAT DOES A DEACON DO ANYWAY

Written by Deacon Laura

“The ministry of a Deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need...” The Catechism, BCP Page 856

In order to recognize those in need, you must have eyes to see. As I drive around Downtown Salisbury, I almost always see people walking. They may be walking to or from work, or on an errand, or wandering aimlessly enjoying the fresh air. Inevitably, I will see someone whose clothes are a little raggedy and thread worn wrapped around a body that is too thin. I am reminded of Jesus' words to his disciples in Matthew 26:11: “The poor you will always have with you.” The poor are indeed within Salisbury and the surrounding areas. Those experiencing homelessness have filled the available shelters. As of the evening of February 21st, there were only two family units available in Salisbury at the Christian Shelter; the other six shelters in the tri-county area were full. (Source: <https://somersethealth.org/homelessness/shelters-and-housing/>). The HHEH cold-weather shelter will close the end of March and approximately 30 men will be back out on the streets.



One could argue the local city government doesn't want the homeless downtown. I say that is irrelevant. Jesus Christ calls us to do more and be more. It is not enough to see the homeless walking around the city and turn a blind eye; we are called to respond positively to that need. We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In the February 16th edition of Peter's Post, you will find a brief article about the Outreach Committee studying a possible Saturday Day Shelter. This is an example of noticing and responding to needs. This proposed new ministry is in its infancy and much work still needs to be done. I pray that we, as a worshipping community, will figure out a way to support this ministry that will respond to the needs of the poor who will always be among us.

PASTORAL CARE

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

Our Lord Jesus calls us each and all to love one another, that is, to care for each other. That includes our various physical and personal needs, but also our spiritual needs. The differing ministries of the Pastoral Care Committee are intended to address some of those needs.

The committee is comprised of a number of teams each of which carries out a particular ministry. They are:

Hearts and Hands Knitting Group, Greeting Card and Grief Booklet Ministry, Transportation Team, New Baby Ministry, Eucharistic Visitor Team, Shepherding Ministry. In last month's Keynoter, we provided a brief description of each.



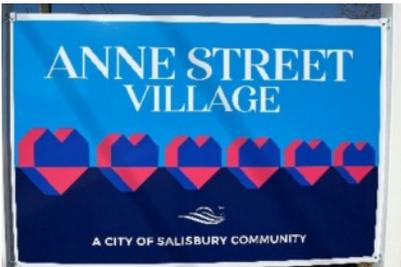
This month we are highlighting the renewed Shepherding Ministry. Our goal has been to have twelve shepherds to make phone and/or email contact with members of our congregation as we continue to deal with pandemic and related societal concerns. **We are still looking for 2 or 3 persons willing to serve as Shepherds.**

During our last gathering, we began creating a contact list and preparing to make phone calls, etc. Our final preparation and “Launch Meeting” will take place on Sunday, February 26th, 12:30 pm, in the Library and will include conversation regarding the “how to” of this ministry. If you would like to serve as a Shepherd, please contact Pastor Greg, 814-777-6289 or gph1952@icloud.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

Outreach Ministries continue to stay busy with a number of concurrent activities such as stocking the Blessing Box daily and collecting warm clothing, which was then delivered to the HHEH Cold Weather Shelter, Christian Shelter, HALO, Salvation Army, and WiMiddle School. We have also responded to a number of individual requests with food, warm clothing, and household goods. We sponsored a week in January at the HHEH Cold Weather Shelter providing food for all meals that week, and volunteers for the check-in desk. Additionally, we have continued to provide bagged lunches to the Joseph House on the fourth Tuesday of each month.



Last fall we committed to providing household goods for one of the pallet houses that have been placed at the Anne Street Village. These individual homes will provide transitional housing for 24 homeless men while they work through the steps needed to obtain their own home.

Brett Sanders and Joe Ruffo of the City of Salisbury's Housing and Community Development Department have worked tirelessly to get the Village up and running.

They've had a number of challenges to overcome and are still working through some issues.



At this time there is a shower/bathroom trailer on the premises and laundry services will be added in the future. Stay tuned for new developments.

On February 21st, Pastor Greg, Deacon Laura, Jimmy Hill and Lynn Tomczak had an opportunity to tour the Village and dropped off household items including a mini-refrigerator, microwave, captain's chair, area rug, folding table, bedding, towels, storage bins, and cleaning supplies.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (WIPCS)

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

As the weather continues it's crazy up and down this time of year, we're seeing crocus and daffodil blooms, budding trees, and roses. Soon it will be time to plan our gardens! In the latest Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake eNewsletter, there is an excellent article about choosing native and pollinator plants for our parish garden or for our personal gardens at home. This article contains links to planting lists and to native plant resources. Grab a cup of coffee, sit outside in the sunshine, and [read on here](#).

St. Peter's currently has a small Green Team, but we could always use more volunteers! Interfaith Partners is offering Faithful Green Leaders Team Training in March 2023. Training will be held via Zoom on Tuesdays March 2nd, March 9th, and March 16th, all from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. [Sign up for training here](#) as soon as possible!

You can find links to native plantings and Faithful Green Leaders Team training at: www.interfaithchesapeake.org.



EVANGELISM/FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Written by Jeff Cottingham

The Fellowship/Evangelism Committee helped with the set up and clean-up of the Epiphany dinner that Kelli and Fr. David Michaud cooked. The committee also assisted the Vestry with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. We are currently working on a schedule for refreshment offerings to accompany coffee hours after the Sunday services. We hope to have different groups within the church or groups of families team up to take a Sunday to provide refreshments. The committee is also planning for a Newcomer's Reception in the Parish Hall in March, participation in Third Friday activities on the Plaza beginning in April, and the parish Annual Meeting breakfast April 23rd. We would like to possibly have a St Patrick's Day or Easter dinner. Stay Tuned.

We are always looking for help, so if you would like to help this fun committee, please contact Linda Abbott, Jeff Cottingham, or Nancy Burdett. Thank you!



St. Peter's Church **ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, April 23rd - 9:30AM

BREAKFAST @ 8:45AM

Reports will be given and elections held for Vestry and Diocesan Convention Delegates. Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall.

The commissioning of the new Vestry members & officers will take place during the 11AM service.

Child care will be available during the meeting.

Holy Eucharist will be at 7:45AM & 11AM.



SAFE CHURCH SAFE COMMUNITIES

Written by Gil Allen, III

St. Peter's is currently in the process of implementing the "Safe Church Safe Communities" program and policy recently developed and adopted by the Episcopal Diocese of Easton. The Safe Church Safe Communities policy sets forth the expectations the church has for its leaders in their relationship with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. The purpose is to foster the highest standard of behavior in ministry settings.

The policy sets forth requirements of certain church leaders who minister to or regularly interact with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. The Diocese has provided access to an online Safe Church training platform which is a crucial tool for church membership and leaders. The training platform includes many videos and tutorials aimed at educating church members.

Father David has requested that I serve as St. Peter's Safe Church Administrator, and I have gladly accepted. Father David, the Vestry, and I are in the process of ensuring St. Peter's is in compliance with the Safe Church Safe Communities requirements. As such, you may be hearing from Father David or other church leadership regarding this policy with a request that you take one or more of the training programs on the platform.

If there are any questions regarding Safe Church Safe Communities, or if anyone would like more information regarding steps St. Peter's is taking to protect our vulnerable population, please feel free to reach out to me.

PARSONS CEMETERY

Written by Rick Fahey

We have so many projects going on at Parsons Cemetery it would take a lengthy article to describe them all. If you have not already, please like our Facebook page to keep up with what your church is doing in the community through Parsons Cemetery <https://www.facebook.com/Parsons-Cemetery-508735252495724/>. Please also visit our website <http://www.parsonscemetery.com/>

A few upcoming events:

On March 11th at 9:00 am, we will have our annual Spring Cleanup Day where we remove old decorations in preparation for Spring and Easter. Please come and help.



On March 18th at 1:00 pm, we will dedicate our new pet area. The area will feature a statue of Saint Francis made possible by donations from the congregation.



Adopt-A-Vet 2023 Campaign – At our 2022 Wreaths Across America event, we announced our campaign to place markers on the graves of 37 veterans who never received one. The cost of each marker will be about \$500, but partial donations are welcome. Follow the instructions below if you would like to donate.

ADOPT-A-VET 2023 CAMPAIGN

There are 37 veterans in Parsons Cemetery that never received a permanent marker. We are asking for your help in giving each veteran the recognition they deserve.

Visit our website to find out how you can help
<https://parsonscemetery.com/parsons-cc/adopt-a-vet-2023>



And, of course, on December 16th, we will host our annual Wreaths Across America Event where nearly 400 volunteers place wreaths on the graves of our nearly 1,400 veterans. Please donate wreaths and help us place them.

PLANNED GIVING

Written by Bryan Newton

The Planned Giving Committee continues its work to develop planned giving at St. Peter's. If you are interested in being part of the committee, please contact Bryan Newton at brylaw4936@yahoo.com.

We are still accepting enrollment forms to be founding members of *The 1768 Society*. *The 1768 Society* is a legacy society to recognize people who have made a provision for St. Peter's Episcopal Church in their estate, no matter how large or small. An enrollment form is available on our website. To become a founding member of *The 1768 Society*, return the form to any member of the Planned Giving Committee or to Cathy Parsons, Church Secretary. Founding members will be announced soon, with their permission, so please complete the form today.

If you need more information or just want to talk more about planned giving, contact one of our Planned Giving Shepherds – Linda Hurley, Bryan Newton, or Bill Wyatt. Each of them can put you in contact with resources to help you as you plan your estate.

VESTRY NOTES

Written by Bravard Cornbrooks, Registrar

The Vestry has made a number of decisions concerning the life of St. Peter's over the last several months. Here are the highlights of the Vestry's decisions at meetings in November and December 2022, and January and February 2023:

November 2022:

- Unanimously approved to reimburse Linda Abbott for the new microwave she purchased for the kitchen, with monies coming from the Property/Equipment Fund.
- The majority of the November meeting was discussing the 2023 budget proposal.

December 2022:

- Unanimously voted to move the remaining excess monies from the Sabbatical Fund into operating income
- Unanimously approved the revised 2023 budget
- Unanimously approved 2023 Annex budget
- Unanimously approved to pay the revised 2023 Diocesan pledge amount (\$56,729), which was adjusted from the actual apportionment (\$63,945.60) minus our PPP loan, and to send a letter to Bishop San explaining why we are paying less than the actual ask
- Unanimously approved Rector's 2023 housing allowance

January 2023:

- Unanimously approved to send a letter to the Diocese saying that St. Peter's will make a contribution to the Perusia Fund over the next few years in appreciation of the Diocese funding our upgraded wi-fi system for the Diocesan Convention.
- Unanimously approved payment for new toilets in the 2 bathrooms (across from the parlor) with funds being taken out of Property/Equipment Fund
- Unanimously approved April 23 for the Annual Meeting
- Unanimously approved Elizabeth Phillips' ordination to the Diaconate

February 2023:

- Motion passed (9 yes, 2 no, 2 abstain) to send the Memorandum of Understanding to Bishop San concerning the Pro-cathedral proposition to see what his reaction is
- Unanimously approved to send the Grant application to the Diocese for seed money for the proposed Outreach Committee project in the Annex
- Unanimously approved the proposal to move our security system to a cloud-based system because our current system is obsolete and no longer supported by our alarm system
- Unanimously approved 2023 Parsons Cemetery budget
- Unanimously approved to move the following Memorial Fund amounts:
 - Jan Adams (\$550) to Grounds Fund to purchase flowers and plants
 - Dr. Alex Azar (\$1,025) to Music Fund
 - Jim McCurdy (\$75) to Altar Guild Fund
 - Doc Chaffinch (\$2,028) to set up a separate Doc Chaffinch Memorial Choir School Fund for seed money to help students with vestments, uniforms and summer camp fees

As always, if anyone has questions about any of these issues, feel free to talk with a member of the Vestry.



ST. PETER'S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Reported by Hank Phillips, Treasurer

12/31/22	2022		2021
	<u>12 Months YTD Actual</u>	<u>12 Months Budget</u>	<u>12 Months YTD Actual</u>
INCOME			
Total Offerings	388,702	378,300	360,786
Total Other Sources	56,003	31,500	54,929
	<u>444,705</u>	<u>409,800</u>	<u>415,715</u>
Outside Investments			
Community Foundation Income	8,700	8,700	5,000
Hodgson Trust	7,663	4,500	4,306
Withdrawal from Endowment	18,000	64,208	10,000
Grants Income	3,000	0	0
	<u>37,363</u>	<u>77,408</u>	<u>19,306</u>
PPP Stimulus Money - obtained in 2020 & 2021	0	0	53,465
TOTAL INCOME	<u>482,068</u>	<u>487,208</u>	<u>488,487</u>
EXPENSES			
Church Staff Compensation	125,584	124,838	112,611
Clergy Compensation	169,475	168,986	161,789
Diocesan Apportionment	51,895	51,895	51,720
Outreach & Mission	41,585	37,500	36,883
Overhead	115,870	104,798	103,836
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>504,409</u>	<u>488,017</u>	<u>466,840</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME - with PPP Stimulus (if applicable)	<u>-22,341</u>	<u>-809</u>	<u>21,647</u>

2022 Offerings and Other Sources exceeded budget and prior year - an excellent outcome. There was only nominal use of Withdrawal From Endowment versus budget and no PPP Stimulus Money in 2022. The resultant TOTAL INCOME, while below budget and prior year should be viewed as a positive outcome. As noted in earlier quarters' Keynotes this year, EXPENSES in certain Outreach & Mission and Overhead categories ran over budget. The level of deficit in NET ORDINARY INCOME is considered acceptable. The Vestry and Finance Committee have reviewed and approved the above financial information.

Prepared for informational purposes only, not intended as an official document.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Written by Father David

St Peter's ancient facilities require a lot of maintenance and repair, and this winter has been no exception. Here are some of the property projects your Property Committee has been overseeing. The ceiling light bulbs in the church were replaced in February. An outside light was installed to light the church parking lot at night. Work was done on the parking lot Parish House door, since it was not closing properly. The wi-fi system in the church, Parish House and annex building was upgraded. The office computer system migrated from a server-based system to a cloud-based system.

Projects planned: the outside plexiglass on all the stained-glass windows will be replaced by the end of March which should bring more light into the church. The new commercial dishwasher for the kitchen has been on backorder for months. The first-floor bathrooms will have their toilet fixtures replaced. Absolute Security will be installing a new, cloud-based security system. It may mean having to exchange fobs for new fobs once the system is in place – fob users will be notified if this needs to happen.

Parishioner Linda Abbott has accepted the volunteer position of Kitchen Manager, with the unanimous consent of the Property Committee.

The Property Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 8:15am in the Parish Hall and is always welcoming new members. Contact Property Committee Chair Sean Fahey for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 24 - Evensong on the Feast of the Eve of the Annunciation

March 31 - Stations of the Cross

April 7 - Good Friday Service

April 8 - Easter Vigil

April 9 - Easter Sunday Services & Children's Easter Egg Hunt

April 23 - Annual Parish Meeting

May 21 - Senior Graduate Blessing



St
Peters
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Instagram



For a complete & up to date Church Calendar, visit the Parish website @ www.stpeterschurch.net



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
115 ST. PETER'S STREET
SALISBURY, MD 21801