

The *KEYNOTER*

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

410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net

FALL 2025

MEET LAUMA AKMENE

In June, Lauma Akmene became the Director of Music at St. Peter's Church. Originally from Latvia, Lauma brings an international background as a conductor, organist, and music educator, with past performances at venues such as Riga Cathedral and St. Peter's Church in Vienna. She has collaborated with Grammy-winning ensembles and has been a guest at festivals across Europe and North America.

Lauma studied organ at McGill University, church music at Luther Academy in Riga, and piano and organ at the Academy of Music, Dance, and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. Her passion for sacred music, along with her dedication to elevating the voices of underrepresented composers, continues to shape her work at St. Peter's. Welcome Lauma!!



LOOKING TO OUR FUTURE

A LETTER FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN: KAREN PAPKE - SHIELDS



As I write this letter, the first since becoming Senior Warden, I am thinking about the changes we have seen in our facilities over the years. When my family first joined St. Peter's, the kids had Sunday School and EYC in Peter's Place on Main Street. Every Sunday morning a line of children would leave the Parish Hall, walk down St. Peter's Street and around the corner onto Main Street. In 2008, I was a member of the Vestry that decided to purchase the old City Hall building, referred to now as the Annex. We were bursting at the seams in Peter's Place so it seemed a good solution to our space limitation. We are in a different time now with different needs – we are not bursting at the seams, and we are underutilizing the Annex.

This situation along with a list of projects required for the Annex from the Property Committee in 2024 prompted the Finance Committee to request a review of resources needed for those projects and the usage of the Annex. The Parish Annex Task Force was formed, and they spent many hours reviewing the situation and discussing the future of the Annex. The recommendation to the Vestry was to “keep the building and construct an elevator and connector to provide easy access to the second floor and increase opportunities to fulfill our mission. If these renovations are not possible, the Task Force recommends retaining the building unless conditions change dramatically in which case the parish should evaluate the Parish Annex for sale.” In response, an elevator and connector were added to the list of projects identified by the Property Committee.

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Looking to our Future continued from page 1

A working group was established to gather preliminary cost estimates for the different projects given two options – keep the Annex vs sell the Annex:

- Annex, Church and Parish House – \$2.8M total (e.g., build connector and elevator between the two, replace HVAC in Annex, replace windows in Annex, extend elevator to the second floor, create a chapel)
 - o Annex costs – \$2M
 - o Church and Parish House costs – \$0.8M
- Sell Annex, undertake projects in Church and Parish House only – \$1.3M (e.g., extend elevator to the second floor, other renovations/reconfiguration, update the Church lighting, create a chapel)

Following the Task Force's recommendation, the high cost of work on the Annex led to further evaluation by the Vestry. An in-depth discussion and evaluation occurred during a discernment retreat (Saturday 3/29/25), which was facilitated by Leslie Pendleton from Pendleton Consulting, the consultant leading our discernment effort. She used the parable of the fig tree (Luke 13: 6-9) to ask if the Annex is our "fig tree" into which we have put resources with little to show in terms of achieving our mission. Vestry members identified what activities/events occur in our facilities (the Church, the Parish House, the Parish Annex and the outdoor areas) and took extensive tours of the spaces. They concluded that the Annex was being woefully underutilized in support of St. Peter's mission. In fact, the greatest use of the facility is rental property, which generates income to cover day-to-day expenses, but does not support our mission. Looking at the Church and Parish House, the Vestry concluded that there are opportunities for reconfiguration/renovation of the current space and expansion to support our mission. Thus, the Vestry, at its annual retreat on June 7 of this year, voted to sell the Parish Annex.

This is where we are currently. In the time since the retreat, the City of Salisbury (the City) has been identified as a potential buyer for the Annex, previously known as the old City Hall. St. Peter's has received a letter of intent from the City, which the Vestry voted to endorse at its meeting on August 20. The Vestry previously indicated that proceeds from the sale would go into the endowment, which is distressingly small for a church our size, thus achieving an annual goal we have not been able to achieve for numerous years, to reach \$1M endowment. Of course, a letter of intent is not a contract, but it is an important step in that direction. If this sale happens, it pushes us toward better use of the Church and Parish to fulfill our mission, so there is much to do.

Effectively utilizing the Church and Parish Hall requires multiple capital projects that were identified back in 2024. Some of these projects are exciting with many possibilities to identify and evaluate (e.g., reconfigure/renovate existing spaces and create more, create a chapel in the space behind the family altar) while others may seem much more mundane (e.g., updating the lighting in the church, repointing the brick). The one thing they all have in common is that they are important to the life of our church now and in the future. Our beautiful historic structure will continue to sustain damage if brick repointing is not done. Imagine how much more welcoming our church will be with updated lighting (along with cost savings that can be used in a more meaningful way), a space for Sunday School in the Parish House merely steps after leaving a service. A chapel would transform currently unutilized space into an additional sacred space to be used for smaller, more intimate liturgical services. SO MANY POSSIBILITIES – but we need to get ready to be creative and maintain our enthusiasm so that we can build the future of St. Peter's with our time, talent, and financial support.

The next step in the process is undertaking a Feasibility Study this fall in which we involve you in determining what capital projects can be funded and the capability of the congregation and friends of St. Peter's to raise the necessary funds over a multi-year time frame to finance these projects. This will be an investment in St. Peter's and our mission. It is an investment in our future. With God's help, I believe we are heading in the right direction, and with God's help, I believe we will be successful.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Over the past few months I have experienced first hand what it means to be blessed by being part of a church family. Last March I experienced the death of my mother, and I can't tell you how grateful I am for all the love and caring people at St. Peter's have given to me as I went through my grief and prepared and officiated at my mother's funeral. We know in our faith that in death life is changed and not ended and it was through that faith and the support of this holy and loving St. Peter's church community which saw me through these hard times and helped me to rejoice with the blessed assurance that my mother is now among the saints.



It is important to be part of a community of faith, to increase the bonds of fellowship with one another, to care for one another and to allow others to care for us. That happens when we give our time and talent to be involved in the parish so that we can love and be loved with fellow Christians. We are all trying to navigate being a good Christian, and we are all in some way broken or struggling, but we are stronger and helped by being part of the Body of Christ, with Jesus Christ at our head. He is here for us and calls us to be there for one another.

I encourage you to keep up with your prayers and regular worship. Come to coffee hour and have some good fellowship with others. Come to the Ministry Fair and see how you might get involved more in your parish. What might God be calling you to do as part of his blessed community?

BISHOP RETIRING, DIOCESE IN TRANSITION

Written by Father David Michaud

After nine years of serving the Diocese of Easton, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, the XI Bishop of Easton, is resigning his position on October 18 and will retire to Florida to be close to his family. A celebration of his episcopacy will occur at Christ Church, Kent Island on Saturday, October 18, beginning at 10:30am, and you are invited to participate. For more information go to: https://dioceseofeaston.org/bishop-marrays-farewell-celebration/?et_fb=1&PageSpeed=off.

In the Episcopal Church, when a Bishop resigns the six member (3 clergy, 3 lay) Standing Committee of the diocese becomes the Ecclesiastical Authority and works to search for the next bishop. Parishioner Linda Hurley is a member of the Standing Committee. The Diocese of Easton has entered a period of transition.

The Standing Committee believes that the Diocese should first enter a period of discernment and made the case for the creation of a Discernment Committee at last spring's Diocesan Convention. The Diocesan Convention gave its overwhelming support to the work of a Discernment Committee and charged it with leading the Diocese of Easton in discerning our diocese's future mission strategy, including whether our participation in God's mission could be strengthened by collaborating or partnering with another nearby diocese. Father David Michaud is the co-chair of the Diocesan Discernment Committee.

Listening and Healing

As the diocese began to engage in a process of discernment, it became apparent to the Discernment Committee that they could not effectively engage the diocese in discerning our future while dysfunction, discord, hurt, and grief in the Diocese clearly exist. The Discernment Committee advised the Standing Committee that there was a need for this kind of specific Listening and Healing work, but it is beyond the scope and abilities of their committee. Therefore, they recommended the Standing Committee engage a consultant from outside the diocese to carry out this work and that the consultant should report to the Standing Committee.

The Presiding Bishop's office has arranged to provide at no cost to the diocese the Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves to serve as consultant and facilitator for this listening and healing process. Bishop Gray-Reeves served as the third bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real from 2007 – 2020. She then became the Managing Director of the College for Bishops, where she continues to serve the church today. She also offers consulting services utilizing her knowledge of family systems theory, mediation and conflict resolution skills.

A Steering Committee has been formed to work with Bishop Gray-Reeves and it is planning to engage the diocese in events and activities beginning in November, after the departure of Bishop Marray. Pastor Greg Harbaugh is a member of the Steering Committee.

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WHY JOIN THE CHOIR AT ST. PETER'S?

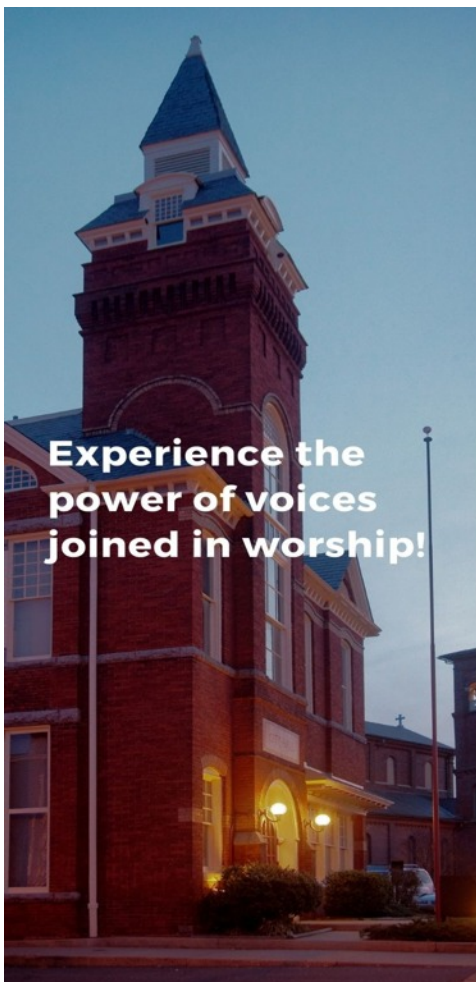
The Adult Choir leads music at weekly services and major feast days. Our singing uplifts worship, builds community, and inspires all who hear it.

**What Makes Us
Special:
Choral scholars
lift and lead our
sound.**

BEYOND THE MUSIC

Joining the choir is about more than just singing beautiful music. It's a chance to build lasting friendships, grow spiritually, and contribute to a vibrant community. Together, we share a meaningful purpose—lifting hearts and voices in worship.

Being part of the choir offers opportunities to participate in special events, concerts, and outreach activities that enrich both members and the wider community. Whether you're new to choral singing or an experienced vocalist, you'll find support, encouragement, and a place to belong.



**Experience the
power of voices
joined in worship!**

JOIN ST. PETER'S ADULT CHOIR

🎵 Weekly 10:30 AM Services
🎵 Special Liturgies
Thursdays, 6:30–8:00 PM
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
115 Saint Peters St
Salisbury, MD 21801
Contact: laumaa@stpeterschurch.net
More info: stpeterschurch.net/music



**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

MUSIC READING
HELPFUL. LOVE SACRED
MUSIC? COME SING
WITH US!

Assistant Bishop Appointed

While the Standing Committee will be the Ecclesiastical Authority while there is no Diocesan Bishop, there are some sacramental responsibilities the committee cannot undertake, such as confirmations, ordinations, and pastoral care of clergy, so the Standing Committee announced on August 15 that they have appointed an Assisting Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Bud Shand, who was Easton's previous Diocesan Bishop, as Assisting Bishop. Bishop Shand will report to the Standing Committee and will fill that role from November through May of next year. He will in all likelihood make a visitation to St. Peter's in January.

At this time the Discernment Committee has asked the Diocese to be in prayer during this time of transition. At St. Peter's we have included discernment and transition prayers every Sunday in our Prayers of the People and our intercessory prayer group, the Comforters, has also been praying weekly for the Diocese. The Discernment Committee has put together a page of prayers on the Diocesan website which can be found here: <https://dioceseofeaston.org/transition-prayers/>. More

DEACON MINISTRY AT ST. PETER'S

Written by Deacon Laura

In late July/early August, I resumed my role as Deacon at St. Peter's Church. At the same time, I also started serving as Deacon Pastor at St. Philip's in Quantico. I will generally be at St. Peter's two Sundays a month (1st and 3rd Sundays) and at St. Philip's two Sundays a month (2nd and 4th Sundays). While at St. Peter's I will recruit, train, and schedule the altar servers, oversee the Eucharist Ministers and Visitors, and assist with pastoral matters that may come up.

While I will not be directly overseeing outreach activities at St. Peter's, I am still engaged in diaconal work in the local community, regularly volunteering at H.O.P.E. (Help and Outreach Point of Entry) located in the basement at Wicomico Presbyterian. And I still plan to volunteer at the (HHEH) Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness cold-weather shelter when it re-opens in mid-November.



THE MINISTRY OF ALTAR SERVERS

Written by Deacon Laura

As I resume my role as Deacon at St. Peter's, I will be recruiting, training, and scheduling altar servers to serve at Sunday services and other special liturgies. We need youth and adult servers to help share in these roles. Please review the brief descriptions below.

Acolyte: The Acolyte position is needed for both Sunday services. This position is responsible for lighting the candles prior to the service and extinguishing them at the end of the service. The Acolyte assists the Deacon or Celebrant during the reading of the Gospel by holding the Gospel book. The Acolyte also assists the Deacon or Celebrant by receiving the bread and wine, then helping prepare for Communion and cleaning up afterwards. During communion, this position dismisses the congregation by pew. The Acolyte position is preferably filled by a youth member who is in high school (at least 9th grade) and has been confirmed or is/will be taking confirmation classes. An adult may also fill this role.

Crucifer: The Crucifer position is needed for the both Sunday services. This position is responsible for carrying the cross, leading the procession of choir members, Torch Bearers, Eucharistic Minister, Acolyte, and Clergy at the beginning of the service. Prior to communion, the Crucifer receives the alms basins from the ushers and presents them to the Deacon or Celebrant. At the end of the service, the Crucifer leads the procession out of the church. The Crucifer position is preferably filled by a youth member who is in middle school (at least 6th grade) but may also be filled by an adult.

Torch Bearer: Two Torch Bearers are needed for both Sunday services. This position is responsible for carrying the torches (candles), walking with the Crucifer during the procession and recession. When the Gospel is read, the Torch Bearers assist by "lighting" the Gospel book while the Deacon or Celebrant reads from the book. The Torch Bearer positions are preferably filled by youth members who are in elementary school (at least 1st grade).

PASTORAL CARE

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

As we come into another autumnal beginning to our congregational activity and program year, rather than my usual report (which does not change much), I would like to focus on three areas of **Pastoral Care**:

1. **Care and support for homebound and other infirm members.**
2. **Transportation for those whose who need it.**
3. **Reiteration of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") restrictions.**

1). Within the life of the Church as Christ Jesus has called and gathered us through the Holy Spirit, we are responsible to each other to provide care for the most vulnerable and marginalized among our community participants. As part of that, our Clergy and Lay Eucharistic Visitors hold a special role in providing **visitation with the Sacraments** to those unable to attend regular worship—either temporarily or long-term. **Your responsibility** as a follower of Jesus is to inform the clergy when you become aware of such a need either within your own household or another household. We depend upon you to inform us since none of us are endowed with the gift of telepathy.



The **Sacraments**, especially the Lord's Supper and Holy Unction (anointing for healing) are means of God's grace for those whose health or well-being is under threat or duress. Jesus offers us His own risen and ascended life through His body and blood for our bodies, our comfort, and to strengthen our faith. Holy Unction acts through God's promise and Cross-born sealing with oil and prayer to offer healing and solace. Such visible actions portray before our eyes Jesus' gifts to us through His crucifixion (Gal. 3:1).

We, your clergy, take our responsibility seriously to "feed my sheep" as Jesus told Peter. We ask your assistance, by informing us of such situations, so that we can carry out our callings.

2.) **Transportation** is an important aspect of our life together a city congregation. Downtown, as we know, has limited parking esp. near St. Peter's. That can be a challenge. But we manage because we are able to drive our vehicles. Some who cannot drive would like to participate in Worship. **You can help**—occasionally, often or frequently—by providing transportation for those who need it (vision or ambulatory impairment, lack of vehicle, etc.). **Bravard Cornbrooks** coordinates our **Transportation Ministry** and would love to hear from you whenever you can assist.

Coming to church is a vital aspect of our **faith formation** in Jesus Christ, as well as an important communal and social opportunity, especially for those who live alone. And, as one local told me early one, in Salisbury you can get practically anywhere in 15 minutes. Please consider offering a bit of your time and a seat in your vehicle for someone who would really love to come with you to Worship. *Bravard can be reached at 410-430-4053.*

3.) **Since 1996**, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, convalescent facilities and more have been prevented **by law** from providing personal information to clergy and churches. The "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996," also known as HIPPA, has served to protect personal privacy. That means that, even though you might fill out "Religious Preference" information on intake, that information cannot be shared with clergy or others.

Therefore, when you go to the hospital or rehab or convalescent center, or when you know of another member or participant of St. Peter's who has been admitted (especially family members!), **please contact your Clergy** so that we can connect with our members in such situations. We thank you in advance for your consideration of these pastoral care concerns.

Finally, many thanks to our Pastoral Care Committee for all the work that they do: Eucharistic Visitors, New Baby Care, Greeting Cards (thanks to our new coordinators, Nancy Burdett and Lynette !), Grief Booklets, Special Meals and more. A special word of thanks to the **Hearts and Hands Knitting Ministry** which has disbanded for now. Much appreciation to their members for countless scarves, hats, lap blankets and prayer shawls lovingly made over many years in Jesus' name and for

JOIN THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing psalms of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them...The prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise them up...The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. (James 5:13-16)

Did you know that St. Peter's Comforters Group for more than 20 years has been meeting every week to offer intercessory prayers for parishioners and their friends and family who are sick or in need? Even during the COVID lockdown, the Comforters Group persisted in praying every Monday morning at its usual 10:00am meeting time utilizing zoom technology.

The Comforters Group continues to meet via zoom at 10am every Monday because they have found it works out better for those who have physical mobility issues but want to participate in praying together for healing and comfort for those in need. Every month the list of individuals is updated and distributed to each group member. Father David begins with reading the collect and gospel lesson, then prayers for healing are prayed, and then each member of the group says aloud each name on the prayer list. Parishioners are welcome to contribute names by emailing coordinator Trudy Day.

The group has recently dwindled in numbers and would welcome new members to join in praying the intercessory prayers. Meetings last 20-30 minutes. Why not give it a try? You can join the zoom and participate in this prayer ministry and see if it is a ministry that you are called be part of. To get the zoom link and a prayer list, contact Trudy Day: herself5561@gmail.com 410-430-9015.



Thanksgiving Day

Holy Eucharist – 10AM

In Person & Livestream

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

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

ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Written by Lauma Akmene, Music Director

Music at St. Peter's - The **Adult Choir** sings weekly at the 10:30 AM Sunday service and for special liturgies throughout the year, including Choral Evensong, Lessons and Carols, Holy Week, and Compline. Rehearsals take place Thursdays from 6:15–8:15 PM. New singers are warmly welcome — come lend your voice! An important part of our program is the **Choral Scholar initiative**, which brings talented young singers from Salisbury University to serve as section leaders. Their presence enriches the musical experience for the entire choir and supports the development of emerging vocal artists.

Handbell Choirs – Join the Fun! **Grace Notes** is our collaborative handbell choir with Wicomico Presbyterian Church. No experience? No problem! Join us for our **Open House on Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 PM** (Langelier Bldg, 225 N Division St, 2nd Floor). Bells choir weekly practice is held in the Langelier Memorial Building, Makemie Place, on Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:15 PM. Contact Director Megan Fenoglietto at meganfeno@yahoo.com to learn more.

Choir School – Upcoming Event - The Choir School is excited to participate in this year's **Handel's Messiah** on December 21 at 6 PM. Rehearsals begin in November (schedule TBA). For more information or to get involved, contact Lauma at laumaa@stpeterschurch.net.

St. Cecilia Guild – 2025–2026 Season Drive - The Steering Committee of the St. Cecilia Guild warmly invites you to join us for the 2025–2026 season. Your membership directly supports the rich musical life of St. Peter's, helping to sustain and grow our tradition of inspiring sacred music within both our worship and our broader community.

We are also deeply grateful to **Peter's Voice** for their generous donation to the St. Cecilia Guild through recent concerts and CD sales. Their gift has already brought us to **33% of our seasonal goal** — a wonderful and encouraging start!

2025–2026 Music Ministry Schedule

SEPTEMBER

- **28, 4:00 PM** – *Hope and Remembrance: Addiction*
(Wicomico Goes Purple)

NOVEMBER

- **2, 5:00 PM** – *Choral Evensong for All Saints Sunday* (with Potluck Supper)

DECEMBER

- **7, 7:00 PM** – *Advent Lessons and Carols*
- **21, 6:00 PM** – *Handel's Messiah*

JANUARY

- **6, 6:00 PM** – *Festal Eucharist for Epiphany*

FEBRUARY–MARCH

- **Feb. 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25 – 12:30 PM**
Wednesday Lenten Organ Meditations

MARCH

- **15, 5:00 PM** – *Lenten Choral Evensong* (with Potluck Supper)

MAY

- **1, 7:00 PM** – *Choral Evensong for St. Philip and St. James* (with Potluck Supper)
- **17, 4:00 PM** – *Spring Concert – All St. Peter's Choirs*

SPRING (TBA)

- *Green Hill Church Benefit Concert* — Period music, period food
- *Church Stroll* — Broadway collaboration

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.

As I enter my final year running Sunday School at St. Peter's, I am looking forward to the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. This fall we plan to study the second half of the Old Testament. We will pick up with the book of Esther where we left off at the end of the school year.

Our yearly Leadership Launch will take place in the St. Peter's Education Annex early in September 6th. We will register Sunday School children during the ministry fair on Sunday, September 7th. Registration forms will also be available in person at the ministry fair and online on our Children's section of the St. Peter's website.

Sunday School lessons will officially start on September 14th with the annual outreach activity of filling bags with supplies for Wi-Middle students. We also plan to make bags for the homeless in the winter to help support the men's shelter program in Wicomico County. We will have an ongoing outreach project with the Card Ministry and adopt a Grandparent through MAC.

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

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

As this is my final year co-directing Sunday School, if you are interested in learning more or stepping up to help now or in the future, please let me know so we can continue this wonderful ministry for the future of our church.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Written by Father David Michaud

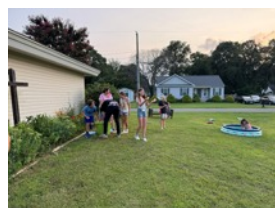
St. Peter's Youth Group is in a period of transition. Last year Deacon Lynn Wiljanen led the group, but with her departure in April the Youth Group has been in a state of reorganization. Recently a new leadership team has been appointed: Sherri Hall, Ella Fenoglietto and Atif Gaddis. The leadership team will be putting together a calendar of classes, events and activities. Check Peter's Post and the website for more information as things develop.

St. Peter's Youth Group is open to youth in middle and high school and meets in the Youth Group room on the second floor of the Parish Annex.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

Vacation Bible School was held at Faith Lutheran this year from August 3rd-7th! The children had fun learning from the Magnified program. VBS had children, youth and volunteers from St. Peter's, St. Albans and Faith Lutheran churches. Dinner responsibilities were shared between the 3 churches, and the kitchen coordination was managed by Edie and Cindy from Faith Lutheran. There were many volunteers who cooked, served, and cleaned. The children joined together for a nightly scripture lesson by Rev. Margaret and Fr. David. They learned songs accompanied on piano by Rev. Margaret. Youth volunteered by helping the children with station changes and crafts each night. Thank you to our Youth Volunteers Liam, Becca, Olive, Lily, and Lucy. Children rotated between stations including crafts run by Katie and lessons on how to magnify God by Karen. We finished each evening with outside activities run by Sherri. The Magnified program focused on children learning about Magnifying God's love for each child. Bible lessons focused on how people saw Jesus in the Gospels and how they wanted to change to follow him. Families are collecting dry goods for the Joseph House to help share the love of God with our neighbors. There will be a collection in the parlor. Thank you to the families, parents and volunteers for participating in VBS! The children and adults all had a wonderful time and are looking forward to Vacation Bible School in 2026



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP

Written by Ernie Cornbrooks

Back in the day, way back, in the British Isles, a steward was the manager of the property of the Lord of the Manor. He had the day-to-day responsibility for seeing that crops were planted and harvested, that the livestock were cared for, that the forest was managed so that there were ample supplies of firewood and lumber, etc.. When his lordship was away at court or fulfilling his military obligations, the pressure was really on the steward to make certain that the manor was functioning properly, and that it would be prospering upon his lordship's return. What was the steward's motive for ensuring prosperity for the manor? Was he hoping for a bonus? Was he afraid of being fired? Maybe, he simply took pride in doing a good job.

In our daily lives, we engage in various forms of practical stewardship, assuming that we are blessed with the gift of common sense. If we own a motor vehicle, we see that the oil is changed, that the tires are rotated, the wiper blades are replaced, and that other service is performed so that the vehicle will do what it is supposed to do. We engage in this kind of stewardship because it serves our self interest.

Then, we have the parable about the good and faithful servants who invested funds entrusted to them by their master before he went on an extended journey. What was their motive in making their master wealthier? Were they hoping for a "bonus"? Did they like their master so much that they wanted to make him richer? We don't really know, but what they did was a form of stewardship.

Christian stewardship is a more noble form of stewardship than any other. It is noble because gratitude is its core motive. Christian stewardship is a way of life. It is motivated by gratitude to God for all that God has given to us. Our gratitude is expressed by our cheerful willingness to share God's gifts because we acknowledge that we are merely stewards of God's gifts during our lifetimes. We demonstrate our gratitude by giving and sharing our gifts.

Stewardship season at St Peter's is just around the corner. As we approach that important time in the life of our Parish, please give prayerful thought about the gifts which God has entrusted to you, and about the ways you can express your gratitude for those gifts.

St. Cecilia Guild MEMBERSHIP

I pledge my support with a tax-deductible contribution at the following level:

- ☐ St. Peter: \$2,500+
- ☐ St. Cecilia: \$1,750
- ☐ Saint: \$1,000
- ☐ Seraphim: \$750
- ☐ Archangel: \$500
- ☐ Angel: \$250
- ☐ Guarantor: \$100
- ☐ Patron: \$25
- ☐ Other: \$ _____

JOIN ONLINE:



Please charge my:

- ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card#: _____ - _____ - _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVV# _____

Name on Card: _____

- ☐ Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card.

- ☐ My check is enclosed.

Payable to St. Peter's Church (memo: St. Cecilia Guild)

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Today's Date: _____

- ☐ I/we would like to remain anonymous.

- ☐ I/we would like to help the Guild by volunteering at concerts and receptions

Please return this form to the Church Office



2025-2026 MUSIC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

28 4:00 pm Hope and Remembrance - Addiction
(Wicomico Goes Purple)

NOVEMBER

2 5:00 pm Choral Evensong for All Saints Sunday
(with Potluck Supper)

DECEMBER

7 7:00 pm Advent Lessons and Carols
21 6:00 pm Handel's Messiah

JANUARY

6 6:00 pm Festal Eucharist for Epiphany

FEBRUARY/MARCH

February 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25
12:30 pm Wednesday Lenten Organ Meditations

MARCH

15 5:00 pm Lenten Choral Evensong (with Potluck Supper)

MAY

1 7:00 pm Choral Evensong for St. Philip and St. James (with Potluck Supper)
17 4:00 pm Spring Concert — All St. Peter's Choirs

SPRING (TBA)

Green Hill Church benefit concert — period music, period food
Church Stroll — Broadway collaboration

ST. CECILIA GUILD



*Join or Renew for
2025-2026!*

The mission of the
St. Cecilia Guild
is "to enrich the life of St. Peter's
Episcopal Church and the broader
community on the Eastern
Shore through the promotion of
excellent liturgy, music and art to
the greater glory of God."

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Written by Hope Morgan

Holiday Treasures Await at St. Peter's Annual Bazaar

Friday, November 15 • 5:00–8:00 PM

Saturday, November 16 • 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Held in the Parish Hall • Salisbury, MD

The excitement is building for St. Peter's Annual Holiday Bazaar, returning on Friday, November 15, and Saturday, November 16, 2025. Once again, the bazaar will coincide with Salisbury's lively Third Friday celebration, making it a perfect opportunity to gather with family, friends, and neighbors to kick off the holiday season.

Inside the Parish Hall, you'll find Pete's Café serving all your favorites — King Boys' oyster sandwiches, homemade chili, chicken salad sandwiches, and Maryland crab soup. Sweet treats will also be ready to enjoy.

Beyond the café, there will be something for everyone:

Antique and household treasures just waiting for new homes

- Jewelry treasures – clean out your jewelry box and donate those forgotten pieces to bring someone else joy
- Silent auction featuring themed baskets and unique items
- 50/50 raffle for a chance to win big while supporting the church

Now is the time to start preparing! We need everyone's help to make this year's bazaar a success:

- Bakers & jam makers – plan your goodies for the bake table.
- Treasure hunters – look around for gently used or special items.
- Jewelry donors – dust off those boxes and pass along pieces you no longer wear.
- Auction supporters – get creative with baskets and contributions for the silent auction.

Every baked good, every treasure, and every donation helps continue this much-loved tradition and supports the ministries of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



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



WICOMICO GOES PURPLE
AWARENESS STARTS AT HOME

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

ALTAR GUILD

Written by Kathy Fahey

Joys of Altar Guild Ministry - In the words of former Presiding Bishop Curry, "People go to church to refocus. Focus on God. What you do for God matters. The altar guild helps us to refocus. Focus on God the Creator then follow Jesus into the world." The altar guild is charged with the awesome responsibility and privilege of tending to the Sanctuary and enabling our congregation to engage in worship that is filled with order, beauty, peace, and tranquility.

What a joy it is for us to set the stage for worship! Sometimes we work while the choir and musicians are practicing and have our own private concert, or while setting up for a service, experience the glory of the sun shining through our beautiful rose window. While we know that God is everywhere, there are some places where God's presence is more intensely felt, as it is in our Sanctuary— such a sacred space!

The altar guild is not a social group (although our members feel a close camaraderie). We don't have pot lucks, and we seldom have meetings. We're not involved in the business of the church. We don't vote or make momentous decisions. Most of what we do is invisible to the congregation and is meant to be that way.

Joining the altar guild means learning many fascinating aspects of Church traditions, including the esoteric names for all the various vessels, vestments, linens, and paraments we use in worship. Most importantly, serving on the altar guild is a spiritual ministry. Caring for the altar is a very personal way to serve. It is prayerful work.

At various times in the history of the Anglican Church, altar guilds have been composed exclusively of men or exclusively of women. Today, anyone can be a member of the altar guild. If you would like to be part of this wonderful and sacred ministry, we would love to have you join us.

GREEN HILL CHURCH

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

On Sunday, August 24th members of the daughter churches of Old Green Hill Church (St. Bartholomew's) gathered for the annual service and picnic. All clergy from the four daughter churches attended with the Rev. Margaret Brack (St. Alban's), presiding. The Rev. Dennis Morgan (St. Mary's) was preacher; Deacon Laura Harbaugh, served as Gospeler and Deacon-of-the-Table, assisted by Ella Fenoglietto, Acolyte/Crucifer. Pastor Greg Harbaugh lead the prayers of the people and assisted during communion. St. Peter's Altar Guild lovingly prepared the altar and John Phillips provided flowers for the east windows in memory of his parents, Pratt & Jean and his sister, Carol. Hope & Ron Morgan provided flowers in honor of their granddaughter, Mackenzie Fitts Morgan, who was baptized by our rector, Fr. David. Our new music director, Lauma Akeme, played the electric piano and led the combined choir featuring old favorites "Shall we Gather at the River," "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah," and "Just a Closer Walk with Thee."

During announcements, Deacon Laura, who is the current chair of the Green Hill Church Committee, shared highlights of the year and Phil Tilghman (St. Philip's) spoke of the kickoff of Green Hill Church's fundraising for its multi-year restoration project. The first major project will be replacing the roof shingles. More information will be forthcoming as the fundraising subcommittee makes its plans for special fundraising activities over the next few years.

After the service, all gathered for a picnic on the Wicomico River where delicious fried chicken from The Red Roost and side dishes from JoJo's were served.



LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Written by Deacon Laura Harbaugh

One of my roles in the Diocese of Easton is serving as the Assistant Director of The Bishop's Institute with Rev. Dr. Lynn Wiljanen serving as the Director. The Bishop's Institute is a diocesan ministry that recruits, trains, and recommends the licensing of Eucharist Ministers, Eucharist Visitors, and Worship Leaders.

The licensure of lay ministers is found in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church under Title III, Canon 4-Of Licensed Ministries as noted below:

Sec. 1. a. A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Evangelist, or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.

At St. Peter's we have licensed Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and Worship Leaders. Supervision of the Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors is one of my roles at St. Peter's.

Eucharistic Ministers

Sec. 6. A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

At St. Peter's Eucharistic Ministers are scheduled for services where the Deacon is not present. There are currently eight active Eucharistic Ministers.

Eucharistic Visitors

Sec. 7. A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

At St. Peter's there are currently five active Eucharist Visitors. Eucharist Visitors are paired when visiting parishioners at home, in the hospital, or at a nursing home. The Pastoral Care Committee recently reviewed the list of parishioners in need so regularly scheduled visits can resume. If you would like a visit, please contact one of the clergy.

Worship Leader

Sec. 4. A Worship Leader is a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

St. Peter's currently has two active lay worship leaders. Together, the clergy and laity lead some form of worship in the church every day of the week.

If you are interested in learning more about licensed lay ministries, please contact me at laura@dioceseofeaston.org or 443-523-8669. Additionally, the Bishop's Institute is offering training for the above three lay licensed ministries in the Fall. For more information, click [here](#) to see the most recent flyer. Follow the instructions in the flyer to register.





Seeking Musicians

**Grace Notes Handbell Choir
is looking for musicians to
join the choir.
(ages 14 and up)**

**Ability to read
musical notes and
rhythm preferred.**

**Experience with
handbells not
required.**

**Come Visit Us!
Open House
September 11, 2025
6pm @ Langelier Bldg
225 N Division St
Salisbury MD (2nd floor)**

**Grace Notes is a collaborative initiative
between St. Peter's Episcopal Church and
Wicomico Presbyterian Church. Church
membership is NOT required.**

Contact Megan at 410-251-0376 or meganfeno@yahoo.com

UPCOMING INQUIRER'S CLASS

Written by Father David Michaud

Interested in becoming Episcopalian, or just curious about the church? Already Episcopalian but want to know more about the faith? Have some questions about worship, or practices, or beliefs, or something else associated with the Episcopal Church? Want to join the Episcopal Church? Sign up and take part in this fall's adult Inquirer's Class, Tuesday evenings at 7pm. We will meet in the Parish Library Room beginning on Tuesday, November 4. This six sessions class examines Episcopal worship, the prayer book, church history, beliefs, church organization, practices and more. The class is informal and can be tailored to topics the group wants to explore. A schedule and a list of topics is available on the parish website: <https://stpeterschurch.net/inquirers-class/>. It is a class for anyone who has a question about the church, anyone who is interested in being Episcopalian, and those interested in being confirmed or received as adults in the church.

This class is required for any adult wishing to be confirmed or received by the Assisting Bishop when he expects to visit St. Peter's on January 18, 2026, although you don't have to be a candidate to take the class.

Because there are materials that need to be ordered, those interested in taking the class are asked to **register in advance by October 15**. Contact Father David in the Parish Office, giving your name and contact information and saying you are interested in attending the Inquirer's Class: 410-742-5118. davidm@stpeterschurch.net. There is no charge and all are welcomed to attend. The class will be led by the Rector, the Very Rev. David Michaud, on the following Tuesday evenings: Nov 4, 18, 25; Dec 16, 23; Jan 13.



MINISTRY FAIR

Come to St. Peter's annual Ministry Fair Sunday morning, September 7, in the Parish Hall from 9:15am to Noon. All St. Peter's many ministries and programs have been invited to reserve a table and exhibit information about themselves.

This is your opportunity to learn more about what's going on at St. Peter's and to see what ministry you might want to participate in.

In addition, those who attend the Ministry Fair can pick up a stylish St. Peter's car magnet to put on your vehicle, and let others know about St Peter's as you drive around town.

There will be opportunities to sign up and take information and speak to people that are part of ministries in which you may have an interest.

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

The event is hosted by the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee, who will be providing the refreshments. On this Sunday the Ministry Fair replaces our usual coffee hour in the parlor.

PLANNED GIVING

JOIN THE 1768 SOCIETY

Written by Linda Hurley

Wouldn't you love to be a part of the long-term financial security of your church? You give from your heart during your lifetime to keep the lights on and to fund our programs and outreach.

You can make a difference even after you are gone! Talk with your family, your attorney, your tax advisor. Make a will. Consider leaving a portion of your estate, no matter how large or small, to St. Peter's Church. Unless otherwise specified, these funds go into our Endowment. Of course you can specify your funds go to support other programs such as music, altar guild and so much more.

Many parishes have large endowments. Parishes withdraw a portion each year to do God's work, to fund their programs and budget. Comparatively, ours is smaller than many, limiting funds available for our budget and programs. As we work to build our endowment, we dream of all the great things we can do in the future.

Have an impact on your church for generations to come! Join the 1768 Society! The form is on our website and on the table outside the parlor. 1768 Society members are those who have made a plan for a portion of their assets to come to St. Peter's at their passing. We do not ask what your plan is or how much money is involved, only that you have made a plan. We will gather each year for educational/informational sessions and to celebrate our collective commitment to the future of our church. This fall's date will be announced

NEW ADULT FORUM STUDY

with Pastor Greg

THE NICENE CREED

FAITH FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

Meeting in the Library
Sundays after 8:30 Service

Beginning September 21st



PARSONS CEMETERY

Written by Rick Fahey



Salisbury Zoo Mourns the Loss of Beloved Capybara, Faith

The Pet Garden at Parsons Cemetery, in partnership with Holloway Pet Cremation Services, have once again donated services and an engraved brick to respectfully inter one of Salisbury Zoo's beloved animals that recently passed. In 2024 the same was done for Dweasel, a 7-year-old black-handed spider monkey. Dweasel, a cherished member of the zoo's family, passed away on September 11, 2024, after complications from surgery. Faith, a capybara, was 10 years old when she passed. She had been a cherished member of Salisbury Zoo, bringing joy to staff and visitors alike with her gentle nature and endearing quirks.



Thank you to the students from Salisbury University's Clarke Honors College and other volunteers who help with the 2025 Spring Cleanup at Parsons Cemetery. We rely on our volunteers and donors to keep Parsons the beautiful place it is.



Thanks to a grant received from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, we have planted 18 additional trees in areas of the cemetery that had relatively few. Dr. Brent Zaprowski expanded on the tree inventory done by Dr. Joann Maloof and Madeline Zaprowski and has now identified over 50 varieties. We hope to soon be recognized as an official arboretum. Dr. Zaprowski also created a self-guided tour of our trees which is available on our website.

<https://parsonscemetery.com/preserving-our-environment/>



On June 14th, we held a ceremony to unveil the monument and information kiosk honoring Former Salisbury Mayor Charles Harper. The marker and kiosk were donated by his great grand nephew Paul Morris. Previously, there was no marker at his burial site.



Both dogs and walkers are enjoying the beauty of Parsons as we move into Spring and Summer.

This year's Blessing of the Animals event will be held on October 12th at 2:00 PM



Phase 1 of our shoreline stabilization project is now complete. The project was made possible by a grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to stabilize part of our beautiful area along Johnson's Pond and limit runoff into the Chesapeake Bay. We hope to receive additional grants and donations to expand the project to other parts of the shoreline.

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 February, March, April, May, and June, 2025.

February 19, 2025

- Vestry unanimously voted to have St. Peter's as a back-up option for the 2026 Diocesan convention if the Ocean City location doesn't work out.
- Vestry unanimously voted to recommend Rick Fahey for the John B. Atkins Award.

March 19, 2025:

- Vestry unanimously approved the 2024 Parochial Report.

April 16, 2025:

- Vestry unanimously voted to recommend the 4 priorities from the Discernment Retreat as a way forward with Concept B, as presented by Ron Morgan. Those priorities are: 1) resources to be concentrated on the church and Parish House; 2) church and Parish House have enough space for current and future ministries; 3) the Annex should be sold; 4) we must be accessible to all.
- Unanimously voted to provide more funds for our consultant Leslie Pendleton to continue with this process.
- Unanimously voted to approve funds for Music Director search -- \$1,500 for search expenses and \$2,000 for moving expenses.
- Unanimously approved Mac Peverley Memorial Funds to purchase a pure white Cope.

May 21, 2025

- Unanimously voted to approve Deacon Laura Harbaugh returning to St. Peter's.
- Unanimously approved Jeff Cottingham, Bob Walton, and Linda Abbott to be on a Sabbatical Committee for Father David.
- Unanimously approved the following Vestry Liaisons: Linda Hurley (Planned Giving), Fiona Duncan (Fellowship and Evangelism), Sherri Hall (Education), Linda Abbott (Parsons Cemetery), Dornell Woolford (St. Cecilia Guild).

June 7 Vestry Retreat

- Unanimously approved to pursue selling the Annex, with proceeds to be placed in the Endowment Fund.
- Unanimously approved that in light of the decision to sell the Annex, all capital resources will be directed to the church and Parish Hall.
- Unanimously approved the motion to improve access to all.

June 18, 2025

- Unanimously voted to adopt goals from the retreat (adding "increase financial stability") for the current year.
- Unanimously voted to accept the list of possible capital projects as our working draft.
- Unanimously voted to replace 3 laptops and docking stations and Cathy's desktop, estimated at \$8,436.66, to come out of Property and Equipment Fund.
- Unanimously voted to support the SWAC grant application for the Messiah concert.

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

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Written by Father David

This past spring a new digital bell controller was installed by McShane Bell company and by June St. Peter's Bell was once again ringing out the hours and calls to worship. The new controller can be operated remotely. In June black mold was discovered in the Music Room closet where the choir's sheet music is stored and mold abatement was completed by ServPro in June. Replacement of wallboard and painting still needs to be done. Our new Music Director Lauma brought to the attention of the committee that high humidity in the Music Room had decimated the practice piano. Ultimately a new dehumidifier was installed in August thanks to a generous gift which has brought humidity levels back down to a safe level for instruments and choir practice. The Vestry approved upgrades of the staff computer stations. New computers were shipped to the office and installed in July and August. Old exhaust fans in the basement bathrooms were replaced in August with much quieter fans, much to the relief of the choir which has been tolerating the noise coming into the Music Room during rehearsals.

ST. PETER'S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Reported by Stacey Cottingham, Treasurer

6/30/2025	6 Months YTD Actual	2025 6 Months Budget	6 Months YTD Budget	2024 6 Months YTD Actual
INCOME				
Total Offerings	218,395	417,400	208,700	182,206
Total Other Sources	11,325	50,233	25,117	31,924
	<u>229,720</u>	<u>467,633</u>	<u>233,817</u>	<u>214,130</u>
Outside Investments				
Community Foundation (CFES) Income	-5,085	15,000	11,250	-13,849
Other CFES Income - Planned Giving Donative	5,085	5,000	3,750	13,849
Hodgson Trust	2,008	4,000	2,000	1,243
Withdrawal from Vestry Endowment	0	37,000	18,500	0
Withdrawal from New Ministries Endowment	0	0	0	0
Grants Income	0	0	0	0
	<u>2,008</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>35,500</u>	<u>1,243</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>231,729</u>	<u>528,633</u>	<u>269,317</u>	<u>215,373</u>
EXPENSES				
Church Staff Compensation	78,979	149,085	74,543	70,119
Clergy Compensation	89,687	180,751	90,376	86,226
Diocesan Apportionment	20,000	40,000	20,000	16,752
Outreach & Mission	10,713	31,040	15,520	14,077
Overhead	70,772	132,727	66,364	62,054
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>270,151</u>	<u>533,603</u>	<u>266,802</u>	<u>249,227</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	<u>-38,422</u>	<u>-4,970</u>	<u>-2,515</u>	<u>-20,769</u>

For the mid year June 30, 2025, NET ORDINARY INCOME came in at -\$38,422. TOTAL INCOME was close to budget as TOTAL EXPENSES was over budget. Major Fund raising has not yet experienced a boost for income. There was a significant increase in cost in Building and Grounds for repairs and maintenance of the HVAC system and the elevator. The cost of utilities significantly increased. The use of Endowment Funds to cover costs (typically requested in the summer months) will be presented with the next quarterly report.

Your Vestry has reviewed and accepted the above financial information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 6 Ministry Fair

September 28 Hope & Remembrance (Wicomico Goes Purple)

November 2 All Saints Sunday Choral Evensong with Potluck Supper

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



StPetersSby



SCAN ME

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