

# The *KEYNOTER*



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

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

SPRING 2026

## LENT & EASTERTIDE AT ST. PETER'S

Ash Wednesday on February 18 begins this year's observation of the Season of Lent, a penitential season lasting 40 days (excluding Sundays) in which we are called to repentance and to follow the Way of the Cross. At the end of Lent comes Easter and the 50 days of Eastertide. Below are a list of events and activities planned for both seasons.

### Lenten Events

Stations of the Cross, Friday March 6 and Friday March 27 at 7pm in the Church. Walk the Way of the Cross – 30 minute service in which participants walk around the church interior and make stops at the 14 stations of Jesus' passion and death.

Lenten Organ Meditations, Wednesdays in Lent following the Noonday Eucharist. Lauma Akmeine plays meditative pieces on St. Peter's organ that help provide serenity and peace to your soul.

Lenten Evensong, March 15 at 5PM in the church.



continued on pg. 2

## SALE OF ANNEX PLANNED

The Mayor of Salisbury, the Honorable Randy Taylor, and the Rector of St. Peter's, the Very Rev. David Michaud, have signed a contract for the sale of St. Peter's Parish Annex and settlement has been scheduled for February 25. St. Peter's purchased the Annex building in 2008. A report prepared by a Task Force examined the use of the building and the repairs and renovations needed to maximize its mission potential. The report was presented to the Vestry as part of the parish's discernment process about the future of the parish's buildings and grounds.

The Vestry decided to sell the building last May and Father David approached Mayor Taylor about the city buying back the Old City Hall building, which met with a favorable response. The City is buying the building "as is" for \$500,000. The funds will be placed in St. Peter's Endowment. This Saturday, February 14, is Moving Day, and Father David is asking members of the parish to come to help move items from the Annex to the Parish House, and to rearrange items within the Parish House as well.

Beginning February 22, the Sunday School will use the Parlor for Sunday morning instruction every other Sunday from 930-1030am. The coffee station will be relocated to the hallway. Coffee hour for the 830am service will be in the hallway and the library. For the 1030am service coffee hour will be in the Parlor as usual.

The Youth Group will be relocated to a room on the second floor of the Parish House. The interior room on that floor accessible to the Youth Group room will be the new Resource Room for Children and Youth Ministries. The Hand Bell Choir has already relocated to the Parish Hall and is using one of the Parish Hall closets to store its

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Sabbatical Committee Report
- 4 Letter from Senior Warden
- 6 Welcoming the Stranger
- 10 Education Committee Update
- 12 Annual Parish Meeting
- 15 Lily Order Form

continued on pg. 2

## *Lenten/Eastertide continued from page 1*

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

### **Holy Week**

Palm Sunday, March 29: Blessing and Procession of the Palms, reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew

Maundy Thursday, April 2: Remembrance of the Last Supper – Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar; foot washing: 7pm in the church

Watch with the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose: Thursday evening through Friday morning, April 2-3. Sign up for an hour.

Good Friday, April 3: Reading of the Passion of St. John, the Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, Mass of the Pre-Sanctified; 12noon in the church

Great Vigil of Easter, April 4: Lighting of the New Fire, singing the Exultet, reading the prophecies, Holy Baptism, the first Eucharist of Easter; 8pm in the church.

### **Easter Sunday, Easter Season**

Easter Sunday begins the 50-day season of Easter, or Eastertide that begins on Easter and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. Easter Sunday Services on April 5 are planned for 8:30am and 10:30am—the 10:30 service will be a Solemn sung Eucharist (incense will be used). The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will occur after the 8:30am service.

Flowering of the Cross, UTO Ingathering: April 12

Spring Fundraiser April 17 from 5-8pm in the Parish Hall

Annual Parish Meeting and Commissioning of Vestry: April 26

Feast of Sts. Philip and James Evensong May 1 at 7pm in the church

Music Ministries Spring Concert May 17 at 4pm in the church

Rogation Sunday, May 10

Ascension Day May 14: Holy Eucharist at 7pm

Pentecost May 24

Memorial Day May 25 Memorial Eucharist at 9am

Parish Picnic and outdoor service May 31 at Pirates Wharf

## *Annex Sale continued from page 1*

will be relocated to a room on the second floor of the Parish House. The interior room on that floor accessible to the Youth Group room will be the new Resource Room for Children and Youth Ministries.

The Hand Bell Choir has already relocated to the Parish Hall and is using one of the Parish Hall closets to store its materials and equipment.

"This is a change and we will work through this," said Father David. "We will live into this new reality and can adjust if needed. Thank you to everyone for their help in making this a smooth transition."

# A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

“*Metanoia*” is the original Greek word in the New Testament that gets translated into the English word “repent” in our Bibles, but *metanoia* has a larger meaning that involves turning to another direction. When John the Baptist tells the crowds to “repent” he urges them to turn from their evil ways, and when Jesus appears for baptism, the crowds then turn to him. Jesus encourages *metanoia*. He begins his earthly ministry by declaring: “Repent (*metanoia*), for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17).

As we enter into the Season of Lent, we are all called to evaluate where we stand with Jesus, to recognize where we have strayed and to turn to him, to *metanoia*, to repent and ask for his forgiveness. The Good News is that Jesus is always there for us, happy when we turn to him, loving us unconditionally. He who showed us his love on the hard wood of the cross, seeks to be in relationship with you. Lent is a time of turning, of rededication, of undertaking holy disciplines that bring you closer to Our Lord. Consider what practices or holy habits you might take on this Lent: daily prayer and meditation, attending a weekday prayer service in the church, taking part in the Sunday Adult Forum classes between services, taking a sacred walk, walking the way of the cross at a Stations of the Cross service, scheduling a time with clergy for the Reconciliation of a Penitent, committing to attending the Holy Week services and experiencing the Paschal Mystery. Make this Lent your Season of *Metanoia*.



## SABBATICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

In May 2025, the Vestry of St Peter's approved a sabbatical from June 15th to August 15th, 2026. Father David's letter of agreement with St. Peter's provides him with two weeks each year toward sabbatical leave. Father David will spend time away from parish life to rest and explore God's creation in the western United States by visiting several national parks and experiencing the natural wonder of the deserts, mountains, and coastlines. He will be spending time camping with his spouse Kelli in 25 separate locations, as well as visiting family. Every day he will strive to write in his journal how he experienced God in these various settings and compile his observations in a summary upon his return.

In approving Fr. David's time of sabbatical on May 21, 2025, the Vestry also approved the continued use of a sabbatical fund which was first created in 2021 for Fr. David's previous sabbatical. A sabbatical committee was formed consisting of Jeff Cottingham, Linda Abbott, and Bob Walton. The committee is collaborating with Fr. David in raising funds to put into the sabbatical fund to help with the parish and clergy costs. Fr. David requested a \$6000 grant from the Diocese of Easton's Commission on Ministry. The Diocese upon approving the request asks that the cost of the sabbatical be divided into thirds, with the diocese paying one third, the clergy paying one third, and the parish paying one third. A diocesan grant and any contributions toward this sabbatical will be placed in a sabbatical fund overseen by the sabbatical committee, and the parish costs will be paid from that, as well as any requests by Fr. David that are approved by the committee.

The operational costs incurred by the parish during the sabbatical are: the salary of the assistant rector, who will be employed full time for the duration of the sabbatical, and the compensation for the Deacon for one day a week to handle all the communications work, including the publishing of the weekly newsletter Peter's Post, updating the website, and writing the weekly announcements insert. This compensation totals \$11,880. In addition, the sabbatical committee will collaborate with Fr. David to develop a plan to be presented to the Vestry to assign to others responsibilities that Fr. David normally undertakes.



# LETTER FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

## The Next Phase in Preparing For A Capital Campaign

*Submitted by Karen Shields*

I will start today with a quick review of where we are. The decision was made by the Vestry, with input from parishioners, to sell the Parish Annex. We are very fortunate that the City of Salisbury wants to purchase the old City Hall “as is” with settlement at the end of this month. Moving day is on February 14 (show your love for your church) to get all of the furniture and boxes of other items from the Annex to their final destination in the Parish House.



Work has also been moving forward on the capital campaign. As you might expect, conducting a capital campaign isn't just about raising money for projects that could, should or must be completed to enhance the life of the church. It is first about what parishioners and others (people who generously support St. Peter's for a variety of reasons) think about the importance and value of the different projects and whether they will support the campaign financially.

Broadly speaking, the Feasibility Study I talked about in my last letter is the tool used to bring all the needed information together to inform the decisions makers, your Vestry, how to move forward with a successful campaign. So, now I want to talk about the Feasibility Study in a little more detail.

An important part of the Feasibility Study is a Case Statement, which contains a wealth of information about each project – why the project is important to the church, who is affected and how, what is involved in general, and the estimated cost. The latter tends to take the most time and is what is currently being done. As you know from prior discussions, some of the proposed projects are more limited in scope ((1) repointing the brick, (2), relamping the church, (3) upgrading the audio system, and (4) cleaning the Triptych) while others are much more complex ((5) renovating the Parish House, (6) installing a chapel, and (7) installation of moveable furniture in the Chancel). We have already gotten more concrete estimates or will get them shortly for all of the former projects (1–4); however, we are continuing to work to get the estimates latter projects (5–7). The more complex projects also have greater uncertainty because of all the “moving parts”, thus it requires more time, work and potentially money to get estimates for them.

Once we have the Case Statement completed, it will be distributed to parishioners and others interested in the future of St. Peter's. Your input, as stated before, is a vital part of this process and will be sought again (prior opportunities were during or after the Annual Meeting and/or participation in the Cottage Meetings held last spring). Please keep in mind that St. Peter's is your church, and your input into this process is essential to the quality of the Feasibility Study results and the future capital campaign. So, I ask that you please take the time to provide your input when asked.

Once all the necessary information is captured in the Case Statement and interview/survey responses from you, your Vestry will have what it needs to make decisions – setting the financial goal and prioritizing the projects. The future of St. Peter's will be affected by these decisions and the success of the resulting capital campaign – whether we are ready to face the future with an appropriate infrastructure and improved finances. With God's help, we discerned what needs to be done here at St. Peter's to accomplish this, and with God's help, we can make the big decisions and commit to setting St. Peter's up to achieve our mission.

A promotional poster for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It features a stack of pancakes with a pat of butter melting on top and syrup being poured over them. The text reads: "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper", "February 17th 5-6:30PM in the Parish Hall featuring pancakes & sausage.", "ALL ARE WELCOME!", and "Donations gladly accepted." At the bottom, it says "St. Peter's Church 115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury 410.742.5118".

**Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper**

February 17<sup>th</sup> 5-6:30PM  
in the Parish Hall  
featuring  
pancakes & sausage.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Donations gladly accepted.

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

A poster for the Ash Wednesday service. It has a purple and white background with a bowl of ash. The text reads: "ASH WEDNESDAY", "FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>", "SERVICE SCHEDULE", "7AM, NOON & 7PM", and "St. Peter's Church - 115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury".

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

SERVICE SCHEDULE  
7AM, NOON & 7PM

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

# DEACONS IN THE COMMUNITY

*Written by Deacon Laura*

For the past several months, I have been volunteering once a week at H.O.P.E. (Help and Outreach Point of Entry) . According to their website, Help and Outreach Point of Entry (H.O.P.E.) Inc. in Salisbury, Maryland, was founded by Donna Clark, RN in 1997 under the umbrella of Salisbury Urban Ministries with a mission to serve the most vulnerable members of the community by providing critical resources, advocacy, and support. Established as a response to the growing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and financial hardship, H.O.P.E. began as a grassroots initiative aimed at offering immediate assistance to those in crisis. H.O.P.E. has been operating out of the basement of Wicomico Presbyterian Church since 2008. Over the years, it has evolved into a vital organization dedicated to addressing systemic barriers and connecting people with essential services.



During the winter weather, H.O.P.E. is open Sundays through Thursdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Guests can drop by to hang out in the day shelter, drink coffee, eat a snack and/or lunch, and watch a movie on the television. They may also speak to a case worker who can connect them to local services. My role has been to greet guests and make sure they receive the services they need that day. They may need new vital documents (driver's license or identification card, social security card, health insurance card) that was lost or stolen; they may need a referral to mental health services; they may need assistance with filling out an application for an apartment; or they may need a shower and toiletries.

As the temperature has been consistently below freezing for the past few weeks, requests for blankets, sleeping bags, warm clothing, propane tanks, etc., have increased dramatically. I personally have met more people who are unhoused and seeking services in the past few weeks than I knew about when I first started volunteering in the spring. H.O.P.E. is always willing to accept donations of clothing, hats, gloves, hand warmers, sturdy backpacks, and other items to support those in need. To learn more about H.O.P.E. and how you can contribute, visit their website at: <https://www.hopesby.com/> .

## SPRING PARISH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**Evensong/St.Patrick's Dinner:** Sunday, March 15 at 5pm is our Lenten Evensong in the church followed by a traditional St. Patrick's Dinner in the Parish Hall with corned beef and cabbage. All are invited to attend.

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt:** Easter Sunday, April 5, after the 8:30am worship service. All children are welcome to participate in our traditional Easter Egg Hunt. We close down Main Street (Downtown Plaza) as the children hunt for eggs there and in our courtyard. A festive and fun event.

**St. Peter's Spring Fundraiser:** For the first Third Friday Downtown of the season, April 17, St. Peter's will be offering for sale oyster sandwiches and grilled hamburgers and hot dogs along with a bake sale in the Parish Hall from 5pm to 8pm.

**May Third Friday – Blessing of the Animals:** The theme for the May Third Friday Downtown, May 15, is “paw prints.” Besides our parish selling hamburgers and hot dogs, Father David will be in the courtyard blessing animals at scheduled times. Come and bring your animal companions.

**Annual Parish Picnic:** Sunday, May 31. We are heading back to Pirate's Wharf park for our outside 10:30am Holy Eucharist followed by our parish picnic. Come and bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

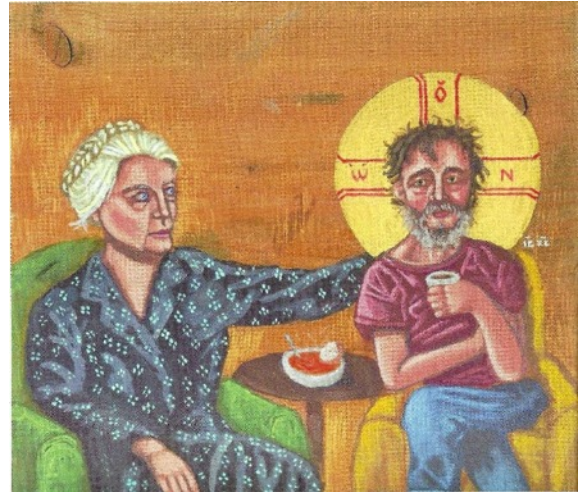


# WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Written by Deacon Laura

In my article titled “Deacons in the Community” I spoke of my volunteer work at H.O.P.E. (Help and Outreach Point of Entry). As part of that experience, I have met people from all levels of society: homeless veterans, those down on their luck and between jobs, women and men with small children who have recently been evicted, those who suffer from mental health issues and addictions, and those who need assistance navigating the world in general. I have found most people to be respectful and thankful that someone would take the time to offer a smile and help them. Of course, there are the usual exceptions, but aren’t there always within any group of people (i.e., work, family, friends, church)?

This year marks my sixth year of ministering to the homeless and food insecure. Many of the men I meet at the Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness cold weather shelter, I also see at H.O.P.E. The connections I have made with the men and women at both organizations have become ones of mutual respect and friendship. Occasionally, some of those folks will stop by St. Peter’s on a Sunday morning to get a cup of coffee and wait for the library, which doesn’t open until 1:00 pm, so they have a place to stay warm.



How do we as the church respond to those in need when they show up on Sunday? Do we take the time to say hello and engage in conversation? Make sure they have a cup of coffee? Invite them to a service? Jesus’ command to love one another as he loves us is unambiguous. As the church, we represent Jesus Christ in and to the world. How we respond to the stranger in our midst reflects our love for and our understanding of how we can be Jesus in a world that is torn.

The Gospels are very clear that we are to love one another as he loves us. When we recite the Baptismal Covenant we are reminded that we are to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” In Matthew, Chapter 25, we are reminded that any time we care for the stranger in our midst, we are caring for Jesus. Conversely, when ever we do not care for the stranger in our midst, we are not caring for Jesus.

*“Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’” –Matthew 25:44-45*



# PASTORAL CARE

*Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh*

**Pastoral Care Committee to be Restructured** Over the next several months, Pastor Greg will be working with lay members of the Pastoral Care Committee to restructure and reorient the mission and work of the committee for the betterment of St. Peter's Church.

We will continue to oversee the various ministries that have tended to fall within the Pastoral Care Committee's purview (see Keynote, Fall, 2025) while also prayerfully considering the broader and more specific pastoral needs of our congregation and community.

If you would like to participate in this restructuring, and/or have specific suggestions as to ministry areas we might consider or address, please contact Pastor Greg Harbaugh, [gregh@stpeterschurch.net](mailto:gregh@stpeterschurch.net), with your thoughts and ideas.



Many thanks to the Pastoral Care Committee members, present and past, who have contributed to the vital work of this committee over the years. The LORD has blessed our congregation through you, providing Christian care to our members and more!

# ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Written by The Rev. Greg Harbaugh*

## **Speaking with God Through Lent: Transfiguring Prayer for You**

- February 15 Jesus goes up to the Mountain—Prayer as Transfiguring
- February 22 Jesus tested in the Wilderness—Prayer as Battle/Struggle
- March 1 Nicodemus—Prayer as Inquiring
- March 8 Samaritan Woman—Prayer as Striving
- March 15 Blind Man—Prayer as Seeking
- March 22 Mary, Martha, Lazarus—Prayer as Desiring
- March 29 Jesus enters Jerusalem—Prayer as Emptying

Sunday mornings during Lent (9:40-10:40), Pastor Greg Harbaugh will serve as guide for exploring and experiencing differing forms and structures for prayer. We will use the Lenten Gospel Readings for each Sunday as a scriptural resource. We will begin on the last Sunday of Epiphany (Transfiguration) and conclude on Passion/Palm Sunday.

## **Weekday In-Person/Online Bible Study?**

2025 saw the concluding sessions of the Thursday Morning Bible Study that began during the time of the pandemic. After the ensuing hiatus, we are exploring the possibility of forming another Weekday Bible Study opportunity. This Bible Study will be in addition to the Men's Bible Study that gathers Wednesday mornings in the Library.

There is nothing pre-set other than "weekday." Day, time, format, etc. are yet to be determined. Please watch for further information and interest-gathering options in upcoming Peter's Posts. If you would like to join in such a Bible Study, please contact Pastor Greg: [gregh@stpeterschurch.net](mailto:gregh@stpeterschurch.net)

# DIOCESAN CONVENTION IN OCEAN CITY

The Diocese of Easton is holding its annual convention at the Princess Royal Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway in Ocean City Friday, February 27 through Saturday, February 28. Clergy and delegates from parishes across the diocese will be coming together to do the business of convention and to also hear the convention's keynote speaker, the former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry. He will be the keynote speaker at the Friday night banquet and also the preacher at the Saturday 9am Convention Eucharist.

St. Peter's delegation consists of: Father David, Pastor Greg, Deacon Laura, delegate Ernie Cornbrooks, delegate Linda Hurley and delegate Bravard Cornbrooks. John Phillips and Atif Gaddis are the alternate delegates.

The Southern Convocation churches are the hosts for this year's convention, and there are opportunities to volunteer to help on both Friday and Saturday. Please contact Father David if you are interested: [davidmichaud07@gmail.com](mailto:davidmichaud07@gmail.com).

You can also register as a guest for one or both days.

For those interested in just attending the banquet at 6pm Friday evening with Bishop Curry as the keynote speaker, you can register at the convention website address below. Banquet tickets are \$50 each.

All are invited to the Convention Eucharist on Saturday morning at 9am at the Princess Royal Hotel, with Assisting Bishop James "Bud" Shand presiding, Bishop Michael Curry preaching, and our own Lauma Akmene directing the music. There is of course no charge, but convention planners are asking folks to register so they can get a count, but even if you don't register you are welcome to participate.

This will be a unique convention in that there is no Diocesan Bishop, who would usually lead the convention proceedings. Friday afternoon will be spent in discussion and reflection on where we are and where we would like to go as the diocese.

There are also elections that will take place Friday morning for Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, General Convention Deputies, Provincial Synod representatives and members of the Board of Managers.

During convention Deacon Laura will make a presentation about Green Hill Church.

## Convention Website

Any parishioner is welcome to come to convention or to view the livestream of convention. For comprehensive information about your diocesan convention go to the convention website: <https://dioceseofeaston.org/convention2026/>. You can also contact a member of your delegation for more information.



**St. Patrick's** **Sunday, 3/15**  
**Evensong & Dinner**  
**Evensong begins at 5PM in the church with a Corned Beef/Cabbage Dinner and all the trimmings following the service in the Parish Hall.**  
St. Peter's Church 115 St. Peter's Street Salisbury-MD 410.742.5118



*St. Peter's Church*  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – 9:15AM  
*BREAKFAST @ 8:50AM*

Reports will be given and elections held for Vestry and Diocesan Convention Delegates. Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall. The commissioning of the new Vestry members & officers will take place during the 10:30AM service.

*Child care will be available during the meeting.*

The meeting will be livestreamed.  
You must be present in the Parish Hall to vote.

# ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRY

## A Season of Growth and Inspiration

*Written by Lauma Akmene, Music Director*

The music ministry at St. Peter's continues to flourish, offering rich opportunities for worship, reflection, and community throughout the coming season. Anchored by a deep commitment to sacred music and open participation, our programs invite both longtime members and newcomers to experience beauty through sound.

St. Peter's Choir is advancing confidently into a season filled with beautiful repertoire, featuring beloved anthems and Anglican chant on a weekly basis. The choir remains a welcoming and vibrant ensemble and is currently inviting new volunteers, with a special need for a tenor section leader. Singers of all backgrounds who enjoy making music in a supportive and prayerful setting are encouraged to join.



The annual Spring Concert will take place on Sunday, May 17, at 4:00 p.m., and will feature both St. Peter's Adult Choir and the St. Peter's Bells Choir. The program will include joyful and uplifting music, spanning both sacred and non-sacred selections, offering something for everyone to enjoy.

Two Evensong services are planned for the coming season: March 15 at 5:00 p.m. and May 1 at 7:00 p.m. These services will feature traditional Anglican music, sung by the St. Peter's Adult Choir alongside guest musicians, creating a reflective and prayerful atmosphere.

During Lent, St. Peter's will offer a Lenten Organ Meditation Series on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m., following the noon service. Each meditation will include approximately 15 minutes of organ music by beloved composers such as J. S. Bach, César Franck, Philip Glass, and Florence Beatrice Price. The series will be performed by Lauma Akmene and is designed to provide a moment of quiet contemplation in the midst of the Lenten journey.

Together with the work of the St. Cecilia Guild and the continued dedication of our musicians, the music ministry at St. Peter's remains a vital and growing part of parish life. We look forward to sharing this season of music with you.

All Holy Week Worship Services are In-Person and Livestream

Maunder Thursday 7PM Service	Good Friday Noon Service	Easter Vigil 8PM Service	Easter Sunday 8:30AM & 10:30AM Service
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**Holy Week at St. Peter's Church**  
115 St. Peter's Street - Salisbury, MD 410.742.5118 [www.stpeterschurch.net](http://www.stpeterschurch.net)

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT StPetersSby & OUR WEBSITE [www.stpeterschurch.net](http://www.stpeterschurch.net)

# CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

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

Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>  
Following the 8:30AM service.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

*Written by Emily Atkin & Jamie Scott*

Sunday School ended in 2025 with our Annual Christmas Pageant! Many thanks to Kate Dyer, the Director of the Christmas Pageant; it was heartwarming and fun. We appreciate Hope Morgan who did a beautiful job setting up the pageant background. The kids were wonderful actors and are very sweet!

We returned to the Education Annex in January for Sunday School lessons continuing to learn about the Old Testament. This will be our last couple of months in the Annex space, and we are sad to see it go. The Sunday School children have enjoyed growing up there, meeting in a large space with room to do projects and spread out. We look forward to the move date of 2/14/26 and having help to move all of the supplies to the new spaces in the Parish Hall.

In December the children and families of Sunday School and Youth Group adopted 2 grandparents from the MAC center. The children made dignity bags for the Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness shelter in January with individual cards made for each bag. We filled just under 40 bags with snacks, socks and personal care items. The bags were delivered to the men by Deacon Laura, and they were very thankful to receive the goodies.

Bishop Bud visited in January, and we learned about missionary work together! We look forward to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th. Thank you to our parents and everyone at St. Peter's for supporting our ministry.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Written by Emily Atkin*

There are many changes in 2026 for the Children and Youth Programs at St. Peter's. Firstly, we are moving from the Education Annex on 2/14/26 to spaces in the Parish House. Hands on help will be needed to move things for Sunday School and Youth Group including bookshelves, couches, chairs, many crafting supplies, bibles and books of common prayer. Please consider helping the EC move to the Parish Hall.

The second changes are in leadership. I (Emily Atkin) am stepping down as Sunday School Director, as my youngest will be moving up to youth group at the end of the school year. Atif Gaddis is stepping down from Youth Group Leader. We need parishioners who are interested in leading children and youth to help fill these positions. We want to continue to have these wonderful programs for the children and youth. They are the future of our church and are pretty fun to be around!

Please reach out to Emily Atkin, Fr. David Michaud or anyone on the Vestry if you are interested helping with the above.



# YOUTH GROUP

Written by Atif Gaddis

On Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> St. Peter's kicked off their week of service at the HHEH men's shelter. St. Peter's Youth Group was the first group from church to prepare a meal. The young people cooked turkey chili and cornbread for 40 men! According to reports, the young people made a delicious and hearty meal! The men kept going back for more and more!



## Winter/Spring Off Campus Events

There are a couple of events that are off campus that are open to our youth but not organized by St. Peter's. One is the Diocesan Convention on 2/27 and 2/28. There are talks about incorporating youth into the worship service. More details are to come regarding this opportunity.

The Province III Youth Event is being held this year at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The theme is "Faith on the Road". The cost for the event is \$150.00 per person. Details can be found at <https://dioswva.wufoo.com/forms/q1d1qyar0wx4wrw/>. Financial assistance from St. Peter's is available to any young person who is interested in participating.

## Mission Trips

The Diocese is planning a mission trip to Peru this year for high school students. For those who are interested, more details will be coming. Please check the Diocesan website. Also, the Diocese of Maryland is organizing a mission trip to western North Carolina this summer from July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 24<sup>th</sup> and all the dioceses in Province III are invited! You can find out more at [www.youth.episcopalmaryland.org](http://www.youth.episcopalmaryland.org). The cost is \$900.00 per person, I believe this may be a high school and young adult event, but you can reach out to the Diocese of Maryland for more details. If anyone is interested in either mission trip, financial support from St. Peter's will be available.

## Transition

This fall, I had the opportunity to join Sherri Hall in leadership of St. Peter's Youth Group again. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know the young people and sharing Christ with them. It has been great experience serving alongside the parents and volunteers who have readily supported our activities. It is with great sadness that I announce that I will be stepping aside at the end of our spring term. I have relocated to Wilmington, DE for work, and being so far away I am just not able to commit to the ministry in a way that I think would best serve it long term. As we prepare to transition, I ask your prayers for the future leadership of the ministry. If you have considered serving with the youth I ask you to pray for ways you could assist the ministry.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Spring Fundraiser

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 5PM - 8PM

featuring

**OYSTER FRITTER SANDWICHES**  
by the "locally famous" King Brothers

Also available

Grilled Hot Dogs & Hamburgers  
& Soft Drinks & Bake Sale

*Come see us while strolling  
through Third Friday.*

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



# WHY I LOVE SERVING ON THE ALTAR GUILD

*Written by Kathy Fahey*

Serving in the Altar Guild gives me a greater sense of participation in the profound mysteries and miracles of faith. Every time I touch or care for the instruments of worship, it feels awe-inspiring. And I love knowing that Altar Guild members feel the same way.

I love the way our members work together like a well oiled machine going about our various tasks and rolling with the changes that crop up — and there are a number of them. Adjusting to the changing church calendar, funerals, baptisms, weddings, and a variety of programs hosted in the church are just some of the challenges posed to the Altar Guild. What doesn't change is the love and patience with which these adjustments are addressed and the love and patience we show to each other.

It is a privilege to serve God in the Altar Guild, with prayerful hands and with love and joy in our hearts. As I read somewhere, to tend the holy things and prepare for the Eucharist is to enter into the Church's act of remembrance — where past, present, and future are gathered in the mystery of Jesus. When we fold a corporal, we are tending to the body of Christ. When we pour wine or place a host on a paten, we are holding the signs of divine hospitality. These are acts of reverent preparation for the feast of Eucharist. In a way, Altar Guild members live Eucharistic lives. Our labor mirrors the liturgy itself: gathered in silence, offering our gifts, trusting that God will take what we prepare in love and transform it into something holy.



## ST. PETER'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

St. Peter's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 26 at 9:15am in the Parish Hall. The meeting will be livestreamed as well, but you need to be present in the Parish Hall to vote. The early service will start at 8:00am that day. We are planning on an all parish breakfast beginning at 8:45am prior to the Annual Meeting. Worship will follow at 10:30am that day, with the Installation of Vestry members and officers.

Parishioners who have been active at St. Peter's for a year or more are eligible to vote in the elections. There are three 3-year Vestry positions open as well as 3 Delegate and 3 Alternate positions for the 2027 Diocesan Convention. The Nominations Committee will be presenting a slate of candidates that will be publicized at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Those interested in these positions are encouraged to contact the Nominations Committee Chair Karen Shields. Nominations can also be made on the floor on the day of the Parish Meeting.

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

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

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

# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

*Written by Ernie Cornbrooks, Chair*

I am happy to report that the Stewardship Campaign for the 2026 fiscal year was a resounding success in several respects.

First, by the time the campaign officially concluded on December 15th, the total amount pledged came very close to what was targeted in the proposed budget. (There are always a few stragglers who miss the deadline.)

Second, 48% of those who pledged in the previous year increased their pledges. Wow!

Third, the amount of new pledges took up most of the deficit caused by 2025 pledgers who have moved away or who have died.

Fourth, it was very gratifying to see that the average pledge increased from \$3,569 in 2025 to \$4,356 in 2026.

I cannot thank the members of the Parish enough for their generous support of St Peter's. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the members of the Stewardship Committee, Mary Bargion, Bob Walton, and Bill Wyatt.

# PLANNED GIVING JOIN THE 1768 SOCIETY

*Written by Linda Hurley*

**“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 the future.

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.” Excerpts from [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)

Go Deeper: The Episcopal Church partners with the Episcopal Church Foundation to facilitate individual, parish, and diocesan giving. [www.ecf.org](http://www.ecf.org)

*Of course, if it's not in writing, it doesn't count. Make a plan. Write or update your will. Review beneficiaries. Talk with your family and attorney. Let your love live on at St. Peter's!*

We will see you in April for a Planned Giving Sunday, and we'll be available to answer your questions.

Please contact your Planned Giving Shepherds with questions:

Linda Hurley, Chair ([linda.hurley@comcast.net](mailto:linda.hurley@comcast.net))

Gil Allen ([aallen@agallenlaw.net](mailto:aallen@agallenlaw.net)), Bill Wyatt ([bnjwyatt@comcast.net](mailto:bnjwyatt@comcast.net))



# PARSONS CEMETERY

Submitted by Rick Fahey



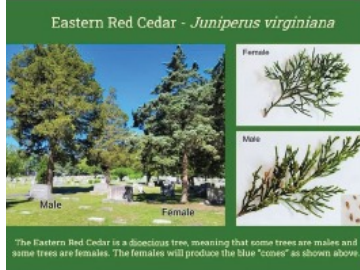
The Delmarva Pet Garden at Parsons Cemetery has now been working with the Salisbury Zoo to inter and remember the beloved animals that have passed. Our most recent addition was Chayne, the Canada lynx



Our 9th annual Wreaths Across America event was our biggest yet. Thank you to the nearly 500 volunteers who came to lay wreaths on the graves of our 1400 veterans.



Our "living shoreline" project completed in 2025 will be spectacular this Spring. Come and visit as we plan for Phase 2 of the project



Parsons Cemetery is excited to announce that we are now an accredited Level-1 arboretum by ArbNet, an interactive community of arboreta and tree professionals. Recently, we mapped and identified all the trees and shrubs in Parsons Cemetery and were amazed to discover that we had a wide and diverse variety of tree and shrub species. Currently, Parsons Cemetery is one of only four accredited arboreta on Delmarva.



We have added an app to help you find the location of graves. It has become quite popular. There are signs throughout the cemetery with a QR code that brings you to app. You can also find the app on our website at <https://parsonscemetery.com/preserving-history/>



In November, we were designated as an official Cornell University [eBird](#) hotspot and 21 bird species have already been sighted here. For example, the Yellow Bellied Sapsucker!

# VESTRY NOTES

Written by Bravard Cornbrooks, Registrar

The Vestry has made a number of decisions concerning the life of St. Peter's over the last few months. Here are the highlights of the Vestry's decisions at meetings in November and December, 2025, and in January, 2026.

## November, 2025

- The Vestry unanimously voted to approve Father David to sign the feasibility study contract with Pendleton Consulting.

## December, 2025

- It was moved that the Outreach Committee approve the Community Dinner Project as proposed with the caveat that the committee check back with the Vestry in 3 months. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Motion was made to approve the proposed 2026 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Motion was made to approve the 2026 Diocesan apportionment of \$57,283. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Motion was made to accept both housing resolutions (Father David and Pastor Greg). Motion was unanimously approved.

## January, 2026

- It was unanimously approved to apply for the Diocesan Grant to help fund the Community Dinner Project.
- As always, if anyone has questions about any of these issues, feel free to talk with a member of the Vestry.

# ST. PETER'S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Reported by Stacey Cottingham, Treasurer

12/31/2025

	2025		2024	
	12 Months YTD Actual	12 Months Budget	12 Months YTD Budget	12 Months YTD Actual
<b>INCOME</b>				
Total Offerings	402,976	417,400	417,400	368,796
Total Other Sources	10,224	50,233	50,233	3,643
	<u>413,200</u>	<u>467,633</u>	<u>467,633</u>	<u>372,439</u>
<b>Outside Investments</b>				
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	4,551	4,000	4,000	13,085
Withdrawal from Vestry Endowment	28,000	37,000	37,000	4,236
Withdrawal from New Ministries Endowment	0	0	0	0
Grants Income	0	0	0	0
	<u>55,553</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>17,321</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>468,754</u>	<u>528,633</u>	<u>523,633</u>	<u>389,760</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Church Staff Compensation	146,247	149,085	149,085	137,794
Clergy Compensation	174,629	180,751	180,751	175,239
Diocesan Apportionment	40,000	40,000	40,000	33,504
Outreach & Mission	22,093	31,040	31,040	25,702
Overhead	122,025	132,727	89,545	132,945
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>504,994</u>	<u>533,603</u>	<u>490,421</u>	<u>505,184</u>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<u>-36,240</u>	<u>-4,970</u>	<u>33,212</u>	<u>-115,425</u>

Through the end of the year 2025, NET ORDINARY INCOME came in at a negative \$36,240. TOTAL INCOME as well as TOTAL EXPENSES was less than budget.

**TOTAL INCOME:** Total Offerings, especially Pledge Offerings, almost met budget with most of the income not realized in Other Resources leaving us approximately \$60,000 behind budget in part due to lack of major fundraisers and grant income. Outside Investments- Community Foundation Income included a note worthy 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 and reduction in overhead costs.

Your Rector and Finance Committee Chair has reviewed and accepted the above financial information.

## EASTER LILIES

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

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

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

**ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, March 29th**

**Cost per Lily: \$12**

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

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

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Evensong/St.Patrick's Dinner:** Sunday, March 15

**Easter Sunday Services:** Sunday, April 5 - 8:30AM & 10:30PM  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt after the 8:30am worship service.

**St. Peter's Spring Fundraiser:** Friday, April 17

**May Third Friday – Blessing of the Animals:** May 15

**Annual Parish Picnic:** Sunday, May 31.



StPetersSby



SCAN ME

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