

The *KEYNOTER*



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

410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net

WINTER 2023

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES AT ST. PETER'S

Advent and Christmas are memorable seasons at St. Peter's, and there are many activities and events planned. For most you can choose to participate in person or participate via the livestream.

Sunday, Dec 3 **Advent Lessons and Carols** at 7pm in St. Peter's Church. Traditional candlelight service of 9 lessons and carols with St. Peter's Choir and St Peter's Bell Choir. Offering will be taken to support St. Peter's outreach ministries to the homeless. In person and livestreamed.

Christmas Caroling to Homebound Parishioners. Meet in the Parish Hall by 3:45pm – You'll be given a map and music and we'll all leave in a car caravan to a few homes around town for 1.5 hours of Christmas Caroling – all are welcome.

Sunday, Dec. 17 **Children's Christmas Pageant** at 10:15am in the Parish Hall (between the 9am and 11am services). In person and livestreamed.

MESSIAH ALL-SING Sunday, Dec. 17 at 6:00pm in the church. A community event led by talented singers and instrumentalists. Bring your score and sing your part; scores also available for purchase. An evening of festive, fun music.

Sunday, Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist at 5pm** with music to begin at 4:30pm, and a children's procession to the crèche. In-person and livestreamed.

Christmas Eve Solemn Eucharist at 11pm with music to begin at 10:30pm, featuring St. Peter's Choir. In person and livestreamed

Monday, Dec. 25 **Christmas Day Eucharist at 10am** – In person and livestreamed.

Sunday, Dec 31 **Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10am** – a more informal service of Christmas lessons and singing of Christmas Carols; Holy Eucharist at 8am

Feast of the Holy Name – Monday, Jan 1. Begin your New Year with Holy Eucharist at 12noon

Saturday, Jan. 6 **Feast of the Epiphany** –Solemn Holy Eucharist at 6pm followed by a Cajun dinner in the Parish Hall at 7pm and then de-decorating the church. In person and livestream.



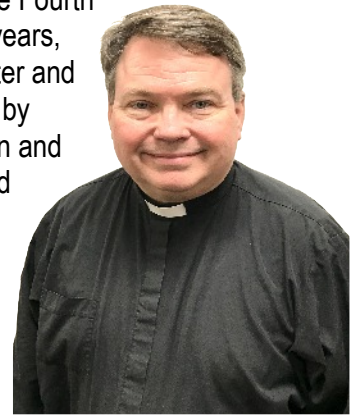
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A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

The Season of Advent begins four Sundays prior to Christmas Day, and this year, because the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24 the season will be the shortest it has been for many years, just three weeks long. It is distinct from the Christmas Season, Advent having its own character and spirituality. The challenge we face as Episcopalians is to not have our Advent overshadowed by Christmas, to give Advent its own space. While the Christmas Season is a time for celebration and joy, Advent is quieter and more contemplative, it's about preparation and anticipation, the word advent meaning "coming."



The church in this season looks forward to the Second Coming of Christ, and contemplates how we can be made ready to receive Jesus when he comes back to earth on the Last Day. It is the darkest season of the year, when daylight lessens every day and when we light candles to bring light to the darkness. Kelli and I have had the tradition of lighting candles on our Advent Wreath on the Sunday dinner table for many years; when our daughters were young they took turns lighting the candles and leading the prayers we took from the Daily Evening Devotions on page 139 in the Prayer Book with the appropriate Sunday collect (pp. 211-212). These are great family traditions that set Advent apart from the coming Christmas season.

I encourage you this Advent to be good to your soul: to intentionally set aside time in your day and week to anticipate and prepare to receive Christ's light into your heart, to recognize that his presence overcomes all darkness and sin, and to seek out in prayer, meditation, song, scripture and even silence, God's presence and God's peace. I will be traveling to the Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY – an Episcopal Benedictine community of monks – in December for my silent Advent retreat, something I haven't been able to do for many years due to the pandemic, and look forward to retreat from the everyday and to anticipate time alone with God. I encourage you to find some Advent God time as well.

Perhaps during Advent you can participate in our Daily Prayer at the church or on-line. Read the Forward Day-by-Day meditations. Attend the beautiful service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Visit someone who is lonely or in need. Schedule some prayer time in your calendar. May this Advent be a time of prayer and stillness and peace for you. May you take the time to be good to your soul.

A NOTE FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

As part of the November 19th sermon I preached I considered the character of the church. Now that does, of course, include St. Peter's and goes quite beyond it to the church catholic and apostolic. Still, I do include St. Peter's, Salisbury congregation and parish. I suggested that the work of the church of Jesus Christ is to receive the testimony of Jesus in this world; be formed into the testimony of Jesus for this world; and be sent with the testimony of Jesus' deliverance of even sinners and the ungodly to this ** world. Our work is to testify to Jesus' ongoing deliverance of this world from sin, death and the Evil One.



When I make such a claim I do so because the church is not a "what" but a "who." We are the Body of Christ and as with any body we have a voice with which to address others—in this case all of humanity and creation. That voice is not our own, but the voice of Jesus in both words and actions. So, the voice with which we speak is His. Our task within our work is to so form and shape our words and actions that they actually do re-present Jesus and convey Him to the world. We carry out Jesus in speaking and doing so that He can do with them as He wills.

And I further suggested that one word most amply epitomizes the pattern of Jesus and that is "giving," especially giving without any expectation of return. Yes, giving, period. Our tendency is to give as part of an exchange, "the social custom of giving which then obligates the recipient to likewise at some later date" as Sheldon of "Big Bang Theory" might opine.

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Such non-transactional giving is the way of Jesus—and done as often through unbelievers as through believers. A particular season of giving is soon underway. Many gifts will be given transactionally—an exchange of gifts—as is the custom. However, I encourage you to look for significant ways to give of yourself out of all your resources to those who cannot return the favor. Give without expectation of return, in testimony to the great giver and lover of humanity, Jesus Messiah, Son of God, the “Who” of the church.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Written by Senior Warden, Jeff Cottingham

Since my last report the Vestry decided not to proceed with the Living Waters Center. I would like to thank everyone who sent me comments regarding the idea. At the October meeting, the Vestry came up with parameters that will be used to consider another idea for outreach at St. Peter's. A different outreach plan could be something that would be done in our current facility or in some part of the Annex.

At the November meeting, the Vestry discussed several large maintenance issues that need to be addressed on our property. We decided to form a task force to make a recommendation on the future of our Annex building. At this point, it makes the most sense to wait on a decision on what to do for outreach until the recommendation of a task force is completed unless the Outreach Committee decides on an activity that would use the current church building. The Outreach Committee and the clergy will be sharing the procedure for determining what our outreach activity will be in the next few months.



Lastly, Advent has arrived and with it a new season to reignite our sense of community and belonging. The positive energy that comes from full pews is exhilarating, adding to the excitement of anticipating the birth of our Savior. Sooooo, SEE you in church, if you are able.

BISHOP MARRAY TO VISIT ST. PETER'S, 1/21

The XI Bishop of Easton, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, makes his annual visitation to St. Peter's on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Bishop San will be the celebrant and preacher at our three worship services that Sunday and will be confirming and receiving individuals that are part of the current Inquirers Class and High School Confirmation Class. We will also be celebrating our Patronal Feast on that Sunday: The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter.



The visit of the Diocesan Bishop is an important annual event in the life of an Episcopal parish. Bishops in our church serve as chief pastors, exercising a ministry of oversight, teaching, and unity with the larger church. Bishop Marray, as our Diocesan Bishop, holds jurisdiction in the Diocese of Easton (all counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland), with particular responsibility for the doctrine, discipline and worship of the church. Bishops preside at ordinations of bishops, priests and deacons; they bless altars, fonts, chalices, patens and church bells; they consecrate new churches and chapels; and they confirm and receive members into the church.



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.

Fall 2023 Sunday School has come to an end. Sunday School class starts with everyone writing down their prayers to post on our prayer board. The Sunday School kids take turns reading the gospel lesson together. The kids then participate in fun activities like Lego building, painting and Play-doh. Thank you so much to our teachers, assistants and parents who all pitch in in many different ways. We appreciate all of your support and help.



In September, we filled bags for the children at Wi-Middle filled with personal supplies. We are currently collecting gifts for an adopted grandparent through the MAC program. The gifts were wrapped at the Advent Party. Items were purchased for our adopted grandparent including clothing, nightgown, toiletries, socks, stamps and more!

Sunday School children also participated in Youth Sunday in October as ushers, lectors and altar servers! We had an Advent Party before Thanksgiving with fellowship and advent crafts.

Sunday School children will participate in our Christmas Pageant which we will practice and perform in December. We look forward to picking back up in January. Come and join in the fun!

YOUTH GROUP

Written by Atif Gaddis

This Fall we have participated in some fun fellowship events along with Youth Sunday in October. We had our opening cookout at the Cornbrooks home and enjoyed an afternoon of bbq, games, and climbing trees! We also hosted Café Night, a favorite congregational event. We got to see many parishioners and even some new faces. We raised over \$500 for the Youth Group! Thank you, St. Peter's family! We also had a really good turnout for Youth Sunday! Children and young people participated in all aspects of the worship service and did a terrific job. I look forward to seeing them take on these roles again.



Seniors

Congratulations to our high school seniors in the class of 2024! They are Bella Price, Will Potterton, and Garrett Beauchamp. We wish them all the best this final year of high school as they enjoy the 12th Grade, and finalize their post graduation plans. Please contact the church office, if you know of any additional St. Peter's young people who will be graduating this coming Spring. Let us keep these young people and their families in our prayers during this time.

Confirmands

This year two young people, Ella Fenoglietto and Parker Scheckells are going through Confirmation Classes with Father David and Karen Shields. These young people are learning more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church. They will be confirmed at Bishop Santosh Marray's annual visitation in January. Let's pray for these youth as well as they make this faith commitment.

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Spring Plans

Youth, mark your calendars! On the weekend after Easter, Province III of the Episcopal Church is planning a Youth Retreat at Shrine Mont, down in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Come meet and spend the weekend with other youth from the mid-Atlantic states in a very beautiful natural setting. There will be plenty of games and other fun activities, great food, and opportunities for spiritual growth and deeper connection with God. More details will come as we approach the event. One of the sadder things that I recently learned was that the Diocese of Easton is not planning a Summer Mission Trip this year. While this is a bit of a set back in our plans, this does present opportunities for us to reimagine the summer and pursue different plans which offer us opportunities for fellowship and spiritual connections. If youth and or families have ideas, please share so we can consider our options.

ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRIES

Written by James Wallace

The St. Peter's Music Program is off to a strong start this fall!

New Director of Music, James Wallace, is delighted to be here at St. Peter's. It takes time for any new staff person to get to know their constituents, but thanks to a warm and gracious St. Peter's welcome and the willingness of people to try something new, that process has gone very well.

We are very grateful that our Choral Scholar program is going strong. This year's Choral Scholars are all from SU: Trenelle Dashiell and Angelita Vaughan, sopranos, Hunter Shaner, countertenor, Trystan Rioux, tenor and Thomas Snyder, bass. They provide a solid anchor for the choir, and along with St. Peter's talented volunteer singers, are able to provide beautiful and edifying music at the 11am service. Special thanks to Jane Morgan for her work in the choral music library which is both large (several hundred titles) and in need of an organizational update.



James provides organ and vocal music for the 7:45am service, with music at the offertory, communion and postlude. He does the same at the noon Wednesday Healing Eucharist.

One of the particular charges given to James by Fr. David was to create a new musical sense of identity at the 9:00am service. Is it a "family service"? A "contemporary service"? Should it have organ music? Traditional hymns? It's not as obvious as one might think to describe the identity of that service. Many different musical styles were discussed and tried. A casual "marketing survey" about what is currently being offered by other churches in the area was helpful. It was determined that we definitely didn't want to be a poor imitation of something offered elsewhere. For example, the large churches with a stage, lighting, drum set, amplifiers, rock band, etc., can offer music in a contemporary idiom that neither matches our traditional building nor the feel of our worship. We settled on a quasi-Celtic style, as that is primarily acoustic in nature, matches the musical forces we have available, and is unique in Salisbury. James composed new service music, the New Celtic Mass, for that purpose, and it has been received positively by most. We will continue to develop and focus that service as the year goes on.

Another major part of the charge given to James was to reimagine the Choir School of the Eastern Shore and get that up and running this year. We are grateful to the members of the new Choir School Board: Bill Folger, Thomas Snyder, Megan Fenoglio, Marc Duncan, and Jane Morgan as a consulting member. The board has its first meeting Nov. 29, and it is hoped that the Choir School will reopen in some form or other in January.



ALTAR GUILD

Written by Kathy Fahey

Altar Guild honored its longest serving member, Betty Lou Davis, for her 50 years of service and welcomed our newest member, Johnny Martin, at a celebratory tea held in the Parish Hall October 23. It was fun — a special time to have our members together with no agenda but celebration and fellowship.

Now we look forward to Advent and the beginning of a new church year. Advent is rich in symbolism, and one of the most loved symbols is the Advent wreath. Did you know that the first Advent wreath is said to have been created by a Lutheran minister working at a children's mission in Germany? The minister created his wreath out of a wagon wheel, using red candles to mark the week days and white candles to mark the Sundays as a way for the children to count the days until Christmas.

Today the Advent wreath used by many Christian denominations is typically a circle of evergreens holding three purple (or blue or lilac) candles and one pink (or rose) candle with a white candle in its center.

Each part of the wreath has a meaning and a purpose. The evergreens remind us of God's gift of creation and His love and presence in the world. The base is a circle with no beginning and no end, reminding us of our never ending life in Christ. Three of the candles are purple, the color of royalty, to welcome the Advent of Jesus; the pink candle is the color of joy. The light of the candles mark the weeks of Advent and reflect the light that came into the world when Jesus was born.

The candles themselves each have a meaning. The first purple candle symbolizes hope and the anticipation felt in waiting for the coming Messiah. The second purple candle symbolizes faith, trust in God and reliance on His word. The third candle is pink, symbolizing the joy that Jesus is almost here. The final purple candle represents love and peace. The central white candle is the Christ candle. It is first lit on Christmas Eve, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Each week, as an additional candle is lit, the light grows brighter, and we are reminded that the Light of the World will soon arrive in glory.

The Altar Guild wishes you all a blessed Advent and a merry Christmas!



Join us In Person & Livestream
Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service Schedule: 5PM & 11PM
(including Christmas Music Prelude at 4:30PM & 10:30PM)

Join us in the serenity and peace of this night
as we anticipate the Birth of Jesus Christ.

Our services will be filled with celebration
and worship featuring The St. Peter's Choir, James
Wallace on the organ and seasonal scripture reading.

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The DIACONAL ROLE IN THE WIDER CHURCH

Written by Deacon Laura

Previous articles have talked about the various roles a Deacon assumes within his or her parish during the liturgy and from an administrative/organizational perspective. This article will discuss the many roles a deacon may assume in the wider church.

In the Diocese of Easton there are nine active deacons; I serve as the Archdeacon for the Diocese which includes a supervisory/mentor/teaching role for the other deacons. All the active deacons participate in some kind of service ministry role. Some are either in charge of food pantries or take on a very active role in a feeding ministry. Some are involved in chaplaincy at hospitals or skilled nursing facilities. Others are involved in social justice matters like Christian Peacekeepers and advocating for the rights of the marginalized. No matter our individual focus, we all serve under our Bishop, Santosh Marray. Deacons also assist the Bishop during ordinations as his Chaplain and as Deacon of the Word or Deacon of the Table.

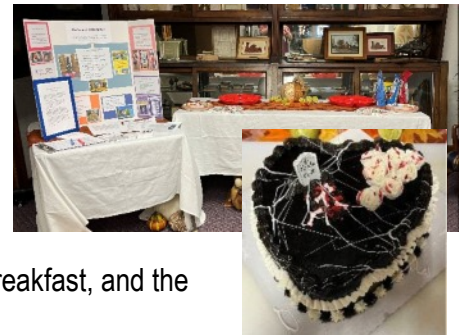


Deacons may also serve in the wider Episcopal Church. Deacons serve on various ongoing committees of TEC, serve as deputies to General Convention, and serve on nominating committees for vacant positions within TEC.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

On October 29th, the Outreach Committee hosted coffee hour between the services and displayed information about our many programs. Refreshments consisted of a beautifully scary cake by Chef Marc Duncan, gingersnaps, apple cider and savory snacks.



Hot lunches for **Joseph House** resumed in October and again in November. The Joseph House is not open Christmas time. The Outreach Committee has decided to go back to bagged lunches in January, since Joseph House is now serving hot breakfast, and the number of guests is fewer than expected.

In mid-November, parishioner, Hope Morgan, and Deacon Laura Harbaugh presented a check for \$500 to **WiMiddle School** to benefit their Choral Program. WiMiddle has a thriving choral group consisting of 150+ students.



Shown here from left is Mr. David Thompson, Community Partner Coordinator; Ms. Jo Branham, Principal; Deacon Laura; Ms. Britinich Nichols, Choral Music Teacher; and Hope Morgan, St. Peter's Parishioner.

PASTORAL CARE

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

In keeping with our Lord's command to **"love one another as I have loved you,"** this 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 persons on a regular or requested basis. They offer prayer, scripture and conversation as they bring the pre-sanctified/consecrated Holy Sacrament from the day's Holy Eucharist. If you are interested in serving, please contact Father David, 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.

Many thanks to those who serve on this committee for all the work they have done and continue to do. 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, birth of a baby, 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. **Star Trek "Trekkies," and others, Transporters needed!** *If you would like to help with transporting others hither and yon, especially to Sunday Worship Services, 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, blankets, 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 one of our Clergy.

"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



HANDS & HEARTS ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness (HHEH) cold-weather shelter opened on Saturday, November 18th. St. Peter's week to serve at the shelter is Saturday, January 13, 2024, to Friday, January 19, 2024. The shelter is once again located at Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 31525 John Deere Drive; Salisbury, MD 21804, off Route 50 near the Shorebirds Stadium.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Sign-in desk from 4:45 pm to 8:00 pm (2 people per shift)
- Sign-in desk from 7:45 pm to 11:00 pm (2 people per shift)
- Hot meal for dinner and dessert(s) for 35-40 people are to be delivered to the shelter by 5:30 pm.

For those who want to make dinner, please note there is very limited space to prepare a meal at the shelter. Additionally, there are other volunteers who need to be able to move freely in the kitchen. For that reason, you are asked to make your meal at home or the kitchen in St. Peter's Parish Hall is available for your use. There are portable insulated carriers to transport your hot dish to the shelter. Please be sure to clean up and put away all dishes/utensils afterwards. If you are able to make a meal, but need access to the church or help with delivery, please contact Deacon Laura at 443-523-8669 to make arrangements.

If you are unable to volunteer for the check-in desk or make a meal, please consider purchasing a WalMart/SAMs Club gift card to help defray the cost of food and supplies for breakfast and lunch. Any denomination is welcome!

Sign-up sheets and gift card envelopes are on the bulletin board outside of the Assistant Rector/Deacon's office. Please give gift cards to Deacon Laura or Pastor Greg or drop them in the metal box outside the parish secretary's office



THINKING THE FAITH

Written by Pastor Greg

Dorothy Sayers - Letters to a Diminished Church: Passionate Arguments for the Relevance of Christian Doctrine

What must a person believe to be a Christian? In this collection of 16 essays, famed author Dorothy L. Sayers discusses why the church desperately needs to refocus on doctrine, as doctrine impacts all of life.

In her dynamic and sharp writings, Dorothy L. Sayers turned the popular perception of Christianity on its head. She argues that the essence of Christianity is in the character of Christ—energetic, dramatic, and utterly alive. This collection of sixteen brilliant essays reveals Sayers, at her best—a powerful view of Christianity as startling and relevant as it was 50 years ago.

An outspoken defender of Christian orthodoxy, Dorothy L. Sayers discusses Christian theology with brilliance and wit. A British scholar, author, and staunch Christian, Sayers brings theology vividly to life by showing how the Bible, history, literature, and modern science fit together to make religion not only possible but necessary in our time.

Each essay is a concise, perceptive examination of the topic at hand. Whether you are reading the great works of Western literature, thinking about your place in God's universe, or simply dealing with the thousand-and-one problems of daily living, this powerful book has words of both challenge and comfort for you.

"The devil should stand alert, for Sayers is one of his foremost adversaries."

Tuesday evenings 7 PM as scheduled (TBA) beginning January 9th. Pastor Greg will facilitate. Copies may be purchased through Barnes & Noble, Amazon or Independent Booksellers. Also available via Kindle and Nook.

“SACRED GROUND” SERIES OFFERED

Lay and clergy members of St. Peter’s have just completed the Episcopal Church’s series called Sacred Ground: a film-based dialogue series on race and faith. The six-week course has been offered by the national church since 2018. The course took place on zoom. Three facilitators from Pennsylvania led the group of seven from St. Peter’s this fall in exploring the history of racism in America, studying different populations, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Indigenous Peoples, immigrants and the working class. Participants read articles and books and viewed many videos, meeting to discuss and process what they were learning. It was an eye opening experience, done with a caring and faithful approach.

“Now that we have experienced this course, it is my intent that it be offered at St. Peter’s every fall,” said Father David. “Some who took the course will be trained in facilitating and we will plan on having them lead the course here at St. Peter’s next fall in person. I hope many parishioners at St. Peter’s will decide next fall to experience Sacred Ground and educate themselves on racism and how we as the church can help to bring about the dismantling of structural racism as called for by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.” For information on Sacred Ground, go to: <https://stpeterschurch.net/sacred-ground/>

FELLOWSHIP/EVANGELISM UPDATE

Written by Jeff Cottingham

The Fellowship and Evangelism committee has been and continues to offer activities for parishioners to participate in the life of the parish beyond Sunday mornings. We participated in Third Friday in August and September (got rained out in October) and hosted the Ministry Fair in September. We set up/cooked and cleaned up for a newcomer’s reception on All Saint’s Sunday and a Thanksgiving dinner in November. We are now planning for upcoming events including: a possible Christmas caroling event on December 10th, dinner for participants in the Messiah on December 17th, a soup/snack football watching party in January and help with the set up and clean-up of an Epiphany dinner. Additionally, we continue to try to organize Sunday coffee hours.

If you would like to help - please contact Linda Abbott, Jeff Cottingham, or Nancy Burdett. Thank you!

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

On November 1st, St. Peter’s was host to a new organization called Wicomico One Water. Members from multiple faith communities including St. Peter’s & St. Alban’s, St. Francis, Third Haven Friends Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (guests from Easton) and Delmarva Muslim Community heard a very interesting and disturbing presentation from Jennifer Albero, Wicomico County Recycling Coordinator.

Ms. Albero reported that 2.12 billion gallons of trash are thrown away each year; generally people produce 4 ½ pounds of trash a day. We can save landfill space by recycling. Wicomico County just added eight new cells for the landfill. There are 11 recycling convenience centers located in Wicomico County; five are open 24 hours a day, and three were recently shut down due to improper use of the centers.

Ms. Albero spent a fair amount of time talking about plastics. Each person throws away about 185 pounds of plastic bags a year. There are so many plastics in our environment that people are eating a credit-card size worth of microplastics per week (which equates to a giraffe sized amount every year!). These plastics enter our bodies through drinking water, shellfish, beer, and salt.

Learn more about recycling by visiting Wicomico County’s website [here](#).

To view a screening of “A Plastic Wave” on Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 pm, visit the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake website [here](#) to register.

PARSONS CEMETERY

Written by Rick Fahey

As always, Parsons Cemetery had a lot of activity last quarter. For Memorial Day, we completed the renovation of the flagpole in the rear of the office. This flagpole has been there since the 1940's and marks the site where the citywide Memorial Day services were once held.

In October, we held our second Blessing of the Animals event at the Delmarva Pet Garden area. Father David blessed animals of many shapes and sizes. We even had a family visiting from India attend the event.

On Veteran's Day, we held a special tour highlighting our World War I veterans. At the end of the tour, we listened as Jimmy Hill rang the St. Peter's bell as part of the nationwide Bells of Peace remembrance of the end of World War I.

On December 16th, we will hold our annual Wreaths Across America event, where over 300 participants will place wreaths on each of our 1350 veteran's graves. Please join us for the event and donate wreaths. For more information visit our website or the Wreaths Across America website.

After two years in process, we have finally received a permit for our project to stabilize part of the lake bank at the rear of the cemetery. Hopefully, the actual work will begin soon.

Bob Taylor has been working with the Sons of the American Revolution, the Pemberton Hall association, and Parsons Cemetery to place a marker for Henry Handy at the site of his burial. Henry was in the Maryland Militia during the Revolutionary War and was buried on the Pemberton Hall grounds. We have evidence that he was reinterred at Parsons. Because of the uncertainty, markers will be placed at both sites. The ceremony will be in 2024.

To follow what is happening at Parsons, like our Facebook page and visit our website.



**Wreaths Across America
is coming to Parsons Cemetery!
Saturday, December 16th 2023**

Procession begins at 9:30

Please help us honor our fallen veterans by
purchasing wreaths to be placed
on veterans' gravesites at Parsons Cemetery.

**Just go to the website,
www.wreathscrossamerica.org and:
Click on "Specific Cemetery" which is just
below the red "Sponsor Wreaths" box.
Type "Parsons Cemetery, Salisbury, MD"
on the line where it says "select location to
support" (most will autoload when
you start typing).
Wreath ordering deadline is December 2.**

For information on the Parsons Cemetery
event or for specific gravesite requests
you can email: parsonswreaths@yahoo.com,
call 443-366-4764 or visit parsonscemetery.com
Please visit Parsons Cemetery or
Operation We Care on Facebook
for more details.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Written by Hope Morgan

St. Peter's Church's parish hall was a bustling scene of joy and community spirit as it hosted its annual Holiday Bazaar on November 17th and 18th. The event, one of our highlights during this holiday time, brought together people of all ages in a festive celebration.

The aroma of delicious food filled the air, with St. Pete's kitchen offering its famous Kings Boys oyster sandwiches, savory soups, and delightful chicken salad. The flavors and warmth of these dishes added a cozy touch. Our new addition for 2023 was a hot chocolate station - a favorite with the youth.

The Silent Auction was filled with many beautiful items. We are so grateful to those that gift St. Peter's so many spectacular items for us to sell.

Another attraction of the Bazaar was the highly anticipated bake sale, where our parish members generously donated an array of homemade baked goods. From sumptuous pies, jelly and jams to delectable cookies, each treat was a testament to the culinary skills and spirit of giving prevalent in the community. Patrons enjoyed browsing through the assortment of sweets, taking home their favorite treats to share with family and friends.

In addition to the food, 'Peter's Attic Treasures' offered an abundant trove of finds for shoppers. The section featured unique artwork, handcrafted pottery, and a variety of other items, ensuring there was something special for every visitor.

The 'Kids' Corner' a delightful space where children engaged in making holiday ornaments, was not just a fun activity for the little ones, but also a wonderful opportunity for them to learn and express their creativity. The joy and pride on their faces as they displayed their handmade ornaments were truly heartwarming.

The success of St. Peter's Holiday Bazaar lies in its ability to bring together the community in celebration and giving. As attendees left with bags full of treats, unique finds, and handmade ornaments, they also took with them the warmth of shared experiences and the joy of being part of a close-knit community.

Reflecting on the event, a long-time attendee shared, "Each year, the Holiday Bazaar brings us together to celebrate the season's spirit. It's about more than just shopping and eating; it's about building memories and celebrating our community."

As the holiday season approaches, the spirit of togetherness and joy experienced at St. Peter's Holiday Bazaar remains a beacon of the true essence of the season. If you would like to participate in The Holiday Bazaar 2024, please reach out to Bravard Cornbrooks or Hope Morgan. The more the merrier.



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 September, October, and November.

September, 2023:

- Mike Steczak and Bravard Cornbrooks were unanimously approved to be on the Outreach Committee.
- Vestry unanimously approved James Wallace as Chair of Choir School Board, and Megan Fenoglietto, Bill Folger, Jane Morgan, and Thomas Snyder as Board members.
- Twelve Vestry members voted against the motion to move forward with the Living Waters outreach project. One voted for the motion. It was decided to take a break from this discernment process for a short time before beginning a new discernment process.

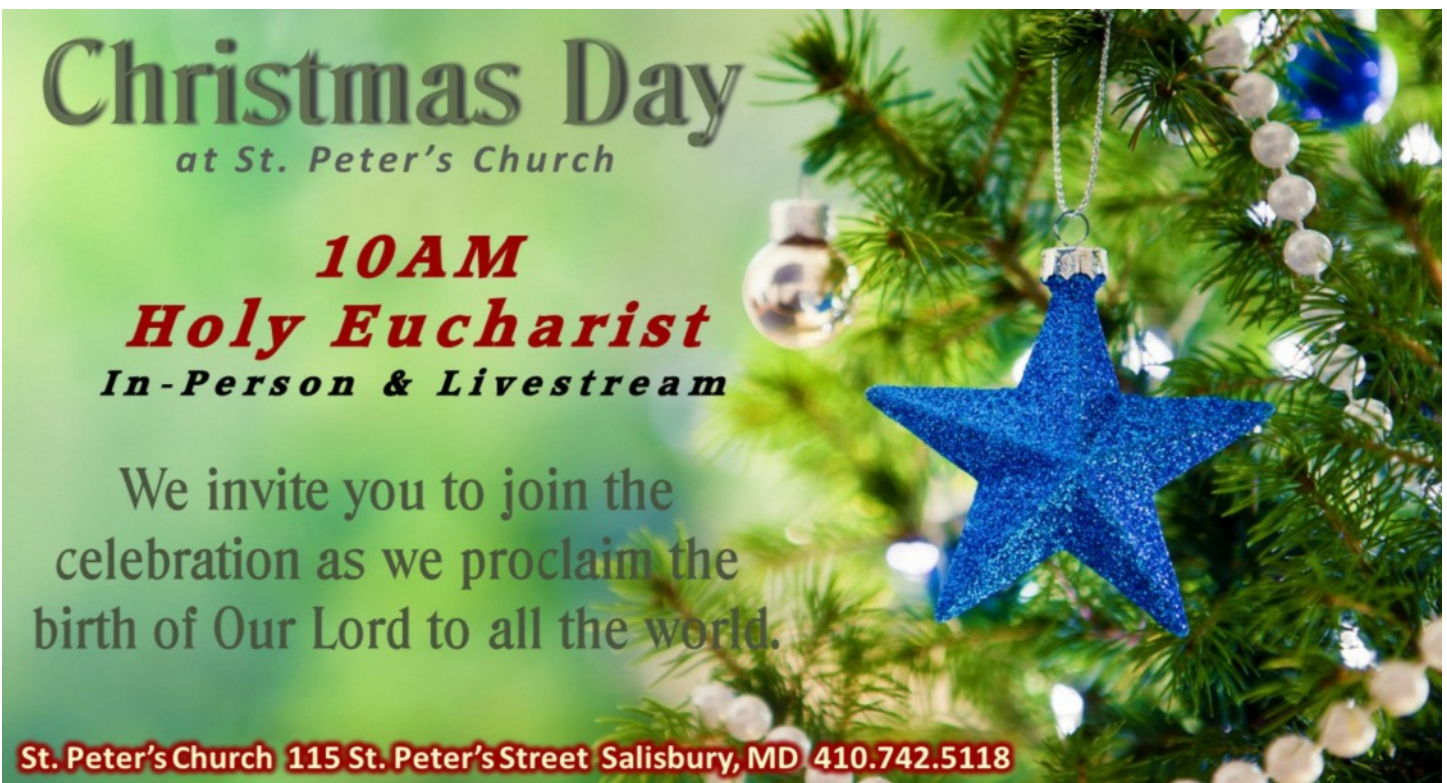
October, 2023:

- The Vestry unanimously approved a Coffee Hour/Parlor Use policy for Sundays. In an effort to encourage everyone to attend worship services rather than hanging out in the Parlor, the Parlor doors will be closed and lights turned off during the 9:00 and 11:00 services and will be opened up during coffee hour after services for everyone to attend. There will be signage put on the doors with this information.
- An onsite outreach ministry criteria and framework was reviewed and unanimously approved following a few changes. It will go to the Outreach Committee to review before moving forward with a new ministry.

November, 2023

- Vestry unanimously approved the Property Committee's recommendation to install microphones over the choir and band area to enhance the voices in person and online. Funds would come from the Property and Equipment Fund.

As always, if anyone has any questions concerning any of these issues, please feel free to contact a member of the Vestry.

A festive poster for Christmas Day at St. Peter's Church. The background is a close-up of a green Christmas tree with white and blue ornaments. The text is overlaid on the left side. At the top, 'Christmas Day' is written in a large, dark green serif font, with 'at St. Peter's Church' in a smaller, italicized serif font below it. In the center, '10AM' is written in a bold, red, italicized serif font, followed by 'Holy Eucharist' in a larger, bold, red, italicized serif font, and 'In-Person & Livestream' in a bold, black, italicized serif font below it. At the bottom, the church's name and address are written in a bold, red, italicized serif font: 'St. Peter's Church 115 St. Peter's Street Salisbury, MD 410.742.5118'.

Christmas Day
at St. Peter's Church

10AM
Holy Eucharist
In-Person & Livestream

We invite you to join the celebration as we proclaim the birth of Our Lord to all the world.

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Property Committee oversees the parish building and grounds and meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:15am. This fall new cabinets and a sink were installed in the Parish Hall. A new sign was installed in the courtyard entrance to the Parish House. The gate to the courtyard was repainted. Restoration work is beginning in the Parish Annex building after the flood from a broken HVAC pump. The restoration work is financed through a claim from our insurance company. The elevator and the kitchen passed their annual inspections. Installation of new choir and band microphones in the church will occur in December.

The Property Committee has identified a number of capital projects in our buildings that need attention and has brought this matter before the Vestry. These include: large window replacements in the annex; repairing and repainting window frames in the church and annex; new lighting system in the church; cleaning triptych and rood beam, repointing brick walls. Money to fund these capital projects exceeds the funds available.

ST. PETER'S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Reported by Hank Phillips, Treasurer

10/31/23	2023		2022	
	10 Months YTD Actual	12 Months Budget	10 Months YTD Budget	10 Months YTD Actual
INCOME				
Total Offerings	297,107	390,740	325,617	296,047
Total Other Sources	83,109	96,606	80,505	65,050
	<u>380,216</u>	<u>487,346</u>	<u>406,122</u>	<u>361,097</u>
Outside Investments				
Community Foundation (CFES) Income	6,000	6,000	5,000	8,700
Other CFES Income - Planned Giving Donation	13,849	0	0	0
Hodgson Trust	1,798	4,000	3,333	4,453
Withdrawal from Endowment	15,000	40,000	33,333	18,000
Grants Income	0	0	0	3,000
	<u>36,647</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>41,667</u>	<u>34,153</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>416,863</u>	<u>537,346</u>	<u>447,788</u>	<u>395,250</u>
EXPENSES				
Church Staff Compensation	90,113	141,926	118,272	102,025
Clergy Compensation	140,488	177,456	147,880	140,961
Diocesan Apportionment	47,274	56,729	47,274	43,246
Outreach & Mission	24,177	49,450	41,208	33,809
Overhead	110,670	120,601	100,501	98,304
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>412,721</u>	<u>546,162</u>	<u>455,135</u>	<u>418,346</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	<u>4,141</u>	<u>-8,816</u>	<u>-7,347</u>	<u>-23,095</u>

Income: Year-to-date 2023 Total Offerings category is running below budget. This shortfall is partially offset by an unbudgeted "Planned Giving" donation in the Outside Investments- Other CFES Income category. Use of Endowment funds in the Outside Investments category is below budget. Expenses: Year-to-date Total Expenses are 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.*



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA 2023



Instructions: All orders for Christmas Poinsettia are to be paid in advance. When you have completed the order form, place check & order form in the Alms Basin or mail to the parish office. Make checks payable to St. Peter's Church. *(Indicate Poinsettia/Greens on memo line)*

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 17, 2023

Cost per Poinsettia: \$12

I am paying by check.

check box

Payment of \$_____ for _____ plants.
quantity

Your name _____ Your phone number: _____

I am paying online via **St. Peter's Online Pay**

check box

Payment of \$_____ for _____ plants.
quantity

Your name as it appears as payee for online pay _____

Your phone number: _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by: _____

St. Peter's Church - 115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury, MD 21801 410.742.5118

*Begin the New Year with us
In-Person & Livestream*



Holy Eucharist
Feast of the Holy Name

Monday, Jan. 1 - Noon

St. Peter's Church - 115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury, MD - 410.742.5118
Check our website for updates & parish news - www.stpeterschurch.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 3 Advent Lessons & Carols
Sunday, Dec. 17 Children's Christmas Pageant
Messiah All-Sing
Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Eucharist
Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday, Dec. 31 Christmas Lessons & Carols
Monday, Jan 1 Feast of the Holy Name
Saturday, Jan 6 Feast of the Epiphany



StPetersSby



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