

The *KEYNOTER*



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

410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net

WINTER 2025

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 21 **Children's Christmas Pageant** at 9:45am in the Parish Hall (between the 8:30am and 10:30am services). In person and livestreamed.

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



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MOVING FORWARD

A Letter from Karen Shields, Senior Warden

In my last letter, I explained what had been happening in terms of identified capital projects and the decision to sell the Parish Annex. I ended by stating that the "next step in the process is undertaking a Feasibility Study". In a capital campaign there are phases through which to proceed in determining if there is a need and desire for capital projects.

We have completed the first phase – Discernment. We identified capital projects that must or could be done that focus on the Church and Parish House. The projects, which were presented at the Annual Meeting, range from repointing the brick to reconfiguring and renovating existing spaces in the Church and Parish House. We have gotten initial estimates for each project, which were also presented at the Annual Meeting. Finally, we provided opportunities for parish members to express their thoughts about the proposed projects as well as other aspects of life at St. Peter's Church via the Cottage Meetings. In addition to feedback on the projects, parishioners identified smaller changes that will require more creativity such as making changes to coffee hour to make it more inviting and encouraging of fellowship. Luckily, projects such as that do not require the large capital investment and will be addressed in the future.

One additional activity during the Discernment Phase was the evaluation of our mission statement – To know and share the Love of Christ. A group of vestry members were brave enough to tackle this and proposed a mission statement that articulates important aspects of knowing and sharing the love of Christ. This mission statement guides our planning and decision-making. The new mission statement, which was adopted by the Vestry is:

The mission of St. Peter's Church is to welcome all to know Christ through rich liturgical worship, sacred music, spiritual education, Holy Scripture, and prayer, and to share His Love through fellowship and outreach to our neighbors.

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

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 28 **Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10:30am** – a more informal service of Christmas lessons and singing of Christmas Carols; Holy Eucharist at 8:30am

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

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

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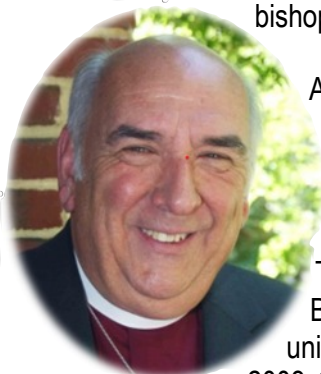
So now we begin the Feasibility Study during which more detailed information is gathered for each project. In this phase, it is important that all parishioners understand why each capital project is needed or desired, and what is required to accomplish each. Your involvement and input is critical to this phase, so I ask that you respond when asked to be interviewed in person or receive a questionnaire related to the capital projects.

Based on all of the information, we will prioritize the projects giving priority to those that must be done (e.g., repointing the church) and then ordering the others. In addition, the level of financial support is evaluated. Then we can decide which projects will be included in the capital campaign and the financial goal. As I said in my last letter, this is the phase "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."

With God's help, I believe we have discerned the right path to follow thus far and, with God's help, I believe we will continue down this path, making adjustments when appropriate, to determine what our parish should pursue.

BISHOP SHAND TO VISIT ST. PETER'S

With the XI Bishop of Easton, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, retired, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Easton has become the Ecclesiastical Authority and has contracted with the Rt. Rev. James "Bud" Shand to be the diocese's Assisting Bishop for the next six months. An assisting bishop handles many of the sacramental functions of a bishop that the Standing Committee can't do, including episcopal visits to parishes.



As such Bishop Shand will be making the annual episcopal visit to St. Peter's on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Bishop Shand will be the celebrant and preacher at both worship services that Sunday. There are no confirmations scheduled for this visit. We will be celebrating our Patronal Feast on that Sunday: The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter.

The visit of the Diocesan Bishop is an important annual event in the life of an Episcopal parish. Bishops in our church serve as chief pastors, exercising a ministry of oversight, teaching, and unity with the larger church. Bishop Shand served as the X Bishop of the Diocese of Easton from 2003-14. Bishops preside at ordinations of bishops, priests and deacons; they bless altars, fonts, chalices, patens and church bells; they consecrate new churches and chapels; and they confirm and receive members into the church.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

We will soon be entering the Season of Advent, which begins a new church calendar year. Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation – it's about looking forward. What's happened to us is in the past. Now we look forward to the future knowing that Christ will be with us.

Advent is separate from the Season of Christmas which we will celebrate for 12 days beginning Christmas Eve. In Advent we await Christ's coming again and we are reminded of how joyful that will be recalling when he first came to earth more than 2000 years ago. We prepare to welcome him and look forward his coming. The color we use in our liturgies during Advent is a deep blue, reminiscent of the sky before dawn, anticipating the light.

We will be lighting our Advent wreaths, one candle at a time, as we journey through the season, bringing more and more light to the darkest time of the year.

This Advent Season may the light of Christ overtake the darkness and bring joy and peace to you, and may you spread that light, that love of Christ, to others, sharing with them the hope that Christ has come and will come again to us in glory everlasting.



ANNEX SALE UPDATE

The Mayor of Salisbury, the Honorable Randy Taylor, sent a letter of intent to the Vestry saying that the city is interested in purchasing the Parish Annex for \$500,000 "as is." City officials and workers have inspected the space over the fall. As a result the mayor had the city attorneys draft a sales contract with these same terms. The Vestry on November 19 gave the Rector as president of the Vestry the authority to sign the contract once it is presented to him by the Mayor. At the time of publication of the Keynoter the Mayor is awaiting approval of the contract by the City Council. Once that occurs a settlement date will be determined and the Property Committee will set a move date to move our materials and furniture out of the Annex Building.

The current plan is for the Sunday School to use the Parish Hall for Sunday morning instruction and one of the Parish Hall closets for their supplies. The Youth Group will meet in a room on the second floor of the Parish House. The Bell Choir will practice Thursday evenings in the Parish Hall and will use the closet on the landing by the courtyard stairs to store their instruments and equipment.

The funds from the sale of the Parish Annex will be placed in St. Peter's endowment investment funds, which will double its value to more than \$1 million, and which will provide more income from appreciation for St. Peter's operations in 2026.

Join us for
Advent Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 7th at 7pm

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

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

Christmas Lessons & Carols

December 29 - 10:30AM Service

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

ARCHDEACON DIOCESE MINISTRY

Written by Deacon Laura

In March 2024, I was appointed by Bishop Santosh Marray to the role of Archdeacon of the Diocese of Easton. The role of Archdeacon varies from Diocese to Diocese, but here, I serve as a mentor/advocate for the Diocese's other eight active vocational deacons, and for those transitional deacons who will move on to the priesthood, staying in contact with each of them on a regular basis. I also participate or coordinate continuing education for the deacons and participate in various liturgies around the Diocese, including the ordinations of six students from the IONA Collaborative Eastern Shore, including The Rev. Stephanie Clayville and The Rev. Dr. Lynn Wiljanen, both previous Deacon Interns at St. Peter's.



In serving as an advocate for the other vocational deacons, I submitted two Resolutions for Debate at the DOE Convention earlier this year: one for diocesan-paid membership to the Association for Episcopal Deacons, and the second for a minimum stipend of \$25 per month for unpaid clergy. Both resolutions passed and are effective beginning January 1, 2026.

Earlier in the year, I was asked to assist The Rev. Stephanie Clayville and The Rev. Deacon Loretta Collins, members of the Compensation and Personnel Committee, to develop new templates for Letters of Agreements for Deacons which will incorporate the two resolutions noted above. Work on these templates will soon be finalized by the Compensation and Personnel Committee.

It has been my pleasure to work with my fellow deacons and I look forward to continuing this work in the future.

THE MINISTRY OF ALTAR SERVERS

Written by Deacon Laura

In contemporary Anglicanism, an acolyte is a general term which covers not only servers, torchbearers, and lighters of candles but also crucifers, thurifers, and banner-bearers. Acolytes are mentioned as a minor order (along with porters, lectors, and exorcists) as early as a letter of Pope Cornelius to Fabius of Antioch in 252. They were also mentioned in Cyprian's writings. They assisted deacons or subdeacons at the preparation of the table. Later they carried candles in processions. In Rome they carried fragments of the bread consecrated at the papal Mass to other churches. In the late middle ages, when candles began to appear upon altars, they lighted the altar candles. Eventually lay servers or sacristans performed duties earlier associated with acolytes, and the order of acolyte was normally conferred upon a candidate for priesthood in the course of his training. The minor orders were not perpetuated in Anglicanism. Some of the duties earlier performed by persons in the minor order of acolyte were taken over by lay clerks. In the later nineteenth century the clerks were suppressed, and their duties were largely taken over by lay 'acolytes' and sacristans or altar guilds.



The above definition of acolyte, which may be found in "*An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*," provides a history of the minor order within the Anglican Church, of which The Episcopal Church is a member. At St. Peter's, the acolyte 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 in the absence of a young person.

On October 11, 2025, St. Peter's Senior Acolyte, Ella Fenoglietto, attended the Washington National Cathedral's "National Acolyte Festival" where she participated in the processional and had an opportunity to meet and talk to acolytes from across the country. Ella will serve as Chalice Bearer during the Youth Sunday service on November 23rd. We're so proud of you, Ella!

To learn about the festival, visit the Washington National Cathedral website <https://cathedral.org/worship/acolyte-festival/>

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER MINISTRY

Written by Deacon Laura

St. Peter's is blessed with six parishioners who are specially trained and licensed by the Bishop as Eucharistic Visitors. 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. Eucharist Visitors are generally paired when visiting parishioners at home, in the hospital, or at a nursing home.



Home Communion Kits are prepared by the Altar Guild for Eucharistic Visitors to use when visiting parishioners at home or in the hospital. During Communion, the Celebrant consecrates the bread and wine and then commissions the Eucharist Visitors prior to them leaving the church.

In the early years of the church, lay Christians regularly ministered to the ill and dying by taking them the Eucharist. This was before the clerical orders of ministry – bishop, priests, and deacons.

As time went on, the church grew and began to need structures to govern its life and worship. One of the concerns was regulating the laity's handling of holy elements. This came into conflict with one of the primary concerns of the church: that the Eucharist always be available to a dying person. It was with this in mind that people kept it in their homes as well as carried it with them when they went on long and dangerous journeys.

Beginning in the late seventh century, attempts were made to keep the laity from acting as ministers of the Eucharist. At the Council of Trullo in about 690, legislation was passed forbidding laity to distribute communion when a bishop, priest, or deacon was available. A local council at Rouen around 650 cautioned the clergy to put the sacrament in the mouth of the laity, not in their hands, probably in an effort to keep people from taking it home.

During the eighth century, priests were becoming the usual ministers of the Eucharist, taking over that task from bishops. The ordination rites of priests that included the anointing of the ordinand's hands spread in popularity, giving the impression of binding the priest's hands to the Eucharist, and by implication, excluding its handling by the unordained. The ordained clergy gradually became the ordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

The first canon regarding lay liturgical ministries in the Episcopal Church was passed in 1804. It said that if no priest were available, worship could be conducted by a candidate for holy orders. But the candidate could do no part of the service assigned to the priest, including distributing the Eucharist. He also could only preach a sermon written by a clergyman. The 1871 General Convention allowed lay men to conduct worship.

In 1904, the General Convention passed legislation allowing Licensed Lay Readers – these men, who were in charge of parishes with no priests, could lead worship and also preach with a license from the bishop. Women were not allowed to perform this ministry with the same rights as men until 1969.

In 1967, Licensed Lay Readers were the first lay people in the Episcopal Church to be allowed to serve the chalice during Holy Communion, but they had to get special permission. Administering the cup was considered a part of the ministry of a Lay Reader.

In 1985, Lay Eucharistic Ministers came into being. In 1988, the General Convention more clearly defined the ministries, making more explicit the difference between a Licensed Eucharistic Visitor and a Chalice Bearer and requiring a separate license for both ministries.

PASTORAL CARE

Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh

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. The now dormant "Stephen Ministry" program provided formation and training for a small group of St. Peter's members, including Bravard Cornbrooks and Deacon Laura.

Our committee provides care through Eucharistic visitations, supporting new parents, providing knitted scarves and lap robes to the elderly, sick, HS graduates and others (although our knitting group is on hiatus); 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 Laura 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 grace, 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

Grief Ministry - Betsy Brooks

Hearts and Hands Knitting/Crocheting- Becky Kerrigan & Lori Butler

Meals - Linda Abbott

Lay Eucharistic Visitors - Bravard Cornbrooks

Transportation- Bravard Cornbrooks

Greeting Card Ministry- Betty Evans

Pastor Greg, Staff Support

Thank you for your efforts to extend God's love and mercy to each and all.



ADULT FORUM: The Gospel of Matthew

Submitted by Pastor Greg

Pastor Greg will lead reading and conversation around the First Gospel, Matthew, with some help from J. S. Bach and Godspell along with other sources of inspiration. However, we will approach the Gospel from the ending (which really is its beginning) for a differing perspective.

Please join us as we explore Matthew's Gospel (which will provide the Gospel readings for most of the next year).

Nov. 30th Resurrection and Crucifixion

Dec. 7th Trial and Hosannas

Dec. 14th Jesus' Predictions and Peter's Confession

Dec. 21st Confronting Opposition and Reforming Torah

Dec. 28th Christmas Break

Jan. 4th Discipleship and Jesus' Ministry

Jan. 11th Jesus' Message and Call of Disciples

Jan. 18th Temptation to Incarnation

Jan. 25th Epilogue to Prologue—Immanuel

DIOCESAN CONVENTION IN OCEAN CITY

The 158th Convention of the Diocese of Easton will be an in-person convention held over two days and close by at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City with special guest the past Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on Friday, February 27 through Saturday, February 28. The theme of the convention is "Coming Together in Love."

There will be a business session Friday morning and a program on reconciliation and discernment on Friday afternoon. Bishop Curry will be the keynote speaker at a banquet Friday evening.

All are invited to the Convention Eucharist on Saturday morning at 10am concelebrated by Bishops Michael Curry and James Shand with Bishop Curry giving the sermon.

The Diocesan website will have a webpage with more information on the 2026 Diocesan Convention:

www.dioceseofeaston.org.

Members of your delegation representing St. Peter's at the Diocesan Convention are: Father David, Pastor Greg and Deacon Laura; and delegates Ernie Cornbrooks, Bravard Cornbrooks and Linda Hurley; alternates Atif Gaddis and John Phillips. The convention will also be livestreamed.



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

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

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

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



Christmas Day
at St. Peter's Church

10AM
Holy Eucharist
In-Person & Livestream

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

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

ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Written by Lauma Akmene, Music Director

A Season of Growth and Joy - As autumn unfolds, the music ministry at St. Peter's Episcopal Church continues to flourish—uplifting worship, inspiring fellowship, and enriching our wider community through song and service.

St. Cecilia Guild

The St. Cecilia Guild, which provides vital support for St. Peter's music ministry, has reached more than 66% of its annual sponsorship goal, with \$9,625 raised toward \$15,000. Gifts from generous donors help sustain our choral scholars, who serve as section leaders in the St. Peter's Choir and gain valuable musical and leadership experience in a nurturing environment. These funds also make it possible to purchase instruments, maintain equipment, and organize special musical events that strengthen our worship and outreach.



But the Guild's work extends far beyond fundraising. Members actively plan, promote, and volunteer for the church's many musical and cultural initiatives. Current projects include a popcorn fundraiser and a Messiah campaign to help support this year's *Messiah All-Sing*. Looking ahead, the Guild is also helping to develop an early music fundraiser at Green Hill Church—complete with period music and cuisine—and a “Broadway”-themed spring 2026 event in partnership with area churches and musicians. These creative gatherings celebrate music's power to unite, inspire, and serve our wider community.

St. Peter's Choir

The Adult Choir plays a central role in the life of St. Peter's, leading music each week and on major feast days. Their repertoire spans centuries—from the timeless beauty of Renaissance motets to contemporary sacred works—and includes cherished Anglican traditions, such as choral anthems and the singing of Anglican chant at every service.

Beyond the music, choir members find a strong sense of fellowship, spiritual growth, and shared purpose. Together, they lift hearts and voices in worship, supporting one another and deepening the congregation's experience of faith through song. In addition to their weekly leadership, the choir presents major musical offerings throughout the year, including Choral Evensong, Advent Lessons and Carols, Holy Week and Easter celebrations, and community events like the *Messiah All-Sing*. These special occasions allow the choir to connect more deeply with the congregation and the broader Salisbury community—sharing music that inspires, comforts, and unites.

New singers are always welcome to join this dedicated and joyful ensemble that blends musical excellence with spiritual enrichment and lasting friendship.

Handbell Choir

Our Handbell Choir rings monthly in worship and on feast days, adding brilliance and joy to St. Peter's musical offerings.

Choir School and Children's Music

The Choir School continues to grow, with pop-up events planned for the coming year. Children will participate in portions of the *Messiah All-Sing* this December, with “camp-style” rehearsals to prepare. Two spring events and a summer children's choir camp are also being planned to nurture the next generation of church musicians.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m., for our beloved Advent Lessons and Carols, featuring works by Elizabeth Poston, Paul Manz, Healey Willan, and others, sung by the St. Peter's Adult Choir and Handbell Choir.

Messiah All-Sing

Our annual *Messiah All-Sing* will take place on Sunday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m., directed by Lauma Akmene. A professional orchestra and soloists will bring Handel's masterpiece to life. Admission is free, and all are invited to sing or listen—donations are welcome to support future concerts and educational programs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Written by Emily Atkin & Jamie Scott

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

Sunday School began Fall 2025 continuing Old Testament Lessons. We started with Job and hope to make it through the rest of the Old Testament this year. Sunday School class starts with everyone writing down their prayers to post on our prayer board. We read the Old Testament lesson together and discuss the lessons. We have learned to follow God's word in life to help us find happiness and meaning. The kids participate in fun activities like Lego building, drawing, bracelet making and Play-doh. Thank you so much to our teachers, assistants and parents who all participate in many different ways. We appreciate all of your support and help.

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

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

Sunday School children will participate in our Christmas Pageant which we will practice and perform on December 21st at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall. We look forward to starting Sunday School classes again in January. Come and join in the fun!



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Written by Atif Gaddis

St. Peter's Youth are back at it! They have been meeting regularly on Sunday at the Youth Gathering for fun, fellowship, and conversations about faith. They kicked off fall by participating in an outreach project in support of the young people at our partner school, Wi-Middle.

Upcoming Events

On November 16th, during the Gathering, the youth prepared desserts for the men in the Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness shelter program, which just so happens to start that day. On November 23rd, at the 8:30 AM worship service, the youth will be participating in Youth Sunday. They will be taking on a variety of roles during the worship service. Be sure to check them out and give them your support!

Shout Out!

Speaking of worship, in case you weren't aware, in September, our Student Leader Ella Fenoglietto, was selected to serve as Senior Acolyte. Way to go Ella! She even went to the National Cathedral a few weeks ago and participated in the annual Acolyte Festival.



ALTAR GUILD

Written by Kathy Fahey

In the Episcopal Church, aesthetics matter. St. Peter's beautiful architecture, liturgies, and music form the surroundings in which our worship takes place — surroundings that have their own meaning, creating a "visible sermon." This is especially true for the ministry of the Altar Guild, which creates a sacred space for worship. Altar Guild's tasks have a profound impact on our life at St. Peter's, and the beauty of Altar Guild's work says a lot about how we care for what we do as well as how we care for people. Every detail has significance, and every task is important.

Our Altar Guild members are faithful and prayerful people. We see our tasks, whether ironing linens or polishing silver or setting up the altar for communion or hanging greens for the Christmas celebration, as deeply powerful tasks. We prepare the church surroundings and the elements of communion, so that all who enter will have the opportunity to feel that St. Peter's is a special place, and something special is going to happen here.

Altar Guild's work is worship, not just a preparation for worship. Altar work is a visible sermon, communicating our love for Jesus, our love for our fellow parishioners, and our commitment to be good stewards. The message matters, and the work of the Altar Guild does too. The congregation may not notice all the details, but they notice that everything is prepared, ready, and beautiful, and they don't have to do anything — the Holy just happens.

FELLOWSHIP/EVANGELISM

This fall the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee hosted the Fall Ministry Fair on September 7 in the Parish Hall, providing set up and refreshments for the event. Many ministries had tables and exhibits to help parishioners see what exciting things are going on at St. Peter's.

On Sunday, November 9 the Committee organized a Newcomers Reception for those who had recently started attending St. Peter's. Seven newcomers attended as did members of the committee, staff and Vestry members. There were good conversations over lunch, concluding with a tour of the church buildings by Father David.

The Committee is looking forward to hosting the annual parish Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday, November 24 at 5pm in the Parish Hall. The Committee will also host a dinner for musicians and singers who are performing at the Messiah Sing Along Concert on December 21st.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

St. Peter's continued its Blessing Box ministry this fall. There are now volunteers who are stocking the Blessing Box every day of the week, and the Outreach Committee has authorized additional funds to keep the box stocked. There have also been some parishioners who have made generous donations to St. Peter's Outreach Fund which has helped in the purchase of food for the Blessing Box. Of course food donations are gratefully accepted in the bin at coffee hour. For a list of suggested items [click here](#).

St. Peter's continues its 4th Tuesday lunches with the Joseph House. Parishioner Thomas Snyder has been appointed as the new liaison with our partner school Wi-Middle. St. Peter's week at the HHEH homeless shelter is January 11-17. The Outreach Committee is looking at a possible monthly Community Dinner for those who are food insecure and a working group is putting together a plan to bring to the congregation and the Vestry. Stay tuned!



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Written by Hope Morgan

Bravard Cornbrooks, Mary Phillips, and I have been busy getting ready for this year's St. Peter's Holiday Bazaar, and we can't wait to see everyone!

Friday, November 21, 5–8 p.m.
Saturday, November 22, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 115 St. Peter's Street, Salisbury

This year's bazaar will feature all your favorites — Pete's Attic Treasures, Auction Alley, and the always popular Jewelry Shop, along with delicious food at Pete's Café and Pete's Pantry and Bake Shop. Enjoy King Boys' famous oyster fritters, soups, chicken salad, baked goods, and pantry treats!



We'd love your help to make this year's event a success:

- Attic Treasure donations may be delivered this Sunday afternoon to the church.
- Baked goods for the Bake Shop are welcome the morning of November 21.
- Jewelry donations — both new and gently used — are always appreciated for our Jewelry Shop.
- Silent Auction baskets are one of our most popular attractions! We'd love creative themed baskets — from coffee lovers and gardeners to spa nights and family fun.

If you'd like an assignment or need an idea for a basket, please call Hope Morgan at 410-251-6398 or Bravard Cornbrooks at 410-430-4053.

Your generosity, creativity, and spirit make this cherished tradition so special each year. Thank you for helping us prepare for a joyful and successful bazaar at St. Peter's!

Messiah
ALL - SING

Sunday, December 21st - 6PM

The event will be a wonderful gathering of believers and music lovers celebrating the birth, life, death and Resurrection of the Savior, Jesus Christ, with performance by the Choir and special guest soloists.

St. Peter's Church - Salisbury, MD

PLANNED GIVING

JOIN THE 1768 SOCIETY

Written by Linda Hurley

I was doing some research for the links to information at www.episcopalchurch.org and found this. It is worded well, so I decided to share:

“Planned giving is an act of love, a testament to the values and principles we hold dear. A crucial aspect of our calling as Christians is the responsibility to care for future generations.

Planned giving allows us to continue the work of God beyond our earthly existence. It ensures that the resources we have been blessed with can uplift communities, support ministries, and extend the reach of justice, love, and mercy into the future. In this way, our legacy becomes not just about the accumulation of wealth but about the transformation of lives.

In our faith, we speak of the Beloved Community—a vision of God’s dream for the world where all are cared for, and justice reigns. Planned giving is a way to help build that community, to ensure that our resources serve the greater good and reflect the love of Christ that we are called to embody.

Your gift supports the work of the Church!

Consider the broader impact of planned giving. It is a powerful way for you to continue God’s work, to leave a legacy of love, and to ensure that our lives contribute to the flourishing of others long after we have gone.

Learn more about making a bequest or a planned gift to The Episcopal Church.”

Go Deeper: The Episcopal Church partners with the Episcopal Church Foundation to facilitate individual, parish, and diocesan giving. · Types of Planned Gifts · Donor-Advised Funds

Of course, if it’s not in writing, it doesn’t count. Make a plan, write or update your will, take a look at beneficiaries, talk with your attorney. Let your love live on at St. Peter’s!

PARSONS CEMETERY

Submitted by Rick Fahey



To maintain and upgrade our cemetery, we rely on donations, grants, and volunteers for anything beyond basic operational costs. We thank you for your continuing support. Please consider remembering Parsons in your will and IRA distributions so that we can remain a beautiful, well-maintained community asset for generations to come.



On October 25th, we held our first tour of the trees of Parsons Cemetery. Dr. Brent Zaprowski gave a fascinating presentation about our 60 tree varieties, including their origins, uses, and some interesting historical facts. During the tour, he shared some interesting stories about those buried at Parsons and even touched on the geology of the area noting that the “hills” at Parsons were once sand dunes.



Here is a map of the 32 trees we have planted in the last two years thanks to grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the City of Salisbury. Join us next Saturday October 25th at 1:00 PM for a tour of the 60 tree varieties in the cemetery.



Thank you Allen Memorial Baptist Church. Each year a group comes to Parsons Cemetery and cleans veteran’s monuments prior to our [Wreaths Across America](#) event. This year the event will be on December 13th.



The plantings that were part of our shoreline preservation project have really taken hold. The walkway along the water is just one of the many places at Parsons to reflect on nature’s beauty and Salisbury’s history. We have several self-guided walking tours that you can download to your mobile device and learn about those who came before us.



On October 25th, we dedicated the renovated flagpole behind the Parsons Cemetery Office. The flagpole has been there since at least the 1920’s and was the site where Salisbury’s Memorial parades ended and the ceremonies were held. Thank you to the donors of time and money who made the reno-



Our 9th yearly Wreaths Across America event will be held on December 13th. The procession to the ceremony area starts to form at 9:00. Please join us. Please also consider donating wreaths for the event. Go to the Wreaths website <https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/> and follow the instruction to donate to Parsons Cemetery. If you have any difficulty, feel free to contact us for assistance.

VESTRY NOTES

Written by Bravard Cornbrooks, Registrar

The Vestry has made a number of decisions concerning the life of St. Peter's over the last few months. Here are the highlights of the Vestry's decisions at meetings in August, September, and October, 2025.

August, 2025

- The Vestry unanimously voted to have Gil Allen on the Planned Giving Committee
- The Vestry unanimously voted to have Thomas Snyder on the Outreach Committee
- The Vestry unanimously voted to authorize Father David to counter-sign the Letter of Intent from the City of Salisbury to purchase the Annex.

September, 2025

- The Vestry unanimously agreed to accept the new mission statement for St. Peter's: "To welcome all to know Christ through rich, liturgical worship, sacred music, spiritual education, Holy Scripture, and prayer; to share His love through fellowship and outreach to our neighbors."

October, 2025

- The Vestry unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to give to the Diocese the estimate apportionment amount for 2026 of \$57,282.
- The Vestry unanimously approved to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve expenditures out of the Property & Equipment Fund from the Clairmont Fund Grant.
- The Vestry unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to authorize a letter to allow Episcopal Funds to receive stock gifts to distribute to St. Peter's checking account.
- The Vestry unanimously voted to approve \$4,158 from Property & Equipment Fund to bring sensors in the elevator up to code.

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

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

Holy Eucharist

Feast of the Holy Name

Thursday, Jan. 1 - Noon

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Written by Father David

This fall work was completed in the Music Room. The walls in the sheet music room were replaced and painted. The dehumidifier continues to keep humidity down. A new piano has been purchased and moved into the Music Room. The choir is now able to rehearse again in that room.

The cross on the top of the bishop's chair has been repaired. Due to trespassers creating trash and mess on property the committee is now locking the courtyard gate and has ordered a gate for the trash area. A scaffolding company was in the church October 3 and 9 to replace burned out bulbs in the church. A contractor has been retained for upcoming winter snow removal.

ST. PETER'S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Reported by Stacey Cottingham, Treasurer

9/30/2025	2025		2024	
	9 Months YTD Actual	12 Months Budget	12 Months YTD Budget	9 Months YTD Actual
INCOME				
Total Offerings	285,582	417,400	313,050	269,323
Total Other Sources	10,224	50,233	37,675	2,953
	<u>295,806</u>	<u>467,633</u>	<u>350,725</u>	<u>272,276</u>
Outside Investments				
Community Foundation (CFES) Income	17,479	15,000	11,250	-13,849
Other CFES Income - Planned Giving Donations	5,523	5,000	3,750	13,849
Hodgson Trust	2,687	4,000	3,000	13,085
Withdrawal from Vestry Endowment	28,000	37,000	27,750	1,868
Withdrawal from New Ministries Endowment	0	0	0	0
Grants Income	0	0	0	0
	<u>53,689</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>45,750</u>	<u>14,953</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>349,495</u>	<u>528,633</u>	<u>396,475</u>	<u>287,229</u>
EXPENSES				
Church Staff Compensation	113,306	149,085	111,814	99,522
Clergy Compensation	131,251	180,751	135,563	127,056
Diocesan Apportionment	30,000	40,000	30,000	25,128
Outreach & Mission	12,473	31,040	23,280	17,311
Overhead	94,904	132,727	89,545	95,376
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>381,935</u>	<u>533,603</u>	<u>390,202</u>	<u>364,394</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	<u>-32,440</u>	<u>-4,970</u>	<u>6,273</u>	<u>-77,164</u>

Through the end of the 3rd quarter September 30, 2025, NET ORDINARY INCOME came in at a negative \$32,439. TOTAL INCOME as well as TOTAL EXPENSES was less than budget.

TOTAL INCOME: Total Offerings, especially Pledge Offerings, saw a mid-year slump leaving \$131,818 behind budget. Total Other Sources at \$10,224 was in part due to lack of major fundraisers and grant income. 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 Rector and Finance Committee Chair has reviewed and accepted the above financial information.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA 2025



Instructions: All orders for Christmas Poinsettia are to be paid in advance. When you have completed the order form, place check & order form in the Alms Basin or mail to the parish office. Make checks payable to St. Peter's Church.
(Indicate Poinsettia/Greens on memo line)
Or you can now pay online at the following link: www.stpeterschurch.net/give

ORDER DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Cost per Poinsettia: \$12

I am paying by check..

checkbox

Payment of \$ _____ for _____ plants.
quantity

Your name _____ Your phone number: _____

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

checkbox

Payment of \$ _____ for _____ plants.
quantity

Your name as it appears as payee for online pay _____

Your phone number: _____

In Memory of:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

In Honor of:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Given by: _____

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec 7 **Advent Lessons and Carols**
Sunday, Dec. 21 **Children's Christmas Pageant**
 MESSIAH ALL-SING
Wed, Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist**
Thursday, Dec. 25 **Christmas Day Eucharist**
Sunday, Dec. 28 **Christmas Lessons and Carols**
Thursday, Jan 1 **Feast of the Holy Name**
Tuesday, Jan. 6 **Feast of the Epiphany**



Instagram



StPetersSby



SCAN ME

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