

The *KEYNOTER*

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

410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net



SPRING 2025

LENTEN & EASTERTIDE AT ST. PETER'S

Ash Wednesday on March 5 begins this year's observation of the Season of Lent, a penitential season lasting 40 days (excluding Sundays) in which we are called to repentance and to follow the Way of the Cross. At the end of Lent comes Easter and the 50 days of Eastertide. Below are a list of events and activities planned for both seasons.

Lenten Events

Stations of the Cross, Friday March 14 and Friday March 28 at 7pm in the Church. Walk the Way of the Cross – 30 minute service in which participants walk around the church interior and make stops at the 14 stations of Jesus' passion and death.

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

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 13: Blessing and Procession of the Palms, reading of the Passion according to St. Luke

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MUSIC DIRECTOR TO RETIRE, SEARCH UNDERWAY

St. Peter's Music Director James Wallace announced in January that he is retiring and plans to move abroad. His last Sunday with us will be June 1, 2025.



"James has been a gift to St. Peter's and our Music Ministries," said the Rector, Fr. David Michaud. "Not only has he been an outstanding director of our choirs, but he has brought his talent and creativity to produce for the parish some new musical experiences and many outstanding events during his tenure, like the Messiah All Sing Concerts, Lessons and Carols, Evensong, Compline and organ concerts. We have been enriched by his leadership and talent. And he's also a pretty outstanding organist to boot! I am grateful that he is continuing to lead our music through the seasons of Lent and Eastertide as we transition to a new music director."

A job announcement for a fulltime music director has been circulating in the major church musician websites and is available on the parish website in the open positions page:

<https://stpeterschurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SPC-Music-Director-job-description-2025.pdf>

A Search Committee has been formed to assist Father David in finding our next director. Deadline for applications is March 1. The Search Committee will be reviewing all applications and will work with Father David on first round interviews in March and April. The final candidates will travel to St. Peter's for inperson interviews, a tour of the church and our community, and auditions. It is hoped we can secure a new music director this summer.

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Lenten & Eastertide at St. Peter's continued from 1

Maundy Thursday, April 17: Remembrance of the Last Supper – Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar; foot washing: 7pm in the church.

Watch with the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose: Thursday evening through Friday morning, April 17-18. Sign up for an hour.

Good Friday, April 18: Reading of the Passion of St. John, the Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, Mass of the Pre-Sanctified; 12noon in the church

Great Vigil of Easter, April 19: Lighting of the New Fire, singing the Exultet, reading the prophecies, Holy Baptism, the first Eucharist of Easter; 8pm in the church.

Easter Sunday, Easter Season

Easter Sunday begins the 50-day season of Easter, or Eastertide that begins on Easter and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. Easter Sunday Services on April 20 are planned for 8:30am and 10:30am—the 10:30 service will be a Solemn sung Eucharist (incense will be used). The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will occur after the 8:30am service.

Flowering of the Cross, UTO Ingathering: April 27

Annual Parish Meeting and Commissioning of Vestry: May 4

Eastertide Evensong: May 4, 5pm in the church

Spring Fundraiser: May 16, 5-8pm in the Parish Hall

Blessing of Graduates: May 18

Rogation Sunday: May 25

Memorial Day May 26: Memorial Eucharist at 9am

Ascension Day May 29: Holy Eucharist at 7pm

Parish Picnic and outdoor service: June 1 at Pirates Wharf

Pentecost: June 8

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 9th



SET YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR
BEFORE BED
SATURDAY NIGHT.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION: MARCH 6-8

The Diocese of Easton is holding its annual convention March 6 through 8. The Thursday evening session on March 6 is on zoom. Friday evening is the Convention Eucharist at Christ Church, Kent Island. The Saturday sessions will take place at Christ Church, Kent Island. St. Peter's delegation consists of: Father David, Pastor Greg, Deacon Lynn, delegate Ernie Cornbrooks, delegate Linda Hurley and delegate Bravard Cornbrooks. John Phillips is the alternate delegate.

On Saturday there will be two issues that will be emphasized at convention: learning about the capital plan for the diocesan Camp Wright, including touring the facility, which is adjacent to Christ Church; and to begin the discernment process about the future of our diocese after the retirement of Bishop San. There are a number of resolutions that will be put forward at convention, including one to change the apportionment formula for parishes.

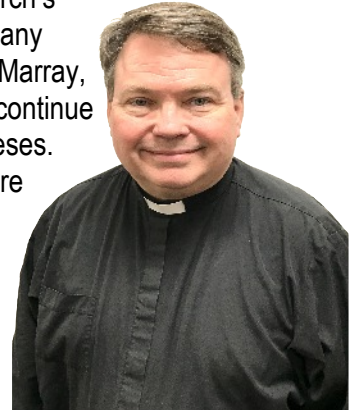
Any parishioner is welcome to come to convention or to view the livestream of convention. For more information about your diocesan convention there is a very informative page on the diocesan website:

<https://dioceseofeaston.org/convention2025/>. You can also contact a member of your delegation for more information.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

We are in a time of change.

There is a change of Administrations in our national government which is causing changes in how the federal government operates. We have a new Presiding Bishop who in the latest meeting with the Episcopal Church's Executive Council announced a realignment of the national church's office and they laid off many church employees. We have received news that our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, is retiring this fall and the diocese is beginning a process of discernment to see if we want to continue as a stand-alone diocese or enter into some other kind of arrangement with neighboring dioceses. And here at St. Peter's we are also entering into discernment this spring to talk about our future and how we need to invest in our ancient buildings and facilities to support where we want to be as a parish.



Add to that any personal changes you may be going through in your life or with your family and change is all around us, and change can overwhelm us.

That is why our faith in God is so important: for God is changeless, God is forever with us, God is our strength in stormy times, God is our anchor and our hope, God's love for us never fails. We remember on that Sea of Galilee when the storm came up suddenly in the disciples' boat and they turned to Jesus panic stricken. He awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased and there was calm (Luke 8:22-25). In these times of change we humbly confess that we can't go it alone, but when we are in God's hands, and when we put our trust in him, give him control, we are calmed and given the peace which passes all understanding. Jesus said to the disciples after calming the storm: "Where is your faith?"

In times of change, in times of uncertainty, have faith in God, and know that God is among us and is leading us through the storms and to where he wants us to be. May we pray to God unceasingly and trust him unconditionally as we navigate the changes and chances of our lives. And know that when we are going the way of God, all will be well.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Written by Senior Warden, Ernie Cornbrooks

The seasons of Lent, spring, and Easter are on the near horizon, and we are all looking forward to the special blessings each of these seasons bring into our lives.

I would like to use this quarterly Senior Warden report to the Parish to address something which is very dear to me....the Music Ministry of St Peter's Church. St Peter's has a long history of excellence concerning sacred music which has enriched our Parish life and also enriched the greater community. That excellence must continue. We are in a period of transition from our current Music Director, James Wallace, to our next music director. The Parish leadership is forming a search committee and receiving applications. James Wallace is assisting in the process as he continues to serve as music director until his retirement in June. A lot of this process will be "behind the scenes." but please bear with us as we make the successful transition to our next Music Director.



The St Cecilia Guild is an important part of the Music Ministry. Let's step back and address the question of who the heck is St Cecilia? You can Google her, but allow me to save you some time. St Cecilia was a third century martyr who lived near Rome, or, perhaps, in Sicily. (A lot of the details about her life and martyrdom are "fuzzy" or in conflict, since "recollections may vary.") She was a Christian whose parents may have forced her to marry a pagan who may or may not have converted to Christianity. Her martyrdom occurred, perhaps, while she was singing a hymn. Her neck was struck three times by a sword. She was mortally wounded and died three days later. The details of the miracles which earned her the status of sainthood are somewhat vague, but whatever she did, it was enough for her to be recognized as a saint by the Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic branches of Christianity. She is the patron saint of sacred music, organ builders, singers, poets, and musicians. Her feast day is November 22.

The St Cecilia Guild was introduced to St Peter's about seven years ago to supplement and enrich our music ministry. The

Message from Senior Warden continued from 3

fundraising of the Guild is separate from the annual Stewardship Campaign. The Guild provides funds not just for special concerts, but for the Messiah, the choral scholars who enrich our choir, paid musicians for services, the choir school, and other enhancements not specifically provided for in the Parish budget.

Parish support for the St Cecilia Guild will, of course, provide resources for the music ministry. Equally important, however, is that an active and well funded St Cecilia Guild will help to attract qualified applicants for the position of Director of Music. The St Cecilia Guild is about to commence its annual fundraising campaign, and we would appreciate your participation and generous support.

A excellent and robust Music Ministry is one of our greatest "assets" here at St Peter's; and every effort should be made to preserve it and, indeed, make it even better. Your support of the St Cecilia Guild will enable us to have the best possible Music Ministry.

Best wishes for a meaningful Lent, a joyful spring, and a Happy Easter!

PASTORAL CARE

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

Ministry of All to Each- God's peace to you, each and all. Rather than simply report out what the Pastoral Care Committee has been doing, which is quite a lot and mostly similar to the last Keynoter article, I would like to share some thoughts regarding "pastoral care" as a ministry of all congregation members to each other and those who the LORD sends to us. In the Gospel of Luke, there are two sendings of disciples. First, Jesus sent "the twelve," giving them "power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases." Later, following the Transfiguration event, Jesus sent the seventy-two. Both groups returned amazed at what they had experienced casting our demons and healing the sick. Their mission extended God's sovereign grace to a wider population.



Pastoral care is part of the church's mission. Visiting the sick and homebound, caring for those in need, providing support for those troubled by life's struggles, sharing God's Word and the Good News of Jesus with those who need to hear it, helping the poor and needy—all this and more is part of pastoral care. And each of us can contribute to extending God's sovereignty, God's love and mercy in Jesus Christ, through such acts of care and compassion.

Our committee does so through Eucharistic visitations, supporting new parents, providing knitted scarves and lap robes to the elderly, sick, HS graduates and others; we send greeting cards for birthdays and other events, specialized booklets to those grieving the loss of a loved one, meals for funerals, transportation to appointments and church, and more. Fr. David, Deacon Lynn and I provide additional pastoral care and support as well.

When any of us as members of Christ's Body the Church provide such care and compassion, we join in this ministry of Pastoral Care, the extension of Christ's sovereign love and mercy to all. In these ways, too, we worship through our bodies. Below are the specific areas of ministry assigned to the Pastoral Care Committee and those who oversee each area. If you would like to participate, please contact me, 814-777-6289 or gph1952@icloud.com, or one of the persons below.

New Baby Ministry - Bravard Cornbrooks **Hearts and Hands Knitting/Crocheting** - Becky Kerrigan & Lori Butler

Lay Eucharistic Visitors - Bravard Cornbrooks **Greeting Card Ministry** - Betty Evans **Grief Ministry** - Betsy Brooks

Meals - Linda Abbott **Transportation** - Bravard Cornbrooks **Staff Support** - Pastor Greg

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Written by Emily Atkin & Jamie Scott

Sunday School ended in 2024 with our Annual Christmas Pageant! Many thanks to Kate Dyer, the Director of the Christmas Pageant; it was heartwarming and fun. We appreciate Hope Morgan who did a beautiful job setting up the pageant background. The kids were wonderful actors and are very sweet!



We returned to the Education Annex in January for Sunday School lessons continuing to learn about the Old Testament. We started Genesis in September and have learned stories through Judges! The children made dignity bags for the Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness shelter in January. We filled just under 40 bags with snacks and personal care items. The bags were delivered to the men by Deacon Lynn, and they were very thankful to receive the goodies.



Bishop San visited in January, and we learned about Saint Peter together! We look forward to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20th. Thank you to our parents and everyone at St. Peter's for supporting our ministry.

YOUTH GROUP

Written by The Rev. Lynn Wiljanen

Youth Group Outreach to Hearts and Hands Ending Homelessness Shelter - The Youth Group gathered in February for fellowship, fun, and preparing Valentine's cookies for our neighbors at Hearts and Hands Ending Homelessness Shelter. Following Jesus commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself," youth engaged in in this act of generosity in a simple gift of cookies to send a message of love to the men at the shelter.



Youth Summit and Youth & Family Mission Trip - The Rev. Joanne Fisher, Youth Missioner, has offered two wonderful opportunities for our youth in the Diocese of Easton. In 2025 a Youth Summit will be held once again in partnership with Province III (our 13 regional Dioceses) and is called "PYE25" (Provincial Youth Event 2025-April 25-27, Dealine April 7) at the Claggett Center in Maryland. In 2025 the Mission Trip (July 6-12, Deadline April 1) will be a domestic mission to Wilmington, NC where youth and families will help with local ministries and hurricane relief efforts. For further information: <https://dioceseofeaston.org/youth/> You can contact Deacon Lynn, Youth Leader, at lynn@bishopsinstitute.org or call her 443-754-1735 with questions.



CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

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

Easter Sunday, April 20th
Following the 8:30AM service.



BLESSING OF THE SENIORS

Sunday, May 18th - 10:30AM Worship Service

College
Just Ahead

Join us as we
pray blessings
over the future
endeavors of our
graduating
seniors.

ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRIES

Written by James Wallace

St. Peter's is happy to welcome members of the Yale Russian Chorus for a short Lenten program on the first Sunday of Lent. On Sunday, March 9, the Yale Russian Chorus will sing between the services, from 9:45-10:15am. The program includes:

Glasom Moim (With My Voice)

Aleksandr Arkhangelsky, 1896
Transcribed by Denis Mickiewicz, 1959

Kondak o mytare I fariseye (Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector)

Georgy V. Sviridov, ca. 1990

Bogoroditse Devo, raduisya (Rejoice, O Virgin) From "All Night Vigil"

Sergei Rachmaninoff, 1915

Blagoslovi, dushe moya Gospoda (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)

Arr. D. Mickiewicz, 1962

Shen khar venakhi (You are a Vineyard)

Traditional Georgian hymn
Attributed to Demetrius I (1093-1156)



Please plan to stay after the first service or come early for the second service to start your Lent with a beautiful musical meditation. And remember to set your clocks ahead the night before so you don't miss it!

Our Lenten offerings will continue with a series of four short **Lenten Organ Meditations** played by James Wallace following the Wednesday noon service, roughly 12:35-1:00pm on these dates: March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9. The programs will contain meditative music appropriate to the season and are an opportunity to have a contemplative pause in your otherwise busy day!

The **Grace Notes Handbell Choir** will play in services twice more this year: March 23 (Third Sunday in Lent) at the 10:30am service, and May 18 (Fifth Sunday of Easter) at the 8:30am service. Thanks to our ringers and to Megan for excellent leadership!

The **Choir School of the Eastern Shore** continues its progress in training very young voices to sing. Unfortunately, rehearsals have been strongly impacted by weather in the past couple of months. However, we hope that the children will be able to make a joyful noise soon! Thanks to Bravard Cornbrooks for serving as our Safe Church assistant at weekly rehearsals!

Special thanks to Stan Tomczak for his assistance in a complete overhaul of the choral library. The library is large – nearly 800 titles! – and there has not been a functioning index for a long time. We now have a modern, searchable digital database that will make it much easier to take advantage of the many excellent titles in our library. Thanks, Stan!

In the final step of the **pipe organ removal project**, the 300 lb. organ blower will be removed from the church on Feb. 27. Also, the chimes in the old organ chamber will be taken down and placed into storage for possible future use.

St. Peter's is happy to have our excellent choir joined by **trumpeter Wendell Banyay** at both of our glorious Easter services this year!

This year's final **Service of Choral Evensong with potluck supper to follow** will be offered on the third Sunday of Easter, May 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The Evening Service will be by C.V. Stanford, and the responses will be by Aleward, with Easter anthems. All are welcome.

WORSHIPPING THROUGH OUR BODIES

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

The question came to me not too long ago, "Why do you cross yourself?" I responded simply, "Well, that's one of the ways I worship and recognize Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior." More conversation followed and I have pondered the question since. When we gather for worship, when we compose ourselves for daily devotion we do so "in our bodies." Much of worship and prayer is done through words spoken or sung.

Yet our full bodies are involved. Internally, we pray and give thanks using our brains, our hearts and circulatory system, our vocal cords, larynx, lungs and respiratory system, our digestive and nutrition system, oral, visual, auditory and other sensory organs. We are "embodied" beings. In Baptism our bodies are wetted with water and blessed with word and oil.

So, using our hands, arms, feet and legs is simply part of bodily worship. We stand, sit or kneel at prescribed places, sometimes we fold our hands or lift our hands in prayer. We open our hands to receive the sacramental elements. We clasp each other's hands to share the Peace of Christ. We use our hands to offer gifts and our feet/legs to transport us to receive Christ's gifts for us.

Sometimes we bow or genuflect as a sign of reverential respect for the Holy One who is in our midst. And the Signing of the Cross is a way of prayer, honor and respect for the Triune name, and including places in the Creed where the three names are invoked. When the reading of the Gospel is announced, we may sign the Cross on head, mouth and torso as a prayer for Jesus' Word to enter our minds, speech and hearts. I sign the cross when God's mercy is invoked for prayer as recognition that the Cross of Christ is the seat and source of God's mercy.

In blessings and baptisms, the sign of the Cross is often made on the forehead. For Last Rites, the sign of the Cross is made on the dying or recently deceased person's body. These to mark us with the sign and identity of Christ Jesus. I encourage us to continue to find ways to worship with our bodies.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



March 4th 5-6:30PM

in the Parish Hall

featuring

pancakes & sausage.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Donations gladly accepted.



7AM, NOON & 7PM

ST. PETER'S CHURCH - 115 ST. PETER'S STREET SALISBURY

TUESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

GOD BE IN MY HEAD: The Sarum Prayer

7-8:00 PM—March 11, 18 & 25; April 1, 8 & 15

The ancient Sarum Rite was developed for use of the Salisbury Cathedral in southern England in the 11th Century. Subsequently it rose to popularity in England, Wales and Ireland. This rite greatly influenced later Anglican forms of worship as exemplified in the Book of Common Prayer.

One of the prayers from that rite is often called the Sarum Prayer, a prayer that attends to the believers body and God's presence:

*God be in my head
And in my understanding.
God be in my mine eyes
And in my looking.
God be in my mouth
And in my speaking.
God be in my heart
And in my thinking,
God be at mine end*

Almighty God,
who has planted the Day-star in the heavens,
and, scattering the night,
dost restore morning to the world,
fill us, we beseech Thee, with Thy mercy,
so that, Thou being our Enlightener,
all the darkness of our sins may be dispersed,
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Making use of this prayer, Pr. Ken Wilson has developed a six-week prayer course and 40-day devotional, just right for Lent. Fr. David and Pr. Greg will facilitate a Zoom-based reading and conversational "workshop" making use of Ken's book and other dimensions for building holy habits. As we go along, the center of our conversation will, of course, be God who is in our midst and God who indwells us. God be in My Head is available in paperback or e-book from most booksellers. Ten paperback copies will be available for \$10 through Fr. David. Please join us we gather for prayer 7 PM Tuesday March 11th.

LENTEN SUNDAY SERIES: Cultivation Holy Habits

During the Season of Lent, come to the Sunday Adult Forum Series on "Cultivating Holy Habits" in the Parish Library at 9:40am. The penitential season of Lent is not just about giving up something, but it can also be about taking on a new spiritual practice. It is known that if you try doing something new for 40 days it becomes a habit, so Lent is a perfect time to cultivate a new "holy habit."

The term "holy habit" is actually a pretty ancient Anglican concept, coined by 17th Century Anglican Divine Jeremy Taylor. Christians throughout the centuries have practiced pieties and devotions meant to draw them nearer to God and to form their lives to be more like Christ. During Lent, this study series will explore a number of spiritual disciplines that can be made part of your everyday life, which practiced regularly can be incorporated as holy habits in your spiritual journey.

Here is the list of topics for Sundays in Lent:

- March 9 What are Holy Habits? History of Anglican Practices of Holy Habits
- March 16 Sabbath, Meditation, Solitude
- March 23 Prayer and Study
- March 30 Examples Monastic Life can offer about Holy Habits
- April 6 Almsgiving and Service

BISHOP OF EASTON MOVES UP DATE OF RESIGNATION

Below is the letter Bishop Santosh Marray sent to the diocese announcing his latest retirement plans.

Through much prayer and consultation with my family, I write to you to announce that I will be resigning effective February 2nd, 2026, being the Feast of the Presentation/Candlemas as per Church Pension Fund guidelines, thus allowing the year 2025 to be credited to my service. Equally, this timeline will affect positively my financial and health retirement benefits. However, I intend to leave the Office of the Bishop of Easton, Bray House, on October 31, 2025, to proceed on one-month annual vacation (November) and two months (December 2025 and January 2026) pre-retirement sabbatical. It is my intention to celebrate my farewell service in the month of October. It will be the observance of my ninth anniversary as Bishop of Easton. You would recall that my investiture as the Eleventh Bishop of Easton was celebrated on October 15, 2016, observed as the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila.



This decision was not made lightly but was discerned in the knowledge that God's great story continues to unfold in my life and that of the diocese. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

During my time with family in the Bahamas last month, I spent much time in prayer. It was during these times of prayer that I heard God's voice clearly directing this decision. First, in calling me to spend more time with my family in these latter years of my life, as husband, father and grandfather, without the constant pull of work. And second, to continue my physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological healing.

My decision is equally informed by the action of the Standing Committee in calling for a period of Diocesan Discernment. Personally, I recognize that the Diocese of Easton, as a community of faith, may be called to make critical decisions at the conclusion of the designated period of diocesan wide discernment. These decisions are likely to determine the future trajectory of diocesan life, mission and ministry.

It is customary, practical and ecclesiastically prudent and responsible that this vital exercise be conducted without the physical presence of the incumbent ordinary/bishop. This action reflects my accountability and transparency in the spirit of kenosis (self-emptying – where the interest of others/church are placed before the individual's self-interest) as modelled by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Philippians 2). It is my conviction that this 'holy period' should be devoid of any real or perceived interference by the incumbent in office.

In my more than eight-year tenure here in the Diocese of Easton, prayer has always been central to our walk together. It is the cornerstone of my life, both personally and in ministry, and follows the example of Christ who often went away by himself, for renewal and clarity through prayer with God (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46–47; John 6:15). My beloved, it was through this practice that I arrived at this decision. God is calling me now, in my final season here, to close well this chapter of our diocesan life together, even as the next chapter begins.

May this same practice enshroud everything that the Diocese of Easton discerns as it journeys onward as a PRAYER CENTERED CHURCH + MISSION-SHAPED DIOCESE.

Together in Christ's service,

Bishop San



ANNUAL MEETING

St. Peter's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 4 at 9:15am in the Parish Hall. The meeting will be livestreamed as well, but you need to be present in the Parish Hall to vote. The early service will start at 8:00am that day. We are planning on an all parish breakfast beginning at 8:45am prior to the Annual Meeting. Worship will follow at 10:30am that day, with the Installation of Vestry members and officers.

Parishioners who have been active at St. Peter's for a year or more are eligible to vote in the elections. There are three 3-year Vestry positions open, and one 2-year Vestry position (to fill the unexpired term of Greg Mallory who is leaving the area this summer) as well as 3 Delegate and 3 Alternate positions for the 2026 Diocesan Convention. The Nominations Committee will be presenting a slate of candidates that will be publicized at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Those interested in these positions are encouraged to contact the Nominations Committee Chair Ernie Cornbrooks. Nominations can also be made on the floor on the day of the Parish Meeting.

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

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

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

PARISH DISCERNMENT UPDATE

St. Peter's is facing major costs in implementing improvements for the Parish Annex and the need for continued upkeep of the church and Parish House. The Discernment Task Force recommended in January and the Vestry approved a plan to begin a process of discernment that would lead to a feasibility study and then to a possible capital campaign to address these issues.

A Discernment Committee has been created to work with a consultant to organize a retreat and strategy day for the Vestry on March 29 to put together a vision and a plan for our future to present to the parish for discussion and comment. The members of the committee are Ernie Cornbrooks, Karen Papke-Shields, Chris Hall, and Linda Hurley. A working group of Ernie Cornbrooks, Sean Fahey and Ron Morgan has also been formed to identify for the Vestry possible capital projects along with their scope and cost to be considered as part of the development of a vision and plan for the future.

Please keep the committee and the Vestry in your prayers as they begin this process of discernment.

Retrace and Remember the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

30 minute liturgy of the Stations of the Cross

WALK THE WAY OF THE CROSS

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

March 14th & March 28th - 7PM in the Church

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

All Holy Week Worship Services are In-Person and Livestream

Maundy Thursday 7PM Service	Good Friday Noon Service	Easter Vigil 8PM Service	Easter Sunday 8:30AM & 10:30AM Service
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Holy Week at St. Peter's Church

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT StPetersSby & OUR WEBSITE www.stpeterschurch.net

ALTAR GUILD

Written by Kathy Fahey, Directress

The Altar Guild is deeply involved in a variety of important activities that support and enrich the life of the church. Our work is often behind the scenes, but one of the most visible responsibilities of the Altar Guild is preparing the church for major holidays.

As I write this, Altar Guild members are enjoying the peace of the weeks between preparing the church for our Christmas celebration and preparing the church for Holy Week. During most of the year we work together in teams of two or three. Christmas and Holy Week, however, are times that require all hands on deck.

As we enjoy the quiet weeks following Christmas, we're anticipating the activities of Holy Week —preparing the trees and stripping the palms for Palm Sunday, stripping the altar for Maundy Thursday, preparing the Altar of Repose, and decorating the church for Easter. It will take all the members of our small — but mighty! — crew.



From the weekly services to special occasions like weddings, baptisms, funerals, and major holidays, there is always something to be done to maintain our beautiful church. If you feel called to serve in this important and loving ministry, we invite you to join us! Whether you have a passion for decorating, an eye for detail, or simply a desire to contribute to the worship life of our parish, your help will be greatly appreciated. Together, we can continue to care for and nurture the spiritual home that we all share.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Written by Lori Butler

The Hearts and Hands knitting group continues to knit beautiful prayer shawls and baby blankets for the congregation. We also made numerous hats and scarves that were placed in the blessing box for our community.

The Outreach committee would like to thank the many volunteers who helped during St Peter's week at the cold weather shelter. A big thanks goes to Lydia Filgueras for spearheading the week. The Angel Tree ministry was very successful this year. Parishioners donated over \$950 in gift cards.

FELLOWSHIP & EVANGELISM SPRING ACTIVITIES

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee is planning a few fun activities this spring.

St. Patrick's Eve Dinner – Sunday, March 16 at 5pm in the Parish Hall

All Parish Breakfast – Sunday, May 4 from 8:45am to 9:15am in the Parish Hall before the Annual Meeting

Third Friday May 16 – St. Peter's Spring Fundraiser – Oyster Fritter Sandwiches, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, Plant Sale, Blessing of the Animals, and more 5pm to 8pm.

Annual Parish Picnic—June 1 at Pirates Wharf Park – 10:30am outdoor services followed by a picnic. Check out Peter's Post as the events draw near for more information .



ONLINE TASK FORCE

Written by Kristin Mallory

St. Peter's Church has continued to benefit in "views" from the increase in social media presence. Mr. Blair Andrews, the part-time social media manager, provided impressive data to demonstrate the results of the increased interactions. Over the last 90 days (November 15, 2024, to February 14, 2025), the church's social media content has been viewed over 82,000 times. This is a three-fold increase since the previous 90-day period. In these last 90 days, the social media content has increased 225%, with over 2,300 interactions. The links in the posts have been clicked nearly 600 times, which is a 54% increase. There have been over 3,400 visits to the Facebook page which equals a 12% increase. In addition, the church has added 24 new followers, which is a 50% increase in new follower rate.

The growth of the church's social media interactions is directly related to the strategic ad campaigns during the Christmas season. The investment of approximately \$300 in advertising (\$100 for three separate campaigns) provided amazing social media presence. The advertising ran for Advent Lessons and Carols, the Messiah All-Sing and the Christmas services. The number of views for each of these ranged from 12,258 to 18,649, from 5,226 to 8,512 accounts. Each event also generated anywhere from 474 to 749 engagements.

Through continued digital interaction, St. Peter's is reaching new viewers to grow the online parishioner activities. With local viewers, this increase of social media presence also has the potential to increase on-site church visits. Please remember to share, click, like, and refer the wonderful opportunities and activities at St. Peter's!



EASTER LILIES

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

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

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

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, April 13th

Cost per Lily: \$12

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

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

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

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

PARSONS CEMETERY

Written by Rick Fahey

Spring is near and we always look forward to the beauty of the many blossoms soon to appear throughout the cemetery. For those of you who did not see our post last year, Dr. Joan Maloof did a survey of our trees and found at least 35 varieties, providing an ever-changing array of colors throughout the year. Thanks to a grant, we planted 18 more trees in 6 varieties. As Easter draws near, we encourage everyone to further brighten the cemetery by placing flowers at the graves of your loved ones. We are working on a program to allow flowers to be ordered through our website.

Our long-awaited shoreline stabilization program is about to start. Unfortunately, it took almost 5 years to get the permits for it, during which inflation raised the price above our original grant. We are requesting a supplement to the grant, but are not assured that it will be awarded. The grant is only for the area along our scenic Water's Edge Memorial Trail and Cremation Garden area. It is only part of a much larger need to stabilize the entire shore along Johnson's Lake. In February, we held our annual Friends of Parsons Cemetery fundraising effort. Throughout the month we shared on Facebook the many 2024 projects that were only possible through donations to this fund and from grants that we received from several organizations. If you did not receive our letter or email, you may contribute online by going to <https://www.cfes.org/>. Hit "DONATE" on the top right, and that will take you to DONATE ONLINE. Please fill in the donation form, and at the line "Select a Fund or Type a Fund Name," either type in "Friends of Parsons Cemetery Fund" or select our fund from the drop-down menu.

Parsons Cemetery is more than just a place where people are buried. It is an urban green space filled with people walking their dogs, running, and bike riding. It is an outdoor history museum with many self-guided tours that tell the stories of those who rest here. It is an arboretum with many varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers. It is an events space with several hundred people attending some of them. It is an outdoor art museum with tours explaining the elaborate carvings and symbolism etched into the monuments. We have great support from the community, but the cemetery's upkeep is ultimately the responsibility of St. Peter's Church. We encourage you to remember the cemetery in your wills and required minimum IRA distributions.

PLANNED GIVING

Written by Linda Hurley

Sunday October 27th was Planned Giving Sunday. Inaugural members of the 1768 Society were recognized at both services with an engraved pin. 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, and is meant to recognize parishioners' contributions and to bring awareness to the church's planned giving program.

Although this is not the "season" for Stewardship and Planned Giving awareness, please keep planning in front of mind and consider what your legacy will be. Think about the ministries that you are involved in and support at St. Peter's and know that you can impact those ministries long after your lifetime by naming St. Peter's 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 will impact our work for generations to come. These gifts are essential to the long-term financial health of the parish, enabling St. Peter's to continue and expand our ministries.

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 Gil Allen agillisallen@gmail.com

Linda Hurley linda.hurley@comcast.net Bill Wyatt bnjwyatt@comcast.net

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Since the publication of the Winter newsletter the Property Committee had Stanley Steemer in January clean our hardwood floors and other floors that had not been done when they came to clean carpets last November. We had an expensive winter for snow removal – after all the storms our contractor had all surfaces plowed and salted, making for safe approaches to our buildings.

The Vestry approved purchasing a new controller for St. Peter’s bell to replace the decades old mechanism which has broken down and it has been ordered. The old organ blower has been removed from the church at no cost to the parish. Furniture in the parlor that was worn has been replaced with some new pieces.

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

ST. PETER’S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Reported by Stacy Cottingham, Treasurer

12/31/2024	2024		2023	
	<u>12 Months YTD Actual</u>	<u>12 Months Budget</u>	<u>12 Months YTD Budget</u>	<u>12 Months YTD Actual</u>
INCOME				
Total Offerings	368,796	392,300	392,300	387,195
Total Other Sources	61,702	55,150	55,150	86,541
	<u>430,498</u>	<u>447,450</u>	<u>447,450</u>	<u>473,736</u>
Outside Investments				
Community Foundation (CFES) Income	8,000	7,000	5,250	6,000
Other CFES Income - Planned Giving Donatic	5,085	5,000	3,750	13,849
Hodgson Trust	4,236	4,000	4,000	4,454
Withdrawal from Vestry Endowment	40,000	40,000	40,000	25,000
Withdrawal from New Ministries Endowment	4,000	4,000	4,000	0
Grants Income	0	0	0	0
	<u>61,321</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>49,304</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>491,819</u>	<u>507,450</u>	<u>504,450</u>	<u>523,039</u>
EXPENSES				
Church Staff Compensation	137,794	142,466	142,466	116,074
Clergy Compensation	175,239	176,240	176,240	175,675
Diocesan Apportionment	33,504	33,500	33,500	56,729
Outreach & Mission	25,702	36,990	36,990	34,321
Overhead	132,946	122,023	122,023	130,783
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>505,185</u>	<u>511,219</u>	<u>511,219</u>	<u>513,581</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	<u>-13,366</u>	<u>-3,769</u>	<u>-6,769</u>	<u>9,458</u>

For the end of year December 31, 2024, NET ORDINARY INCOME came in at a negative \$13,366. TOTAL INCOME as well as TOTAL EXPENSES was close to budget.

TOTAL INCOME: Total Offerings, especially Pledge Offerings saw a boost from the end of year pledge, leaving the END OF YEAR a little over \$7,000 behind budget. Total Other Sources at \$61,702 was reasonably on budget but significantly below the \$86,541 seen last year. The latter included the one-time extraordinary Employee Retainage Credit/ERC from the Federal Government of \$41,000. Outside Investments- Community Foundation Income included a noteworthy level of Planned Giving Donations in both years. Use of Endowment funds (Withdrawal from Vestry Endowment), is generally the last source of income accessed and was less than budget.

TOTAL EXPENSES: The favorable below budget outcome YTD was most significantly driven by the Outreach & Mission expense category.

Your Vestry has reviewed and accepted the above financial information.

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 November and December, 2024 and January, 2025.

November, 2024

Organ pipes were removed at no cost to the church. The cost to move the Walker organ speakers was \$8,900. Finance Committee recommended and Vestry unanimously approved using \$3,000 of unused Choir School funds and \$5,900 from Music Enrichment Endowment Fund to pay Walker Organ Co.

Vestry unanimously approved Finance Committee's recommendation to use 3 designated Memorial Funds (Richard Barr \$650, Jane Massey \$815, and William Scott \$649.38) to purchase 83 copies of "Wonder, Love and Praise" hymnals and a rolling rack to store them on.

Vestry unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to use the \$1,358 and any future donations to purchase at least 22 replacement Prayer Books and 30 Hymnals with name plates.

Vestry unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendation that the balance of \$690 in Scholarship Fund be moved to the Miscellaneous Income Fund.

Vestry unanimously approved going forward with a target stewardship challenge to try and get a few pledgers to pledge \$15,000 to match the Rector's pledge so that we can meet our budget needs.

December, 2024:

Motion was unanimously approved to put line items #1363 and 6320C back in the 2025 budget as Operating Fund items.

Vestry voted 9 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstain to pass the 2025 operating budget by restoring the Bell Choir position, paying CO-LA to staff, increasing income from pledges to \$400,000, and taking no more than \$37,000 from the Endowment Fund.

Vestry voted 10 yes, 1 abstain to approve the 2025 Annex operating budget.

Vestry voted 10 yes and 1 abstain to pay \$40,000 for our Diocesan apportionment.

Vestry voted unanimously to approve 2023 Audit Report from Brian Austin.

Vestry voted unanimously to approve 2025 housing allowance resolutions for Father David and Pastor Greg.

January, 2025:

Vestry unanimously voted to elect Stacy Cottingham as Treasurer.

Vestry unanimously voted to move ahead with the 5 recommendations from the Capital Campaign Discernment Process Task Force.

Vestry unanimously approved to move forward with a search for new Music Director.

Vestry unanimously approved to purchase a new bell controller using Memorial Funds .

Vestry unanimously approved having the Annual Meeting on May 4.

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

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

March 14 & 28 - Stations of the Cross

March 16 - St. Patrick's Eve All Parish Dinner

April 13: Palm Sunday

April 17 - Maundy Thursday

April 18 - Good Friday

April 19 - Easter Vigil

April 20 - Easter Sunday & Children's Easter Egg Hunt



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**