

The *KEYNOTER*



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

410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net

FALL 2023

ENGAGING IN LIFELONG CHRISTIAN FORMATION

St. Peter's Vestry has set a goal for the parish to build and encourage faith formation in our youth ministries, adult education ministries, and outreach ministries. The Episcopal Church understands Christian formation to be the lifelong process of growing in relationship with God, self, others and all creation. In this process, we are transformed into the people God wants us to be. The Episcopal Church has gracefully articulated how we answer God's call in the [Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation](#).

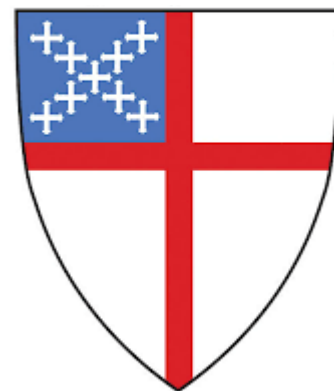
"To work on this goal, the Vestry and I challenge people of St. Peter's to undertake some act of Christian formation here in the parish this fall," said Father David Michaud. "We have identified many opportunities of Christian formation for parishioners to choose from, and I encourage you to take up the challenge and through formation deepen your relationship with God and God's people." Besides regular attendance at worship, here are some opportunities to learn, participate and serve you may want to consider this fall:

For Youth:

- Attend Sunday School or Youth Group meetings
- Serve at the Altar
- Become a lector
- Go on a Youth Mission Trip
- Help out with outreach efforts and acts of kindness
- Check out the Choir School
- Participate in VBS

For Adults:

- Get involved and use your gifts in one of St. Peter's many ministries (attend the Ministry Fair on Sept. 10 to see all the opportunities you can be part of)
- Attend the Sunday morning Well discussion series
- Sing, play or ring in one of our music ministries
- Join a Bible study, in person or on-line
- Come to the church during the week for Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer
- Sign up for the Sacred Ground Tuesday evening series
- Read the parish book of the month and take part in the book discussion
- Help out with the Joseph House meal
- Volunteer for the Men's Cold Shelter
- Help with our ministry to our partner school Wi-Middle
- Be a shepherd for our homebound parishioners
- Join our knitting ministry: Hearts and Hands Knitting
- Help support the Blessing Box and other outreach to the needy



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Through learning, participation and outreach, we continue to be formed into followers of Christ. Make the commitment to try a faith formation action at St. Peter's this fall. It'll be good for your soul.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES

After Labor Day we return to our usual Sunday worship schedule beginning Sept. 11th: 7:45am Holy Eucharist Rite I, 9am Holy Eucharist Rite II with the band and organ, and 11am Sung Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir and organ.

We will continue this schedule through Christmas. One exception: with the Maryland Folk Festival scheduled in downtown Salisbury for September 22-24, there will not be an 11am service on Sunday, September 24 because the downtown closes to vehicular traffic at 10:30am. The 7:45am and 9am services will be held on September 24. We will be livestreaming all the 9am and the 11am services this fall on our website, Facebook page, You Tube Channel and the Boxcast app.

ST. PETER'S MINISTRY FAIR

St. Peter's annual Ministry Fair will take place Sunday morning, September 10, in the Parish Hall from 8:30am to 11:00am. All St. Peter's many ministries and programs have been invited to reserve a table and exhibit information about themselves. This is your opportunity to learn more about what's going on at St. Peter's and to see what you might want to be part of. There will be opportunities to sign up and take information and speak to people that are part of ministries in which you may have an interest.

In addition, registration for Sunday School (pre-K through Elementary School), Youth Group (Middle and High School) and Choir School (ages 7- 17) will be happening at the Ministry Fair.

The event is hosted by the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee, who will be providing the refreshments. On this Sunday the Ministry Fair replaces our usual coffee hour in the parlor. For those attending the 11am service, please arrive a half hour early so you have time to visit the Ministry Fair.

SAFE CHURCH COMMUNITIES

The Episcopal Church has updated its policies and training for those who work with children and youth in the church and has incorporated new policies and training for those working with the elderly in its Safe Church Safe Communities program. The Diocese of Easton has adopted policies that govern these activities at St. Peter's and parishioner Gil Allen III has agreed to be St. Peter's Safe Church coordinator.

Over the next few weeks church staff and leadership, teachers and youth workers, Eucharistic Visitors and others will be completing online training and background checks for Safe Church with the goal that this fall St. Peter's will have in place all those certified to provide the parish with a Safe Church environment. Anyone who does not agree with the policies or refuses to complete the training will not be allowed to work with children, youth or the elderly.

To view the diocesan policy, go to: [DOE Safe Church Policies](#).



St. Peter's stands with our community in the fight against addiction.

WICOMICO GOES PURPLE IS AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOCUSED ON PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND WILL EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANT ROLE OUR ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES PLAY TO COMBAT THIS EPIDEMIC.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dearly Beloved: There is an old Episcopal joke about confirmation: when folks receive the sacrament of confirmation in their youth they call it their church graduation – it marks the occasion when an Episcopalian’s learning days are over.

The truth is, to become more like Christ in our lives, our learning days are never over. As our leadership reminds us it is what the church calls “lifetime faith formation.” From our baptisms until our last days we are called to continue forming ourselves to be more like Christ. And that means continuing to learn, through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures, reading things like devotionals, the lives of the saints, theological reflections and explanations, learning about our faith and challenges in our lives. Also learning by doing, for in service to others and for others we gain a deeper understanding of Jesus’ commandment to love one another. How important is lifetime faith formation for you?



To commit to lifelong faith formation requires devoting some time to your faith, and making commitments and obligations to learning and doing things in your faith community. We are all tremendously busy and, if we let it, our faith could take a back seat to our life priorities. Perhaps this fall you could pencil into your calendar an opportunity or two to engage in some faith formation to enrich your understanding and deepen your relationship with Christ and fellow believers. Here at St. Peter’s there are many such opportunities. You’ll see them on display at our Ministry Fair on September 10 and a list of opportunities to learn, participate and serve can be found here: [Opportunities for Service at St. Peter’s](#).

How about some “post-graduate work” this fall for all who have been confirmed? (And if you’re not yet confirmed, check out the Inquirers Class article in this issue – it meets Nov-Jan). There’s a lifetime of faith formation ahead of you!

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Written by Senior Warden, Jeff Cottingham

“I believe this is my last article as your Senior Warden.” This is the statement at the beginning of my last article for our parish newsletter...

Apparently, your Vestry, Rector, and a certain someone’s spouse, who will remain unnamed, had other ideas. So, I will borrow a line from Hollywood and just say “I’m back.”

I would like to share some information with you regarding our parish goals for the next year. At our August meeting, the Vestry approved these goals:

- Explore and implement use of technology and social media to enhance and grow our ministries by increasing social media presence and use of on-line marketing and developing resources for delivering faith formation opportunities.
- Build and encourage faith formation for children, youth, adults, and for outreach by developing opportunities to include children and youth in music ministry, encouraging youth participation in worship by increasing involvement in serving at the altar, alternating St. Peter’s and St. Alban’s location of VBS; by engaging adults in a variety of faith formation education activities and spiritual practices; and having parishioners actively participate in parish outreach ministries such as Joseph House lunches, Living Waters Center, men’s cold weather shelter, blessing box, and Wi Middle outreach, and developing volunteer job descriptions and sign up system to encourage parishioners to live out their faith collectively to those in need.
- Balance the budget and grow the endowment to \$1 million+ by having the 2023 Stewardship Campaign raise additional pledge funds for 2024 to fund current staffing and operations and planning and implementing a multi-year Endowment Campaign.



A part of one of these goals has gathered the most attention from members of the congregation, that being the Living Waters Center. The Outreach Committee is still working on a document to answer the Vestry’s questions about this plan to use the basement of the annex building. The Vestry has not decided on the future of this project but hopes to in September

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or October. I encourage any and everyone who has thoughts on this project to please reach out to me via email – jeffcottingham@yahoo.com. My belief is that the Wardens and Vestry are representatives of the congregation and as such, I want to hear from you all. I will keep your comments anonymous when I forward information to the Executive Committee and Vestry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Written by Emily Atkin & Jamie Scott

St. Peter's Children's and Youth Ministries love, inspire, and equip children and youth to be disciples of Christ and faithfully serve their community.

We are looking forward to the beginning of Sunday School for the 2023-2024 school year. We will continue to incorporate the lectionary gospel lesson with fun activities like lego building, painting and play doh. We will also incorporate old testament lessons.

Our yearly Leadership Launch will take place in the St. Peter's Education Annex on Saturday, September 9th for leaders and teachers. We will register Sunday School children during the ministry fair on Sunday September 10th. Registration forms will also be available online on our Children's section of the St. Peter's website.

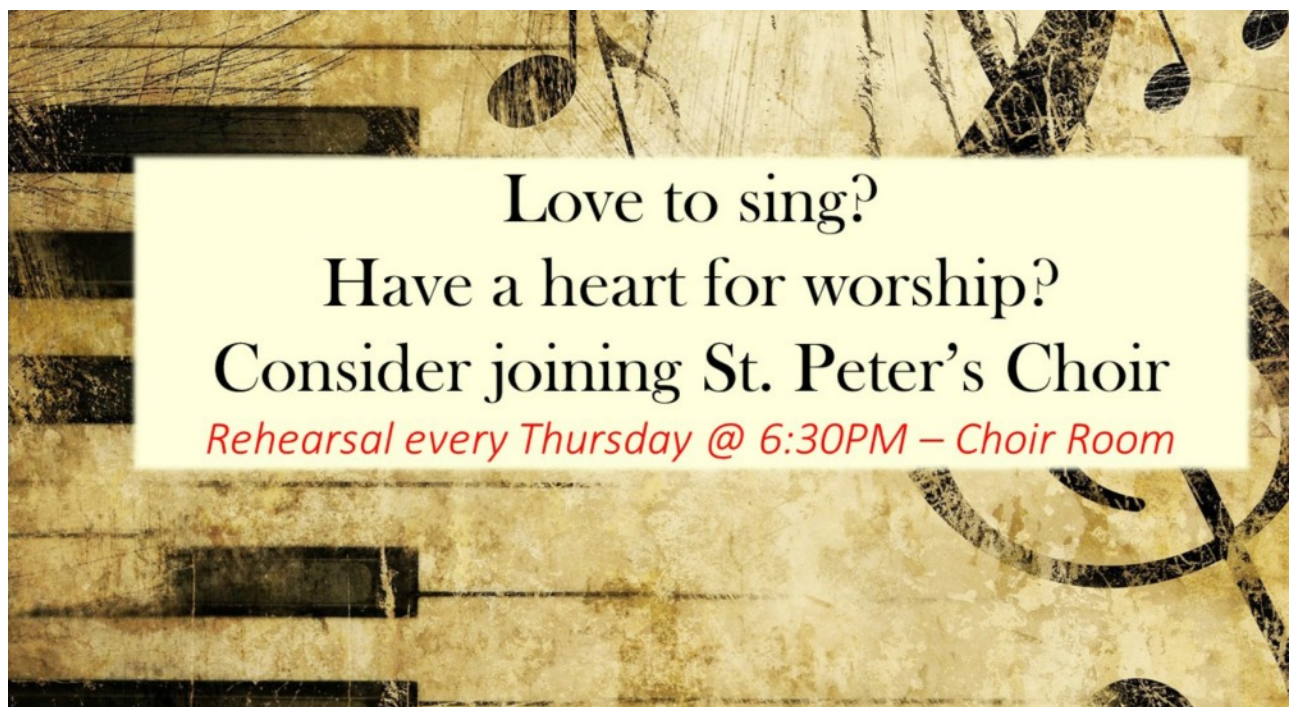
Sunday School lessons will officially start on September 17th with the annual outreach activity of filling bags with supplies for Wi-Middle students. We also plan to make bags for the homeless in the winter to help support the men's shelter program in Wicomico County. We will have an ongoing outreach project with the Card Ministry.

Our normal Advent party is always a fun way to wrap up the fall, and we will make crafts and enjoy food and fellowship during our annual event.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who each add to our ministry in many ways. We are thankful for everyone who helps, brings supplies and supports our ministry. We encourage you to have your families sign up for our emails so they can join in our fun.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Written by Nancy Linck - St. Alban's

Up to 20 children representing St. Peter's, Faith Lutheran, and St. Alban's as well as a family from the community enjoyed daily Bible stories, art and STEM projects at our joint VBS from July 24 to July 28 at St. Alban's Church. Activities around the themes as courage/strength, love, humility, acceptance and bravery were intermixed with visits into the community garden, Pocomoke Park Ranger with turtle, snake and eel friends, and Garry Moore, an leg amputee. But, I have to say decorating and flying kites was indeed a complete joy all around.

I would like to thank our rectors, Margaret Brack and David Michaud, and kitchen elves, Jim Cockey and Michelle Ben. Members of our VBS committee include Leighann Yackel (St. Alban's), Katie Fowlkes (Faith Lutheran) and Emily Atkin (St. Peters) and have been instrumental in creating and executing a very successful and memorable VBS.



YOUTH GROUP - Setting Goals

Written by Atif Gaddis

A new school year is right around the corner! Young people will be back to the familiar routine of waking up early during the week, studying, perhaps late into the night, participating in extra-curricular events, and for some working part time jobs. These are all very important activities in a young person's life. Another crucial element is Christian worship and service.

What I hope is that we will all set the goal over the next academic year to prioritize our Christian obligations in the midst of the busyness and sometimes chaos of our everyday lives. It's good to work on these things as a young person because as you get older, and I speak from experience, there will be more things to consume the precious few hours you have in a day. What is great is that the church doesn't leave you alone to figure this out. Worship is offered every day whether it's the Daily Prayer services or Sunday worship. There are even opportunities for young people to participate in Sunday worship, whether it's serving in the altar, ushering, reading, or singing in one of the church's musical groups. Through Youth Group, young people can gather for fellowship and participate in Christian Service projects throughout the year, learning about and serving the needs of others in our community.

We also want to take the opportunity to work on the softer habits of the Christian faith, namely praying and reading the scriptures. Again, I'll be honest with you-- it can be difficult to commit to doing these things regularly, and some days it seems like you have no time for them, despite the fact that you found time to do everything else you wanted to do that day. I know too often that's been my experience, but we hope to encourage our young people in these softer habits because it is through them that we know God more fully.

I am not a parent, but I do recognize the difficulty at times of that great blessing and responsibility; I was a teenager once myself after all. It's important, therefore, to encourage and support parents in their roles. In addition to parenting, mothers and fathers are called to be evangelists. In Deuteronomy 11:19, God, through Moses commanded parents to teach God's Word and laws "to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Parents have a holy obligation and a holy privilege to tell their sons and daughters about God, to share with them the Good News of Jesus Christ. In addition to much prayer, we will offer resources that families can use in their own prayer and devotional times together.

There's a lot of uncertainty in the world right now with its various turmoils. Moreover, it appears that there is very little that we can depend on in this world. It is my prayer that our church community can be a place of stability and that we will all seek true hope and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS

The XI Bishop of Easton, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, will be administering the Sacrament of Confirmation during his annual visit to St. Peter's on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Father David Michaud and Karen Papke-Shields will be team-teaching a High School Confirmation Class this fall to prepare our youth to receive the sacrament when the bishop visits. Students must be of high school age, generally ages 14 to 18, to take the class.

Classes are held Sundays at 12:30pm until 2:00pm in the Youth Group Room of the Parish Annex Building. A proposed schedule has been drafted with meetings tending to be held every other Sunday, generally alternating with the Youth Group, from October through January.

We will be using the curriculum for the class written by an Episcopal Deacon: *I Will with God's Help*. Each student will receive at the start a Journal book and their own Book of Common Prayer and have access to a Bible.

An orientation meeting for parents and students is scheduled for Sunday, September 17 at 12:30pm in the Youth Group Room on the second floor of the Parish Annex Building. Those interested should contact the Parish Office very soon so materials for the class can be ordered.

For more information - There is a confirmation class page on the Parish website which contains the schedule and other pertinent information you'll need, available 24/7. Here's the link: <https://stpeterschurch.net/confirmation/>.

ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRIES

Written by James Wallace

A New Season - St. Peter's Music Program

With the arrival of James Wallace as St. Peter's new Director of Music at the beginning of August, we look forward to a new musical season and the opportunity to build on the great legacy of fine church music in our parish.

James has been a longtime music director in Episcopal boarding schools and parishes. He is a choral and orchestral conductor, a singer, a composer/arranger and an organist. The parish will get the opportunity to hear some of his original choral works this season. In his school work he also taught advanced placement music theory for many years.



As James gets up to speed and brings programs back online for the fall, there are some important dates to get on your calendars now.

St. Peter's will return to three services on September 10, with the band and singers at the 9am service and the choir at the 11am service. If you are interested in taking part in either musical group, please contact James at jamesw@stpeterschurch.net.

St. Peter's will also be restarting the Choir School of the Eastern Shore in September. An initial informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. If you have a child who would like to sing, or if you are interested in volunteering to serve on the board or help with the running of the program, please let James know.

Mark your calendar:

AUGUST 2023

29 Tue 7:00pm Choir School interest meeting

SEPTEMBER 2023

10 Sun. Return to three services

15 Fri. 6:30pm. Remembrance and Hope Memorial Vigil for people impacted by addiction [during Third Friday]

NOVEMBER 2023

17 Fri 6:30pm Classics for a Cause (during Bazaar)

DECEMBER 2023

3 Sun 7:00pm Advent Lessons and Carols

17 Sun 6:30pm Messiah All-Sing



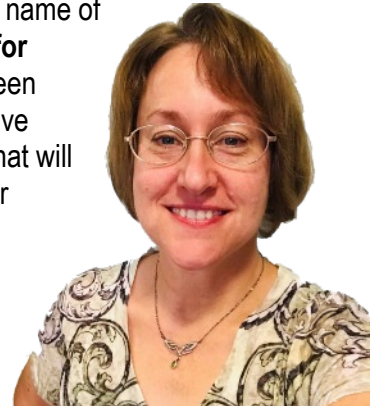
DEACON'S MINISTRY: Care For The Homeless

Written by Deacon Laura

Planning and discussion continues regarding the Saturday Day Shelter program which was presented to the congregation at our annual meeting in April. Our Rector, Fr. David Michaud, has suggested changing the name of

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business, and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.
- Thomas Merton

the proposed ministry to St. Peter's Episcopal Church **Center for Living Waters** which fits perfectly for the ministry which has been proposed. Members of the Outreach Committee and clergy have been busy gathering information and developing a document that will answer the questions brought forth by the congregation via four listening sessions and emails received last spring.



We await remodeling figures from a local architect, which is taking more time than expected. Once the last bit of financial information has been gathered, it will be incorporated into the document and presented to the full Outreach Committee for comments and feedback. Afterwards, the proposed ministry and completed document will be presented to the Vestry for approval, hopefully in September. Upon approval, the document will be shared with the parish for additional comments and feedback.

St. Peter's has a history of serving the homeless. We have been providing meals to homeless people once a month at Joseph House for over 30 years. We were one of the founding churches of the Community Emergency Shelter Program when it began nearly 20 years ago. The last time we hosted the men in the parish hall was in Winter 2020—just before the COVID-19 pandemic shut everything down. Prior to that, St. Peter's offered a soup kitchen every Friday which provided lunch to the community, including those who were homeless and the working poor.

St. Peter's has this rich history, yet something has happened between the years of actively reaching out and engaging with our homeless and food insecure brothers and sisters and today. Perhaps it is because the people who had taken such an active role in outreach ministries have left the church and/or passed away. Maybe it is because of the pandemic. Perhaps it is because of the current political climate. Possibly we have just gotten out of the habit of caring for other people not within our own sphere.

Have we, as the body of Christ in this place, somehow become distracted by outside influences? Have we forgotten what our Baptismal Vow to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves" really means?

I realize that the proposed Center for Living Waters ministry has produced quite a bit of anxiety and fear; that is understandable. When I am in that place of confusion, I ask myself what and why am I feeling this way and what does that say about my relationship with the God? Am I not praying enough so I do not hear God's voice anymore? Am I not trusting in what He is asking me to do? Is God really asking ME to do the thing that is causing my anxiety, or is He saying, "it's okay to let it go...I have prepared someone else"?

Has God prepared you to actively engage, face-to-face with the homeless? He **has** prepared me, and I am willing to do the work. As are many others within and without St. Peter's. It is okay if that is not the case for you in this situation. Trust that God has St. Peter's in His hands and no harm will come to any of us who attend St. Peter's or to those whom we are called to serve. Trust that those who have been prepared for this ministry not only know, but are also willing to be the ones to share the love of Christ to our homeless brothers and sisters in our neighborhood.

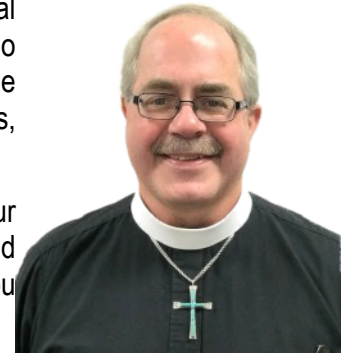


PASTORAL CARE

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

In keeping with our Lord's command to *"love one another as I have loved you,"* the Pastoral Care Committee provides ongoing care and support to congregation members and others who need prayer, connection, support and help. During the past several months, we have been able to reach out to numerous folks with prayer shawls, greeting cards, phone calls, visits, grief booklets, transportation to church services and elsewhere, meals and food, and more.

Father David, Pastor Greg and Deacon Laura continue to be active in visitation along with our **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Teams**. We are continually updating our roster of persons who would like to be visited and receive Holy Communion. Let the church office know if you, or someone you know, would like to be visited.



What is a Lay Eucharistic Visitor? Members of the congregation have participated in a brief training/development class to prepare them for visiting homebound or hospitalized persons on a regular or requested basis. They offer prayer, scripture and conversation as they bring the pre-sanctified/consecrated Holy Sacrament. A new **Lay Eucharistic Visitor class** is planned for **October 14th, 9AM-3:30PM**, through the **Bishop's Institute** to be held at St. Paul Episcopal Church, Hebron (Rte. 50). If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Greg or Deacon Laura.

Hospitalizations and visitations in some care facilities are an ongoing concern. **Please contact the church office** if you or someone you know is **going into the hospital or another care facility**. That will allow our Clergy to make contact and arrange appropriate care. The hospital does not notify clergy - we rely on you let us know.

Many thanks to those who serve on this committee for all the work they have done and continue to do, even as we meet today. And thanks to the congregation for your support, provisions and contributions of time and money.

Committee activities and their coordinators are—

Linda Abbott: Meals Ministry provides meals following surgery, moving and other times as requested.

Betsy Brooks: Grief Booklet Ministry sends a four-booklet series from Stephen Ministry. These booklets have been well-received by members and others.

Bravard Cornbrooks: Transportation, New Baby Ministries assist members with transportation to church, appointments and other needed occasions as we are able. **If you would like to help with transportation of others**, please contact Bravard. Also, as new babies arrive, the newborn is given a hand-knit baby blanket, other items, meals and other support to the parents and caregivers.

Betty Evans: Greeting Card Ministry sends birthday and other occasional cards to adult members.

Becky Kerrigan: Heart and Hands Knitting/Crocheting Ministry provides hand-knit items including prayer shawls, mini-prayer shawls, baby blankets, knit caps, lap blankets and gift scarves for graduating seniors.

We continue to look for ways to serve the congregation and others. **If you would like to help with any of these ministries, or would like to receive ministry**, please contact the appropriate coordinator or Pastor Greg.

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, September 17th**, in the Library, following the 11:00 Holy Eucharist (around 12:15). *"Truly I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these, my sisters and brothers, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40*



ALTAR GUILD

Written by Julie Milliken

We all know Christianity has existed for over two thousand years. But did you know that Altar Guilds have only been around for a little over a hundred years? It's true!

Back in the times of the apostles, followers gathered in private homes to share memories of Christ, his teachings and to break bread in his memory. The homeowner provided whatever was needed for the meal and cleaned up afterwards. When actual parish ministry developed around the fourth century, ordained clergy (known as sacristans) prepared for services, cleaned the churches and took care of the items used during worship.

It was not until the nineteenth century that women became involved, but only as assistants to the sacristans. At the beginning of the twentieth century women began to organize into what we now know as Altar Guilds, eventually taking on all of the duties of the sacristans. Fast forward to the twenty-first century and today women, men and even young adults are involved in the ministry of the Altar Guild.

Not everyone wants to read a lesson aloud in front of the congregation or stand "center stage" on the altar. The Altar Guild is a ministry of quiet service. It is more "behind the scenes." Serving on the Altar Guild can help one understand how each of the items in our worship has a significant meaning. It is also a peaceful and contemplative way to enhance your relationship with God. If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild, please contact any member. See you in the sacristy!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

St. Peter's various outreach ministries have been quietly working in the background as usual. The **Blessing Box** is being filled with easy-to-eat foods, toiletries, and cold water during the summer on a regular schedule by parishioners and the community. We very much appreciate those parishioners who donate the items requested each month; it has been very helpful.

The **Christmas in August program to benefit WiMiddle School** is currently underway. Thank you so much to those folks who have purchased the items shown on the ornaments. The current donations already fill up a large storage bin! Collections will continue through Sunday, September 3rd and will be delivered to the school shortly after. Related materials will be available on the table outside of the parlor.

Wicomico Goes Purple will kick-off on Saturday, September 9th at the Shorebirds Stadium. Nearly 30 parishioners, families, and friends will gather for a fun evening of baseball! Wicomico Goes Purple strives to promote conversations about the dangers of substance misuse and encourages our community to take a stand against it. For the month of September, we will light our tower purple and include the Book of Common Prayer's prayer #56 – "For the Victims of Addiction" as a sign of our support.

St. Peter's volunteers have faithfully provided lunches to **Joseph House** once a month for over 30 years. Since COVID, we have been preparing bagged lunches which are dropped off every fourth Tuesday so the Joseph House staff can hand them out. Sr. Virginia recently contacted St. Peter's to advise they will be moving to hot lunches in the month of October. In order for St. Peter's to continue to provide this ministry to Joseph House, *we will need more volunteers* (there is enough money in the Outreach budget). Jimmy Hill has requested volunteers for the following positions:

- One person to assist Jimmy in the kitchen to prepare the meal. This person will need to be able to lift at least 25-30 pounds, which includes the heavy pots and pans needed for cooking and for transporting the food in insulated carriers.
- One person to assist Jimmy at Joseph House with plating the prepared food and salad. This can be the same person who helped prepare the meal or a different person.

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Outreach Ministry continued from page 10

- Three to four people to serve the guests in the dining room.
- One person to serve as host, letting guests into the dining room and keeping count. It is preferable this person be a man (or woman) as long as he/she feels comfortable engaging with the guests in a firm but kind manner.

Please contact Deacon Laura at laurah@stpeterschurch.net if you have any questions or to volunteer.

INQUIRER'S CLASS BEGINS NOV. 29

Interested in becoming Episcopalian or just curious about the church? Already Episcopalian but want to know more about the faith? Have some questions about worship, or practices, or beliefs, or something else associated with the Episcopal Church? Sign up and take part in this fall's adult Inquirer's Class, Tuesday evenings at 7pm. We will meet in the parish library room beginning on Tuesday, November 29. This six sessions class examines Episcopal worship, the prayer book, church history, beliefs, church organization, practices and more. The class is informal and can be tailored to topics the group wants to explore. A schedule and a list of topics is available on the parish website:

<https://stpeterschurch.net/inquirers-class/>. It is a class for anyone who has a question about the church, anyone who is interested in being Episcopalian, and those interested in being confirmed or received as adults in the church.

This class is required for any adult wishing to be confirmed or received by the Bishop of Easton when he visits St. Peter's on January 21, 2024, although you don't have to be a candidate to take the class.

Because there are materials that need to be ordered, those interested in taking the class are asked to **register in advance by November 15**. Contact Father David in the parish office, giving your name and contact information and saying you are interested in attending the Inquirer's Class: 410-742-5118. davidm@stpeterschurch.net. There is no charge and anyone is welcomed to attend. The class will be led by the Rector, the Very Rev. David Michaud.

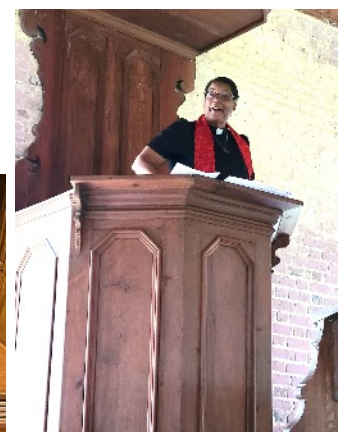
OLD GREEN HILL CHURCH SUNDAY

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

On Sunday, August 27th, members of the daughter churches of Old Green Hill Church (St. Bartholomew's) gathered for the annual service and picnic. All clergy from the four daughter churches attended with our rector, Fr. David, presiding. The Rev. Margaret Brack, St. Alban's, was preacher; Deacon Elizabeth Phillips, St. Philip's, was the Gospeler; Pastor Greg was the Psalmist and assisted during communion; Deacon Laura was Deacon-of-the-Table, assisted by Ella Fenoglietto, Acolyte/Crucifer. St. Peter's Altar Guild lovingly prepared the altar, and John Phillips provided fresh cut flowers that he grew in his garden. Our new music director, James Wallace, played the electric piano and the combined choir raised the roof!



After the service, all gathered for a picnic on the Wicomico River where delicious fried chicken from The Red Roost and side dishes from the Deli at Pecan Square was consumed. Additionally, the Green Hill Committee sold hand-turned cherry wood bowls and vases made by Megan Fenoglietto's father, Frank. Over \$900 was raised to go toward preservation projects for Green Hill.



S.P.A.C.E.

Written by Pastor Greg

S.P.A.C.E. the Final Frontier? Possibly. **St. Peter's Adult Christian Education** Committee invites you to explore one or more of the adult formation opportunities offered this fall.

"Clergy in the Well.." will take place **Sunday mornings** beginning after the 9:00AM Holy Eucharist Liturgy, around **10:15AM**, in the Library. This could be like Joseph in the well! But, really, Father David, Pastor Greg and/or Deacon Laura will be available for conversation, questions, commentary and more beginning **September 10th**. The floor is open (and there will be a "back pocket" topic if needed).

Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study, 8-9AM in the Library. Join the conversation that follows the devotional **Forward Day by Day** while enjoying coffee and donuts! Facilitated by the group with help from Phil and Rocky.

Thursday Morning Bible Study, 9-10AM will be venturing into the **Book of Ecclesiasticus, aka Wisdom of Jesus ben Sirach**, an Apocryphal writing intended to guide God's People during a time of struggle with temptation of cultural assimilation. Join us with Pastor Greg as we read and discuss this wise and prudent book via **ZOOM**. To participate, send Pastor Greg an email at gph1952@icloud.com or greg@stpeterschurch.net He will send you a ZOOM link to join the group.

"Thinking the Faith," in-person or via ZOOM!

Following the adage, "faith seeks understanding," join Pastor Greg in a book reading adventure as we peruse a tome and join in thoughtful conversation regarding matters of faith and life. Reading will take place in advance, so we have plenty of time to talk. Books of or relating to Christian thought will be featured.

Our initial offering will be **Robert W. Jenson's, A Theology in Outline: Can These Bones Live?**, 2016, Oxford Press. Dr. Jenson was a beloved and respected teacher, mentor and friend of Pastor Greg. The book is available via Barnes and Noble, Amazon or other book sellers (also used books via Alibris.com or Abebooks.com) either in print or digital format. The first gathering will be on **Wednesday September 27th, 7:00PM**. We will finish no later than 8:30PM. Please read Preface, Introduction (background for the book) and Chapter 1: "What is Theology?"

From the preface by Dr. Jenson: *"I must reflect on what I was trying to do in the lectures on which this book is based. The title of the book—A Theology in Outline—does not quite capture what I was trying to give the undergraduates who attended those lectures. I think the best word for what I wanted to give them is "taste": I wanted them to taste a bit of Christian theology, that unaccustomed food, in hopes that they might find it savory."*

We will discern the preferred frequency of these potentially savory gatherings as part of our first conversation. In order to join via ZOOM, please send an email to Pastor Greg, gph1952@icloud.com. If you have questions or concerns, or if you would like help with purchasing the book, please contact Pastor Greg.

****Amazon currently has best price for a new hard copy; an arrival date of Sept. 8-9 for hard copy.**

Happy Fall y'all!



“SACRED GROUND” SERIES OFFERED

Sacred Ground is an Episcopal Church film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. A small group is invited to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, inspired by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and endorsed by the General Convention as the Episcopal Church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

St. Peter’s will be offering the series on the zoom platform only, Tuesdays from 7pm to 8:30pm, beginning on September 19. Those who participate will form a dialogue circle for the duration of the series. It is a challenging program that includes reading materials and watching videos as well as frank and honest discussions, all led by trained facilitators. Father David will be one of the participants and encourages other parishioners to join him as part of the dialogue circle.

There are two optional books for the class: [Waking Up White](#) and [Jesus for the Disinherited](#). For more information and a link to the zoom meetings, go to the Sacred Ground series page on the parish website: <https://stpeterschurch.net/sacred-ground/>.

EVANGELISM/FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Written by Jeff Cottingham

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee has been very busy the last few months. We set up/cooked and cleaned up from the annual parish meeting and breakfast, hosted a St. Patrick’s Day dinner, hosted the annual parish picnic at Cedar Hill Park, participated in several Third Friday events on the plaza in conjunction with the City of Salisbury, made a trip to Bordeleau, hosted a reception for James Wallace, and made and transported beverages to Green Hill for the annual service. We are now planning for fall events including: a newcomer’s reception, Third Fridays in September and October, Ministry Fair, and Sunday coffee hours. Additionally, we will update St. Peter’s brochure, make sure visitor cards are in pews and have visitor packets to hand out.

We could really use some help! Please contact Linda Abbott, Jeff Cottingham, or Nancy Burdett if you can join us. Thank you!

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

St. Peter’s is seeking new members to serve on its Green Team! Interested people can sign up for “Faithful Green Leader Training” through Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. This class will help you engage with other members of St. Peter’s Green Team, help the team develop an action plan for future activities/projects, and help keep our grounds looking beautiful! You don’t have to be a “leader” to participate...any interested parishioner is welcome to join the team!

The next class is coming up will be in October on three successive Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm: October 12th, October 19th, and October 26th. All classes are free and will be offered via Zoom. Additionally, you will receive emails from IPC on upcoming webinars or in-person activities across the Eastern Shore. A copy of the Green Team Leader Training brochure may be found [here](#).

To learn more and to register, please visit: www.interfaithchesapeake.org/greenteams. Questions? Email greenteams@interfaithchesapeake.org or call 410-609-6852. Please let Deacon Laura know if you register so she can include you in future green-team related activities!

PARSONS CEMETERY

Written by Rick Fahey

PRESERVING HISTORY, REMEMBERING LIVES



The Parsons Cemetery Advisory Committee continues to work to maintain and upgrade our cemetery. We rely on donations, grants, and volunteers for anything beyond basis operational costs. We thank you for your continuing support. For more information, follow us on Facebook and visit our website Parsonscemetery.com



PARSONS CEMETERY Home Page About Cemetery Map Sales & Services Delmarva Pet Cemetery Preserving History Cemetery



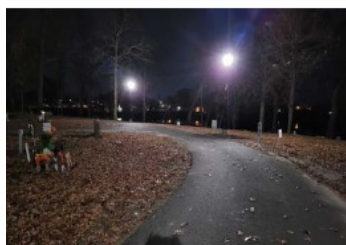
The Delmarva Pet Garden provides a place to respectfully inter the ashes of beloved pets. It was made possible by a donation from a friend that was concerned that no such service was offered in our area. The statue of Saint Francis was given by the Parishioners or Saint Peter's Episcopal Church.



Unmarked veterans are currently marked with a temporary cross during Wreaths Across America. This one needs to be replaced with a real one. This one needs repair.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dr. Brent Zaprowski, we have now identified nearly 1400 veterans. Some have no markers, so we launched our Adopt-A-Vet campaign to purchase and install markers for them. The markers will be installed by this year's Wreaths Across America event on December 16th. We still need donations to cover the cost of the markers.

We recently contracted with D3Corp for a wonderful upgrade to our website. Our goal was to make it clear that we are an operational cemetery but still holding to our motto of Preserving History, Remembering Lives



Because of the donation of 5 light poles, we were able to supplement a grant from the State of Maryland and install lighting and security cameras at the rear of the cemetery. With future donations, we hope to upgrade the security of additional areas of the cemetery as well.

A Friend donated the fabrication and installation of two sign supports and several changeable hanging signs. These signs will promote various events occurring at Parsons during the year.

We have received a grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to stabilize part of our beautiful lakefront area. The plans and permitting are being prepared by George Miles and Buhr Engineering. We hope to have contractors and volunteers performing the work this Fall

Preserving History,
Remembering Lives.
Est. 1873

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Written by Hope Morgan

Join Us at "Our Annual Holiday Bazaar" on November 17th and 18th - Let's Make It a Success, Together!

We are thrilled to announce the eagerly awaited "St. Peter's Holiday Bazaar" to be held on **November 17th and 18th!**

This special event is not only a celebration of the season, but also an opportunity for us to come together, share in the festivities, and make a meaningful contribution to St. Peter's Church.

Calling on Your Support and Creativity - To make this bazaar a resounding success, we rely on your contributions and talents. Whether you're a skilled baker, a creative artist, or someone with a passion for crafts, your involvement will help make this event a memorable one.

Here are some of our highlights of what lies ahead!

Sarah's Tissue Boxes: A Tribute and a Craft In memory of Sarah Hughes, a beloved member of our community, we have embarked on a heartwarming project. We will be crafting tissue boxes using Sarah's yarn and plastic materials, creating beautiful and functional items that will adorn the pews in her memory. These tissue boxes will not only offer comfort during services but will also serve as a reminder of Sarah's warmth and kindness. We invite everyone interested in learning how to create these special tissue boxes to join us. If you've always wanted to try your hand at crafting, this is the perfect opportunity. We have all of Sarah's yarn and plastic materials ready. Your participation will not only bring you a sense of accomplishment but will also contribute to the legacy of Sarah's generosity. In addition to adorning our pews, these handcrafted tissue boxes will also be available for purchase at our Holiday Bazaar. It's a meaningful way to take home a piece of Sarah's memory and support the initiatives of St. Peter's Church.



Peter's Cafe Delights - At Peter's Café you'll be treated to a delightful array of culinary treasures. The esteemed King Bros will be offering their famous oyster sandwiches, while our own kitchen will be crafting delectable chicken salad and soothing soups. Your participation ensures that our offerings are made with care and love, embodying the true essence of the season.

A Silent Auction of Gift Baskets - We will be gathering an exceptional collection of gift baskets, each thoughtfully put together to suit various tastes and preferences. From gourmet treats and pampering essentials to festive décor and delightful novelties, there will be something for everyone. The Silent Auction is your opportunity to bring home these curated gems, all while supporting our church community. Now is the time to use your creativity and put a basket together. Need an idea? Just reach out and we would love to help!

Calling All Bakers and Confectionery Artists - For our Peter's Pantry, we extend a special invitation to all bakers and confectionery artists. Your creations – be it pies, cakes, or other baked delights – will not only add a touch of homemade charm, but also contribute to the success of our bazaar. Your talent will shine as a symbol of our shared commitment to St. Peter's Church.

Supporting St. Peter's Church- Join us in creating an atmosphere of camaraderie, delectable food, and the heartwarming embrace of our church community. Proceeds from the bazaar go towards supporting this mission of St. Peter's. Spread the word, extend the invitation to friends and family, and let's work together to ensure the success of "St. Peter's Holiday Bazaar."

Stay tuned for more updates on our website and social media channels as we approach the dates for the bazaar.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to your enthusiastic participation at St. Peter's Church on November 17th and 18th for a joyous celebration!

Bravard Cornbrooks	Cell: 410-430-4053	ebcornbrooks@comcast.net
Mary Phillips	Cell: 410-430-4619	rvfarm.phillips@gmail.com
Hope Morgan	Cell: 410-251-6398	hopeemorgan@aol.com

STEWARDSHIP

All that we have has been given to us by God. In thanksgiving we give back to God a small part of what we have been given. Stewardship is the sacred act of caring for what has been entrusted to us, God's church, through giving back to God of our time, talent and treasure.

Eighty-five percent of St. Peter's income comes from the fulfillment of pledges by parishioners. You, the members of St. Peter's, are the major source of resources needed to carry out the mission and ministries of this parish. The more people that pledge, the more we can continue to provide ministries and services to the people of St. Peter's.

Our annual giving campaign will begin this October, when every parishioner is asked to prayerfully consider making a pledge of support in 2024 for the operations of the parish. The parish is facing a couple of challenges that will require some additional giving, through increased pledges and more first-time pledges. Challenge number one is that this year we received from the federal government a one-time \$38,000 Employee Retainage Credit which is supplementing our operating income. We will need to increase our pledge income in 2024 to cover that grant amount and still maintain all our ministries and services. Challenge number two is that while we have been successful in increasing our income, that also means that our apportionment payment to the diocese has increased and we will need an additional \$5,945 to satisfy our diocesan obligation in 2024. While these numbers may be overwhelming for one person, if all of us together work to pledge more funds to St. Peter's, we will continue to be successful in having the resources we need to carry out our worship, pastoral care, education, music, fellowship and outreach into the next year.

Look for the annual giving campaign appeal in October and prayerfully consider doing all you can to support with your 2024 pledge the life and ministries of St. Peter's, Salisbury Parish.

ST. PETER'S DELEGATION TO THE FALL DIOCESAN MISSION SUMMIT

BE PART OF ST. PETER'S DELEGATION TO THE FALL DIOCESAN MISSION SUMMIT!! The Diocese of Easton is holding a Fall Mission Summit on Saturday, October 7th, from 10:00am – 2:00pm at Christ Episcopal Church on Kent Island (830 Romancoke Road, Stevensville, MD) and every parish in the Diocese has been invited to participate and showcase an innovative ministry idea in an interactive exhibit. Plus, there will be musical performances, local food vendors and children's activities.

Father David is hoping to organize a group of parishioners to carpool up to Kent Island not only to represent our parish, but also to discover what innovative ministries other parishes are undertaking which we may be able to use in our parish. It's a day of Fall Fellowship, Fun, Food and Discovery.

St. Peter's will feature our Blessing Box in our exhibit.

If you are interested in coming to the event, let Father David know. Or if you have questions, contact him as well: 410-742-5118; davidm@stpeterschurch.net.

For more information go to the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofeaston.org/missionsummit2023/#>.



ACCESSING YOUR ONLINE PARISH ACCOUNT AND PARISH DIRECTORY

Are you aware that as a parishioner you have an online parish account that allows you to update your contact information and access your church donations information? And gives you 24/7 access to St. Peter's Online Parish Directory?

All this is accessible on the parish website: <https://stpeterschurch.net>. On the home-page, click on the Member Log-in button. That will take you to the Member Portal Login screen. Type in the email address you have given the church as your primary email address. All active parishioners who provide this information will have an on-line account. If this is your first time, click on "Haven't Registered Yet," and you'll enter that email address and choose a password. If you've already registered, put in your primary email address and password and hit the Enter button.

Personal Online Parish Account

You should be taken to your Portal Summary Screen which shows you a list of all of your family members. From there you can click on the Family Profile to update your family contact information, and you can click on individual family member profiles to update their contact information and photo. Contact information is only visible to church staff and parishioners who login and access the Online Parish Directory. You have the option of making your contact information "unlisted" so it won't appear on the Parish Directory.

In addition, you can view your giving history by clicking on "view more" on the Giving History line. From there you can see what your giving is over the year and can also see details of all gifts and payments received and recorded by the church. You can also print your own statement of gifts for tax purposes. This information is only visible to you and the parish's Financial Secretary and Treasurer. If you feel there are errors or discrepancies, you can contact Financial Secretary Bill Day directly.

Online Parish Directory

To access the Online Parish Directory, from the Portal Summary Page click on the "Visit St. Peter's Episcopal Church's Directory" button. You may be asked to type in a password. The password for the online directory is: Salisbury. Once you have access, you can look at families or individuals, and there is a search feature in which you can type in a parishioner's name to go to their contact information.

The online parish accounts and parish directory system is part of ServantKeeper, St. Peter's membership and contribution software system that manages the parish's membership database and contribution tracking system. ServantKeeper is cloud based and uses a high military standard security and encryption that keeps our data safe and continuously backed up. If you are having problems accessing this information, contact the Parish Office for assistance.

ONLINE WORSHIP TASK FORCE

Written by Kristin Mallory

The work of the Online Worship Task Force is ongoing and expanding to become the Task Force on Online Ministry. St. Peter's Vestry affirmed the goals for this year including the goal to "Explore and implement use of technology and social media to enhance and grow our ministries." Specifically, this goal includes the subgoals to increase social media presence and use of on-line marketing and to develop resources for delivering faith formation opportunities. With this direction, the previous online task force needs to expand membership to assist in achieving these outcomes.

The work of this small group is an integral part of the church's efforts for 2023-2024 and more members are needed to assist with this work. Do you have an aptitude for social media or online marketing? Do you have a few hours to research opportunities for faith formation resources, or are you willing to learn? Assistance is needed to achieve these goals- experience in this field is welcome, but not required. We are looking for task force members who are interested in learning more. The online ministry task force will meet about one time a month during the fall and spring via zoom.

Please email Kristin Mallory at kleemallory@hotmail.com to learn more and become part of this online ministry task force.

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 March, April, May, June, and August, 2023:

March, 2023:

- The 2022 Parochial Report was unanimously approved.
- Jane Morgan was unanimously approved to be on the Choir School Board.

April, 2023:

- Unanimously approved to table further discussion on Outreach Committee's Day Shelter proposal until we have more information.

May, 2023:

- Unanimously approved the motion by the Finance Committee to have a \$4,500 budget to cover expenses of the Music Director search process.
- Unanimously voted to table voting on Day Shelter project until we get more information that we are waiting on.
- Unanimously voted to have Jeff remain as Sr. Warden for another month.
- Unanimously voted to approve Property Committee's recommendation to put in new cabinets in the Parish Hall where the old ones were removed because of damage.

June, 2023

- Unanimously approved Parsons Cemetery Advisory Committee's nomination of Richard Culver to replace Scott Pegg.
- Unanimously approved Father David's nomination of Jeanne Whitney as Librarian/Archivist for the church.
- Unanimously approved Jeff Cottingham's motion to update our Letter of Agreement with Father David to include 5 weeks of vacation since he has been with us for 10 years.
- Unanimously approved for the church to purchase 2 parking spaces in front of the church for \$600 each per year.
- Unanimously approved to not meet in July and to have the Executive Committee meet to determine if there are any items that would make it necessary to meet.

August, 2023

- Unanimously approved Father David's three committee appointments: Kathryn Allen to Education Committee, Gerald Otten to Property Committee, Ernie Cornbrooks as Chair of Stewardship Committee.
- Voted unanimously to approve the Vestry's revised goals for the year.
- Unanimously approved to purchase Holy Water Pot in brass in memory of Chet Hanulak using Memorial Funds, with Betsy Hanulak paying the difference.

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

7/31/23

	2023			2022
	7 Months YTD Actual	12 Months Budget	7 Months YTD Budget	7 Months YTD Actual
INCOME				
Total Offerings	210,376	390,740	227,932	199,566
Total Other Sources	70,807	96,606	56,354	19,949
	281,183	487,346	284,285	219,516
Outside Investments				
Community Foundation (CFES) Income	0	6,000	3,500	8,700
Other CFES Income - Planned Giving Donation	13,849	0	0	0
Hodgson Trust	1,235	4,000	2,333	3,937
Withdrawal from Endowment	0	40,000	23,333	18,000
Grants Income	0	0	0	3,000
	15,085	50,000	29,167	33,637
TOTAL INCOME	296,268	537,346	313,452	253,153
EXPENSES				
Church Staff Compensation	59,725	141,926	82,790	72,647
Clergy Compensation	99,023	177,456	103,516	96,470
Diocesan Apportionment	33,092	56,729	33,092	30,272
Outreach & Mission	16,686	49,450	28,846	27,084
Overhead	80,678	120,601	70,351	67,165
TOTAL EXPENSES	289,205	546,162	318,595	293,638
NET ORDINARY INCOME	7,063	-8,816	-5,143	-40,485

Year-to-date 2023 Offerings are below budget but ahead of prior year. Other Sources are currently ahead of budget as a result of our receipt earlier in the year of a one-time lump sum Employee Retention Credit (ERC). Outside Investments are below budget with Community Foundation funds and Endowment funds having not yet been accessed. Year-to-date Expenses are, in total, below budget leaving Net Ordinary Income in a favorable positive position. The Vestry and Finance Committee have reviewed and approved the above financial information.

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

Thanksgiving Day

Holy Eucharist – 10AM

In Person & Livestream

Join us as we give thanks for the goodness of our Lord through prayer, song & worship.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 10 - Fall Worship Schedule Begins & St. Peter's Ministry Fair

Oct. 7 - Diocesan Summit - Kent Island, MD

Nov. 17 & 18 - Annual Holiday Bazaar

Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist

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



Instagram



StPetersSby



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