

# The *KEYNOTER*

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

410.742.5118 [www.stpeterschurch.net](http://www.stpeterschurch.net)



WINTER 2024

## ORGAN PIPES REMOVED FROM THE CHURCH

The Smith-Gilbert Pipe Organ Company of New York was at St. Peter's November 18-20 and removed all the pipes from the Moller pipe organ, including pipes in the sanctuary and the organ pipe chamber room in back of the organ console. These pipes were installed in 1971. The Walker Organ Company then reinstalled our current Walker digital organ speakers so that they now are completely hidden behind the altar and triptych. The result is that the altar is restored to its pre-1971 look, the bishop's chair is returned to its original location, the ambulatory (passageway) behind the altar between the sacristy and the current Broadcast/Altar Guild Storage Room is restored, and there is now additional space in the organ pipes chamber room. We have even uncovered a stained-glass window which had been boarded up for more than 50 years.

This project was completed on Saturday, November 23 in time for the Sunday celebration of the feast of Christ the King. Many thanks to Smith-Gilbert for their willingness to do the removal at very favorable terms for the parish – they plan to refurbish the pipes for an installation in a music school,



Continued on page 2

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS AT ST. PETER'S

Advent and Christmas are memorable seasons at St. Peter's and there are many activities and events planned.

Sunday, Dec 8 **Advent Lessons and Carols** at 5pm in St. Peter's Church. Traditional candlelight service of 9 lessons and carols with St. Peter's Choir Offering will be taken to support St. Peter's outreach ministries to the homeless. In person and livestreamed.

Sunday, Dec 14 **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. 22 **Children's Christmas Pageant** at 9:45am in the Parish Hall (between the 8:30am and 10:30am services). In person and livestreamed.

**MESSIAH ALL-SING** 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.

Tuesday, 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

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



### IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 A Letter from the Rector
- 6 Music Ministries
- 9 Planned Giving
- 11 Altar Guild
- 14 Poinsettia Order Form
- 15 Vestry Notes

Continued on page 2

## *Advent/Christmas at St. Peter's continued from 1*

Sunday, Dec 29 **Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10:30am** – a more informal service of Christmas lessons and singing of Christmas Carols; Holy Eucharist at 8:30am

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

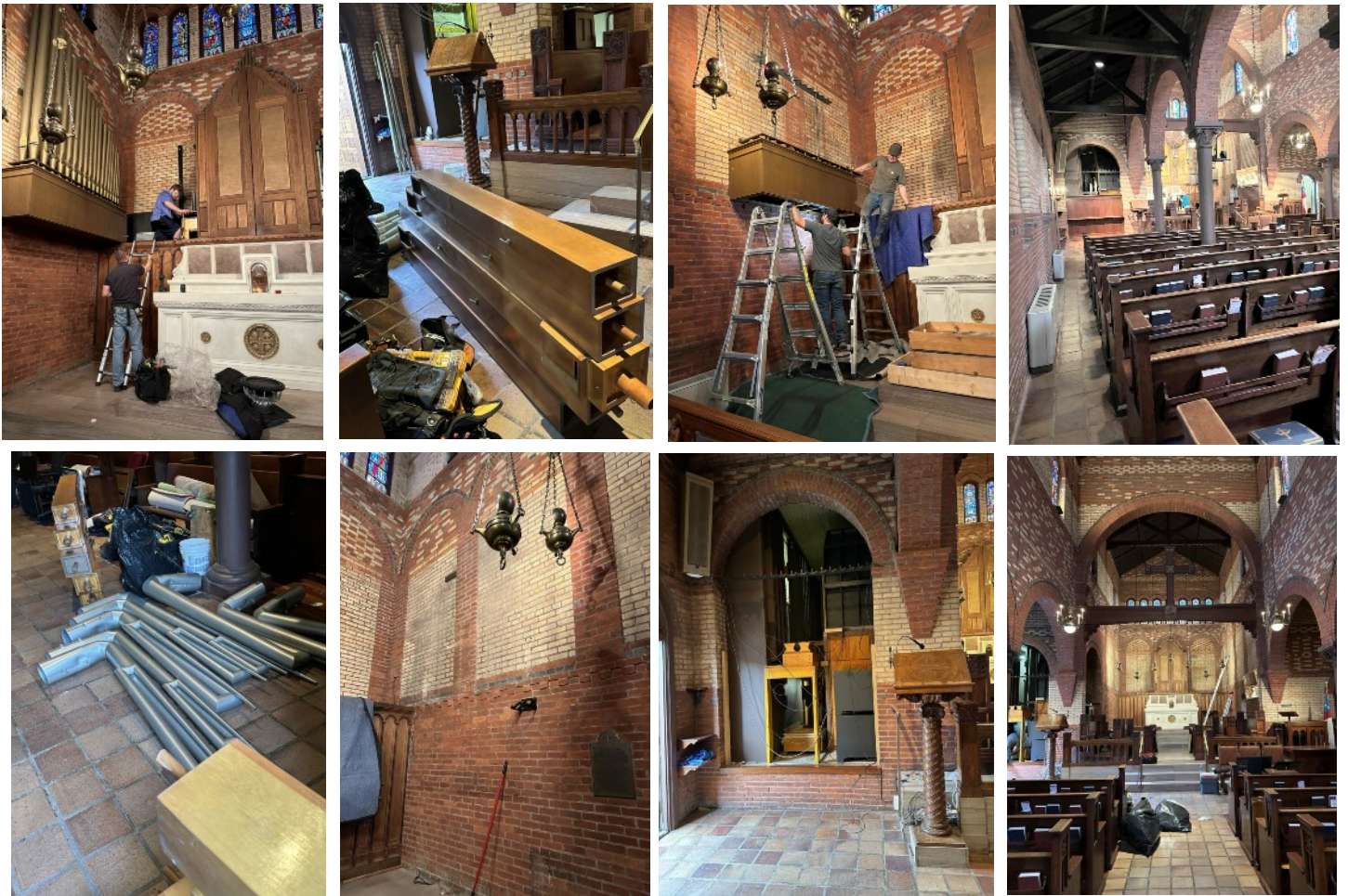
Monday, Jan. 6 **Feast of the Epiphany** –Solemn Holy Eucharist at 6pm followed a Cajun dinner in the Parish Hall at 7pm and then de-decorating the church. In person and livestream.

## *Organ pipes removed from church continued from 1*

so the pipes will continue to be used. Thanks also to Kathy Fahey and the Altar Guild, as well as other volunteers from the Moving Team and the Choir who moved all the furnishing from and back to the altar. And many thanks to our Music Director, James Wallace, who coordinated this project.

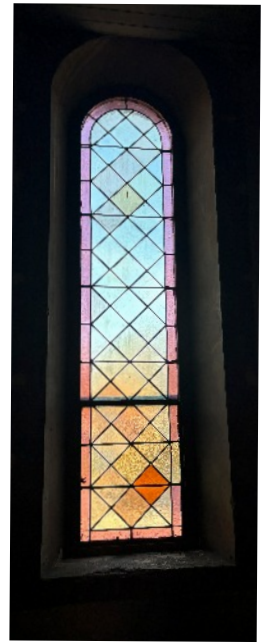
The decision to remove the pipes was approved by the Vestry in October. The Moeller pipe organ hasn't played in seven years. None of the pipes were making any sound, they have been just sitting there, taking up space. Restoration of the pipe organ would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Walker digital organ meets the parish music needs admirably, and is much more tonally diverse than the Moeller ever was. It is also extremely reliable, requires little maintenance, and is easy to update inexpensively.

One of the challenges of having an historic building is that square footage is always at a premium, and one can't simply tack on an addition without effecting the esthetics of the building. Reclaiming this unused space will allow ius to consider various ways in which the parish's needs might be better served.



# A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

I recall coming into the church the first Sunday after the organ pipes removal project was completed, on the Feast of Christ the King. I was opening up the church before Sunday services which I usually do, and when I went into the church from the sacristy I noticed a bright light. I thought someone had left the lights on in the church but then I noticed the light was actual sunlight streaming through a stained glass window in the former organ pipes chamber, a window that had been boarded up for more than 50 years. This was a new thing: this was God's light shining through that now uncovered window and bathing the chancel with new light. I was delighted.



It was a reminder to me that God's light can shine on us in new and unexpected ways. Taking out the organ pipes has changed our church building, and some would point out it is restoring what had been hidden or obstructed, like this window or the passageway behind the altar. I can't help but think that while change can make us anxious, by working through change we find opportunity, and new windows and doors are revealed. God is gracing us with new possibilities, just as God gives us grace in the changes and chances of our lives. While change in our lives may be difficult and force us to end some things, look for what light God is also revealing to you, what grace is unfolding in your life as the result of having to change.

We are about to enter the Season of Advent which signals the change to a new year on our church calendar. Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation as we look forward to Christ's second coming. It is a time when we anticipate Christ's light overcoming the darkness. We light candles in our advent wreath and participate in candlelight services. We are blessed and given hope in the light! May God in this season enlighten your path in new and unexpected ways, like the discovery of St. Peter's hidden window that now bathes the church with new light and hope.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

*Written by Senior Warden, Ernie Cornbrooks*

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am reflecting on how thankful I am to have the opportunity to serve as Senior Warden.

The Senior Warden is also called the "Rector's Warden" (the Junior Warden is the People's Warden). As Senior Warden, I have had the incredible opportunity to work very closely with Fr. David on a number of matters. He is called upon to deal with pastoral and management matters which come at him from all different directions on a regular basis. He manages to deal with these challenges with grace and efficiency. It is an honor and a privilege to act as his "sounding board" on some of these matters, and to assist him. We are blessed to have him as our Rector. The next time you see Fr David, give him a pat on the back, give him a hug, or give him an "attaboy".



Likewise, I have had the pleasure of working with my fellow Vestry members and many of the members of the various parish committees. I am thankful for their gifts of time as well as the gifts of their talents in the form of knowledge, experience, and common sense which are essential to managing the affairs of our Parish. I offer my "attagirls" and "attaboys" to all of them.

I am also very thankful for the ministries of Pastor Greg and Deacon Lynn who enrich our lives with their contributions to our parish life with their preaching and pastoral skills.

James Wallace has enriched our worship with his talent at the organ, his leadership of the choir, and his practical advice about the music ministry of our parish life, and I am thankful for his presence at St Peters.

Last, but by no means least, I am thankful for Cathy Parsons for all that she does so graciously and efficiently. I know that I can always count on her to come through.

We are truly blessed at St Peter's, and we have much to be thankful.

The one disappointment I have is the relative lack of attendance at Sunday services and at other parish events such as the recent Evensong. I had thought that we were sufficiently done with Covid so that attendance on Sunday and on other

## Message from Senior Warden continued from 3

occasions would return to the pre-covid levels. I know that some of you who used to attend services are watching the live stream as a substitute for attending these services in person. Those of you who have the option to come to church, but who watch the live stream, are missing so much. I am fairly certain that when many of you watch the live stream, that you don't participate fully in the liturgy, that you don't give your full attention to the sermons, and that you don't sing the hymns. When you watch on the live stream, you miss out on the opportunity to have the full benefit hearing our choir in a magnificent place of worship. I know, for certain, that you are missing out on the fellowship of meeting and greeting old friends, and making new friends at the Sunday services. Come to church on Sunday, I believe that you will be glad that you did.

I offer my best wishes to you for a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving, and for a blessed Advent Season.

## PASTORAL CARE

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

The Pastoral Care Committee has been very active over the time of these autumn months. We continue to provide a variety of care services to our congregation members. We also need some of your help and support especially for transportation and as Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

Providing transportation is a wonderful way to meet homebound members and provide a much-needed service. If you would like to help with transportation of a homebound member to church, doctor's appointment, grocery shopping, etc.

Please contact Bravard Cornbrooks, [ebcornbrooks@comcast.net](mailto:ebcornbrooks@comcast.net)



Eucharistic Visitors are members of the congregation who have received training and preparation through our diocesan Bishop's Institute, located at the former St. Paul's Episcopal Church near Hebron.

EVs carry the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood to homebound, infirm and/or hospitalized members of St. Peter's as an extension of the Eucharistic Table. The next EV training session is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Lynn, [lwilji@gmail.com](mailto:lwilji@gmail.com) or [lynnw@stpeterschurch.net](mailto:lynnw@stpeterschurch.net)

Our various ministries and coordinators are listed below. If you would like to assist with any of these ministries, please contact Pastor Greg or the ministry coordinator.

Hearts and Hands Knitting/Crocheting *Becky Kerrigan & Lori Butler* - Lay Eucharistic Visitors *Bravard Cornbrooks*  
Greeting Card Ministry *Betty Evans* - Grief Ministry *Betsy Brooks* - New Baby Ministry *Bravard Cornbrooks*  
Meals *Linda Abbott* - Transportation *Bravard Cornbrooks* - Chair *Marc Duncan* - Staff Support - *Pastor Greg Harbaugh*

**WI-MIDDLE CHRISTMAS PROJECT**

Help assist families in need at WI-MIDDLE by purchasing a gift card of any amount from:

**TARGET OLD NAVY  
WALMART AMAZON**

Place the gift card in an envelope with the amount marked on the outside of the envelope and place in an envelope at the WI-MIDDLE CHRISTMAS PROJECT display located in the Parlor.

**DONATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>**

**KIDS CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT**

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**9:45AM Parish Hall**

# 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.*

Sunday School started Fall 2024 learning about Old Testament Lessons. We studied Creation - Moses so far! Sunday School class starts with everyone writing down their prayers to post on our prayer board. We read the Old Testament lesson together and discuss the lessons. We have learned that God is a creator, keeps his promises and loves each of us. The kids 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 with personal supplies for the children at Wi-Middle. We collected gifts to adopt a grandparent through the MAC program. The gifts were wrapped at the Advent Party. Items purchased for the adopted grandparent including clothing, nightgown, toiletries, socks, stamps and more!

Sunday School children also participated in Youth Sunday in September as ushers, lectors and altar servers! We hosted our annual Advent Party before Thanksgiving with fellowship and advent crafts.

Sunday School children will participate in our Christmas Pageant which we will practice and perform on December 22nd at 9:45am. We look forward to starting Sunday School classes again in January. Come and join in the fun!



# YOUTH GROUP

*Written by The Rev. Lynn Wiljanen*

For the fall 2024, the Youth Group has been delving into the Old Testament, with a look at Creation and how we are all created in the image of God. This focus was to help youth look at their unique talents and treasures as well as their differences among peers. We also began to examine Exodus before the parting of the Red Sea to learn about the power of God, what it means to be enslaved and free, and the inspiration of Moses as a major prophet. We will conclude fall looking at the Ten Commandments and what it means to be God's people. One of our outreach activities was creating cheerful cards that will be placed in the lunch bags for the consumers at St. Joseph House.

As we look forward to the winter and spring of 2025, we will continue to work on the Pentateuch and looking at what covenant and God's law means in the Old Testament. We will also explore what it means to wander in the wilderness and the hope of the Promise Land in Numbers and Deuteronomy. Finally, we will examine Lent through the lens of the Old Testament with themes of penance, the Passover, and its connection to Easter. We will look forward to having a social event out with youth. Our outreach project for February will be to make cards and cookies for those in need.

To see the schedule for Youth group, you can go to the Youth Group at <https://stpeterschurch.net/youth-group/> You can then click the green button for the "2025 Schedule" for winter and spring. Please let me know if you have any questions. Deacon Lynn Wiljanen: [lynn@bishopsinstitute.org](mailto:lynn@bishopsinstitute.org)



## Youth Group

St. Peter's Youth Group is open to young people in middle or high school. We believe each student is created and loved by God, and we seek to create a place where students can find a home while...

[stpeterschurch.net](https://stpeterschurch.net)



# ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRIES

*Written by James Wallace*

We are off to a strong start this fall in the St. Peter's music program, with exciting new developments and continued high-quality musical presentations at our services.

The **Choir School of the Eastern Shore** was revived this fall. In its initial phase it is focused on homeschooled students. There are currently nine children enrolled, though it will be some time before they sing in public, as they are very young, mostly second graders. This means that we are starting from the very beginning, but also bodes well for a strong program down the line. The Choir School rehearses Wednesdays at 1pm. Special thanks to Bravard Cornbrooks for serving as our Safe Church support person. Safe Church guidelines require two adults to be present at any youth gathering. If you would like to help by becoming Safe Church certified and supporting the Choir School at rehearsals, please contact the office or James Wallace, [jamesw@stpeterschurch.net](mailto:jamesw@stpeterschurch.net).



**Grace Notes Bell Choir** had a very successful open house this fall and brought their membership up to 15 ringers! It was great to hear them again at the 8:30 service on November 3. Thanks to Megan Fenoglietto for her great direction of the group.

Our first service in the new time format, **Choral Evensong on All Saints Sunday**, was a great success. The choir was augmented by a few additional singers, and the service was very beautiful, indeed. One longtime parishioner said, "That was the best I've ever heard the St. Peter's Choir sound in all my years here!" The potluck dinner that followed was also a big hit. Congratulations to the choir for their beautiful music making, and thanks to the hospitality committee for their support of the potluck.

**The St. Cecilia Guild appeal** has fallen far short of this year's \$15,000 goal. These funds directly support the music program. If you are able to give, please go to <https://stpeterschurch.net/st-cecilia-guild-of-st-peters/> to join and make a donation. Thanks!

Add these upcoming special events at St. Peter's to your calendar:

- Dec. 8 Advent Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm service
- Dec. 22 Handel's Messiah - 6:00pm
- Jan. 6 Festal Eucharist for Epiphany - 6:00pm
- Feb. 2 Choral Evensong for Candlemas - 5:00pm service, with potluck to follow
- Mar. 26, Apr. 2, 9 Lenten Organ Meditation after noon eucharist, about 12:40pm
- May 3 Choral Evensong for Eastertide - 5:00pm service, with potluck to follow



# HOLIDAY BAZAAR A HUGE SUCCESS

The 3rd Friday and Saturday in November marked another successful Holiday Bazaar, and St. Peter's came out in full force to make this event truly special! The turnout was fantastic, and we're grateful to everyone who joined us, volunteered, donated, or simply came to enjoy the festivities. We raised \$8,000 for the church.

**Pete's Cafe** was a hit, serving up crowd favorites like King Boys Oyster sandwiches, homemade soups, and chicken salad sandwiches. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers in the kitchen, everyone enjoyed warm, delicious meals that kept them energized while they shopped.

**Attic Treasures** saw plenty of foot traffic as shoppers hunted for unique finds. From vintage items to quirky collectibles, this section proved to be a treasure trove, with many attendees leaving with arms full of wonderful discoveries.

At **Pete's Bake Shop and Pantry**, the baked goods and homemade jams and jellies flew off the tables. Thanks to the incredible bakers in our community, we had a delightful variety of cakes, pies, and other treats. Many guests left with goodies for the holiday season, and the shop was almost sold out by the end of the event.

The **Silent Auction** was a huge success, with beautifully curated baskets that attracted eager bidders. The excitement around the auction added a fun, competitive spirit to the event, and we're thrilled to announce that the proceeds exceeded our expectations.

New this year, the **Costume Jewelry** section was a fantastic addition, drawing in jewelry lovers of all ages. The selection of fun, affordable pieces made it a popular stop for attendees looking for unique accessories.

This year's Bazaar was a true community effort, and we couldn't have done it without our wonderful volunteers and generous donors. From setting up to serving food and organizing items, every volunteer played a crucial role in making this event possible.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our Holiday Bazaar!



## BISHOP MARRAY TO VISIT ST. PETERS: 1/19

The XI Bishop of Easton, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, makes his annual visitation to St. Peter's on Sunday, January 19, 2025. Bishop San will be the celebrant and preacher at both worship services that Sunday and will be receiving individuals that are part of the current Inquirers Class. We will also be celebrating our Patronal Feast on that Sunday: The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter. This will likely be his next-to-the-last official visit before his retirement in the fall of 2026.

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.



<https://dioceseofeaston.org/bishop-sans-retirement-letter/>

# DISCERNMENT TASK FORCE

St. Peter's is facing major costs in implementing improvements for the Parish Annex and the need for continued upkeep of the parish's historic buildings. The Vestry approved the appointment of a Discernment Task Force to try to understand what these costs are and to advise the Vestry on a way forward. The Task Force has met with a consultant who has much experience leading capital campaigns in the Episcopal Church. The consultant noted that a successful church capital campaign consists of three stages: discernment, feasibility study and then fundraising. St. Peter's went through a similar process in 2016-2017. The task force is also working on preliminary costs for these projects and hopes to present its findings and recommendations to the Vestry at the Vestry's January meeting. Members of the task force are: Ernie Cornbrooks, Karen Papke-Shields, Hank Phillips, Chris Hall, Bill Day, Kristin Mallory, and Linda Hurley.

## DIOCESAN CONVENTION AT KENT ISLAND *featuring Tours of Camp Wright*

The 157<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Easton will be held over three days beginning with a zoom meeting on Thursday, March 8, a Diocesan Eucharist on March 9 at Christ Church, Kent island and an all-day in person meeting on Saturday, March 10 at Christ Church Kent Island. On Saturday afternoon there will be a trip to and tour of Camp Wright where the Camp Wright Committee will unveil its plans for improvements and upgrades to the camp as it begins its capital campaign. All are invited to participate.

Your delegates representing St. Peter's at the Diocesan Convention are: Ernie Cornbrooks, Linda Hurley and Jeanne Whitney. The convention will also be livestreamed. For more information and for a connection to the livestream go to the convention webpage: <https://dioceseofeaston.org/convention2025/>.

*Messiah*  
ALL - SING  
Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> - 6PM  
*The event will be a wonderful gathering of believers and music lovers celebrating the birth, life, death and Resurrection of the Savior, Jesus Christ, with performance by the Choir and special guest soloists.*  
St. Peter's Church - Salisbury, MD



# PLANNED GIVING

*Written by Linda Hurley*

Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> was Planned Giving Sunday. Inaugural members of the 1768 Society were recognized at both services with a pin engraved with *1768 Society*, and coffee hour with plenty of treats was enjoyed. The 1768 Society is a legacy society for people who have made a provision for St. Peter's Episcopal Church in their estate, no matter how large or small. It is meant to recognize your extraordinary contributions to St. Peter's and to bring awareness to the church's planned giving program.

As you consider what your legacy will be, think about the ministries that you are involved in and support at St. Peter's. You can impact those ministries long after your lifetime by naming St. Peter's Episcopal Church as a bequest in your will or in another type of planned gift. Whether it's a percentage of your estate or a specific dollar amount, your precious gift can continue supporting your parish long after you have left this world.

To become a member, please complete the 1768 Society Enrollment Form found on the table outside the parlor and on St. Peter's website.

For questions, please contact one of your shepherds:

Kristin Mallory [kleemallory@hotmail.com](mailto:kleemallory@hotmail.com) Gil Allen [agillisallen@gmail.com](mailto:agillisallen@gmail.com)

Linda Hurley [linda.hurley@comcast.net](mailto:linda.hurley@comcast.net) Bill Wyatt [bnjwyatt@comcast.net](mailto:bnjwyatt@comcast.net)

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Written by Lori Butler*

The Outreach Committee has been busy this fall with our partner school WiMiddle. As a welcome back to the new school year, we provided delicious, home baked coffee cakes and light refreshments. Lynne Peverley and Judy Wyatt delivered numerous bags of school supplies and clothing to the school. Everything was graciously donated by our parishioners during our Christmas in August campaign. Just after Thanksgiving, we will start our Angel Tree campaign to benefit the students of WiMiddle. The Outreach Committee will be asking for gift card donations, which the teachers will use to purchase Christmas presents for those students in need.

Jimmy Hill and volunteers continue to serve around 40 bagged lunches at the Joseph House each month. He includes a sandwich, piece of fruit, chips and/or a cookie.

This January, St. Peter's will host the week of January 11th at the cold weather shelter (HHEH). Each night, St. Peter's is responsible for providing a hot meal, breakfast and a bagged lunch. We also must have 2 people staffing the check in table from 4:45 p.m. to 11 p.m. Volunteer sign up sheets will be posted in a few weeks. If you are unable to physically assist with the shelter, gift cards to offset the cost of the breakfasts and lunches are greatly appreciated.

Our blessing box continues to be stocked almost every day. Our community has many, many food insecure individuals. Ideas for food donations include any soup/stew can, spaghetti and sauce, cans of sausages, canned vegetables, granola bars, and cups of noodles. Please ensure that all cans have a pop top. Please place donations in the red bin located outside the Parlor.

The Outreach Committee is looking for a new ministry and asking our parishioners for ideas. On our website, under Opportunities to Serve, is a list of criteria for a new ministry. If you would like to discuss possible new ministries, contact Lori Butler at 443-235-6450. We appreciate new ideas by Dec 1.

# CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION

*Written by Lynne Peverley*

Often parishioners don't realize what the powerful outreach program, The Children's Home Foundation, has done in more than 60 years to fund educational opportunities on the Eastern Shore. November 24 is designated by the bishop as the day we remind them how lives are being changed every day for needy students. Many youngsters are given scholarships to attend vocational/career programs and more recently young people are getting their driver's license school paid for by CHS. More than a hundred youngsters who would not ordinarily be able to attend summer camps are also funded by the program each year. Another impactful program is that CHF also supports adults who need skills that allow them to return to the world of work with improved earning potential. Ann Allen and Lynne Peverley are your representatives to this diocesan board of volunteers. Sunday, Nov.24 you will hear them make a short presentation as the annual Thanksgiving Appeal gets underway.

## ADULT FORMATION

*Written by Pastor Greg Harbaugh*

### THE JOY OF ADVENT: *Perusing Poetry with English Poets, Ancient Church Teachers and Other Lyricists*

Join with Pastor Greg for times of preparation, anticipation, joy and love as we enter into the time of Advent. We will gather to listen, learn and lean into the poetic and lyrical life of the Church, with voices from the ancient past to the contemporary.

**Advent 1**, December 1, Luke 21.25-36 (Eschatological imagery)

**Advent 2**, December 8, Luke 1.39-55 (Magnificat)

**Advent 3**, December 15, Luke 1.57-80 (Benedictus)

and Luke 2.22-33 (Nunc Dimittis)

**Advent 4**, Christmas Pageant

Some of the voices we will hear include priest/poet Malcolm Guite, Christina Rossetti, John Donne, Gregory of Nazianzen, W. H. Auden, G.K. Chesterton, Hildegard of Bingen, Gerhard Frost and more.

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.

St. Peter's Church 115 St. Peter's Street Salisbury, MD 410.742.5118 - [www.stpeterschurch.net](http://www.stpeterschurch.net)

# ALTAR GUILD

*Written by Debra Souza*

The Altar Guild was happy to welcome two new members this year: Annie Nichols and Lynn Tomczak. Thank you so much for joining us in this important ministry! New members are always welcome!

On a somber note, we are saddened to lose two of our members: Ed Ripper and Dr. Ruth Ann Oartel, (past Co Directress) who have passed away this year. They were faithful long time members and are truly missed by their Altar Guild Family. Our prayers are with their families.

We are currently counting down the days until the season of Advent which is marked as the beginning of the spiritual year for Christians. It is traditionally observed on the four Sundays before Christmas Day. The word Advent, comes from the Latin word adventus, which means "coming". A time to wait and prepare. A time to reflect on hope, peace, love, and joy and God's unending love for his people as symbolized in the lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath. It is also a time to reflect on the nature of Jesus' humble birth and the anticipation of his coming again. While the outside world is celebrating Christmas in a commercial way (for the most part right after Thanksgiving), the Altar Guild has the time-honored responsibility and privilege of preparing the Sanctuary for Advent and the joyous celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. For those who are not familiar with our work, we usually work in teams of two or three, rotating each Sunday, but during Advent and Christmas, we come together as one team to prepare the church for holy worship. So much to be done! There are wreaths and garlands to be hung, an advent wreath to decorate, a manger to be set up, candles for the windows, poinsettias to be arranged, and changing the liturgical colors on the altar to symbolize the season. The liturgical color blue used during Advent is the color of the Blessed Virgin Mary and also a symbol of the night sky just before dawn signaling hope and a new beginning. The color white used during Christmas is the color of celebration, joy, and peace. White symbolizes the greatest work of God in the world, specifically his incarnation into this world at Christmas.

To some who have never served on an Altar Guild it may seem mundane, more like housekeeping, but in truth there is something spiritual in the simple and necessary work of pouring the wine, counting wafers, changing the linens, filling the candles, setting the books, arranging flowers, polishing brass, washing the sacred vessels used in the service, and so much more. Caring for the altar as an Altar Guild member is a way to act out our relationship with God. Imagine, Christians have been doing this work around the world for over 2000 years! It is humbling, and we are grateful servants.

As the Altar Guild works to prepare St. Peter's for the coming weeks of Advent and Christmas, it is our sincere hope that our work will be a worthy devotion to God and will assist in preparing the way for a joyous, beautiful, and peaceful worship for all our church family and friends. The Altar Guild wishes you and your loved ones a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.



**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**

# ONLINE TASK FORCE

*Written by Kristin Mallory*

If you have not had a chance to view the new webpage for the church, please take a few minutes to check out the changes. The social media specialist, Blair Andrews, has been working to update all links and refresh the overall appearance of St. Peter's website. In addition, Blair has been boosting St. Peter's Facebook and Instagram presence as noted in the following extremely encouraging statistics.

Since September 1, 2024, Facebook post frequency has grown by 21%, compared to the previous two-month period and vastly improved engagement. The St. Peter's Facebook page now has 1,152 followers with page visits growing by 50%, content interactions by 32%, and follower growth rate increasing by 34%. Instagram is showing growth with page visits increasing 7x in the past two months and content interactions more than doubled.

The growth noted has taken place without purchasing ads or boosted posts. The next step for the Online Task Force is to further evaluate the effectiveness of the social media efforts and gather additional data and user experiences. Please reach out to Kristin Mallory at [kleemallory@hotmail.com](mailto:kleemallory@hotmail.com) or stop her at church to provide your feedback, experiences, ideas and/or suggestions regarding social media and online engagement.

A poster for an Advent service. The background is a warm, close-up photograph of a lit red candle on a wooden surface, surrounded by pinecones, red ornaments, and star-shaped cookies. The text is overlaid on the image.

Join us for  
**Advent Lessons & Carols**  
Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

This beautiful candlelit service signifies Christ's light piercing and overcoming the darkness while bidding us to turn our hearts toward the observance of Holy Advent.

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



## *Christmas Lessons & Carols*

**December 29 – 10:30AM Service**

In this service, we review nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message.



# PARSONS CEMETERY

*Written by Rick Fahey*



Wreaths Across America  
Parsons Cemetery  
December 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM

Gathering for the parade begins at 9:00.  
Please also donate wreaths by going to  
<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>



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

## Holy Eucharist

*Feast of the Holy Name*

Wednesday, 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](http://www.stpeterschurch.net)

# PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

On Saturday, October 26 the Property Committee organized an All Parish Workday and 21 people showed up to help clean and declutter many places in the church and parish house. Thank you to all the volunteers! It was a great group effort.

During the fall, a new security light was installed in the courtyard which illuminates that area from dusk to dawn, and will hopefully be a deterrent to dissuade people from sleeping there or using the space for inappropriate activities. The hall outside the Music Room has been painted. New furniture has been placed in the parlor. Carpets and floors in the Parish House and the Parish Annex have been cleaned. The Property Committee coordinated with the Music Director in the organ pipes removal project.

Members of your Property Committee are: Sean Fahey, Mike Steczak, Dick Van Gelder, Bill Day, Mary Lou Coffin, Gerald Otten, Hope Morgan and Joe Telesky.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA 2024



**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)*

Or you can now pay online at the following link: [www.stpeterschurch.net/give](http://www.stpeterschurch.net/give)

**ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 15, 2024**

*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 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*Reported by Hank Phillips, Treasurer*

9/30/24	2024		2023	
	<u>9 Months YTD Actual</u>	<u>12 Months Budget</u>	<u>9 Months YTD Budget</u>	<u>9 Months YTD Actual</u>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Total Offerings	269,323	392,300	294,225	262,471
Total Other Sources	<u>38,062</u>	<u>55,150</u>	<u>41,363</u>	<u>74,880</u>
	307,385	447,450	335,588	337,351
<b>Outside Investments</b>				
Community Foundation (CFES) Income	8,000	7,000	5,250	6,000
Other CFES Income - Planned Giving Donations	5,085	5,000	3,750	13,849
Hodgson Trust	1,868	4,000	3,000	1,235
Withdrawal from Vestry Endowment	20,000	40,000	30,000	15,000
Withdrawal from New Ministries Endowment	4,000	4,000	3,000	0
Grants Income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	38,953	60,000	45,000	36,085
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>346,338</u>	<u>507,450</u>	<u>380,588</u>	<u>373,436</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Church Staff Compensation	99,522	142,466	106,850	79,206
Clergy Compensation	127,056	176,240	132,180	126,779
Diocesan Apportionment	25,128	33,500	25,125	37,819
Outreach & Mission	17,311	36,990	27,743	21,874
Overhead	95,376	122,023	91,517	103,857
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>364,394</u>	<u>511,219</u>	<u>383,414</u>	<u>369,536</u>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<u>-18,056</u>	<u>-3,769</u>	<u>-2,827</u>	<u>3,900</u>

## 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 few months. Here are the highlights of the Vestry's decisions at meetings in August, September, and October, 2024.

### August, 2024

Finance Committee recommended \$952.85 from residual unspecified funds be transferred to the Altar Guild Fund. Vestry unanimously voted for this.

Vestry unanimously approved Finance Committee's recommendation that Rick Fahey be given signatory authority for Parson's Cemetery checking account.

Vestry unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to transfer \$2,500 (left over for organist compensation) to Altar Guild Fund.

Vestry unanimously approved a motion to get a consultant to guide the Capital Campaign Task Force through getting numbers for the cost of possible capital projects.

### September, 2024:

There were no items that the Vestry needed to vote on

### October, 2024:

Vestry voted (6 in favor and 3 opposed) the motion (after much discussion) to give the Diocese an estimate of \$68,000 for our 2025 Diocesan ask of \$68,601.24. Final amount will be voted on at the December meeting.

Vestry voted unanimously to approve the proposal to remove the organ pipes from the church. The pipes will be removed in November at no cost to the parish. There will be a cost to uninstall & reinstall the Walker organ speakers.

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

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 8	Advent Lessons & Carols - 7PM
December 15	Caroling to the Homebound - 3:45PM
December 22	Children's Christmas Pageant - 9:45AM Handel's Messiah All-Sing - 6PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Services - 5PM & 11PM
December 25	Christmas Day Service - 10AM
January 1, 2025	New Year's Day Service - Noon
January 6, 2025	Epiphany Service - 7PM



*For a complete & up to date Church Calendar, visit the Parish website @ [www.stpeterschurch.net](http://www.stpeterschurch.net)*

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