

The *KEYNOTER*

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

410.742.5118 www.stpeterschurch.net



FALL 2026

COME TO THE MINISTRY FAIR

Everyone is encouraged to come to St. Peter's Ministry Fair and Sunday School Registration on Sunday morning, September 13 in the Parish Hall. It will take place after the 8:30am and 10:30am services. Coffee and refreshments will be available in the Parish Hall as well.

Come and learn about what activities and events are planned for this year and learn about the breadth of ministries ongoing in your parish. Register for Sunday School. Be part of a ministry or activity that interests you. Talk to ministry coordinators and get your questions answered. Celebrate our parish's work as the Body of Christ to one another and to the world. Plan to spend a few extra minutes Sunday, September 13 visiting St. Peter's Ministry Fair.



Here are some of the ministries that may have tables at the Ministry Fair:

Children's Sunday School
Altar Guild
Bell Choir
Music Ministry
Servers (Torch/Crucifer/Acolyte)
Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
Property Committee
Stewardship Committee
Outreach Ministries
Community Dinner

Adult Education & Bible Study
Confirmation/Inquirers Classes
Pastoral Care Caring Team
Eucharistic Visitors
Comforters Group
Nursery
Youth Group
Scholarships
Parsons Cemetery
Fellowship & Hospitality

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DIOCESAN DISCERNMENT INFORMATION DAY

Our Diocese of Easton is currently in transition and without a Diocesan Bishop. What does the future hold for the Diocese? We are a small diocese with both opportunities and challenges. Do we search for another bishop, or reorganize our diocese, or look to work with a neighboring diocese? As we discern our future, the Diocese of Easton's Discernment Committee (of which Father David Michaud is co-chair) is asking each parish to hold a Parish Discernment Information Day so that everyone can educate themselves on the role of a diocese in the Episcopal Church and the current state of the Diocese of Easton.

The Discernment Committee has prepared an education video that all clergy and lay members are asked to watch and then discuss the information presented in the video. The Discernment Committee is providing the discussion questions. Responses will be recorded and sent to the committee for tabulation and analysis. The Discernment Committee will share the results with you and use them in planning the next phase of discernment later this fall.

The prophet Hosea counsels that "whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them." **You are invited to learn more about your diocese by**

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Diocesan Discernment continued from pg. 1

taking part in St. Peter's Discernment Information Day on Sunday, September 20 in the church after both the 8:30am and the 10:30am services.

In discernment there are no pre-determined outcomes, and so over the next few months together all parishes and stakeholders in the Diocese of Easton will be exploring many possible ways forward to see what is best for us. Let us be open to what God is calling us to be as we walk together with the Holy Spirit, who is with us and guides us to a bright future as the Episcopal Church on the Eastern Shore.

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN THEME

Plenty Good Room



Welcome to our Plenty Good Room season of stewardship! This fall we will be reflecting on God's abundance and our call to make space for all. There is room for everyone at God's table. Beginning on October 18 our fall stewardship campaign will celebrate God's abundance. In creation, in our community, and in our lives, God provides more than enough. How will you share from your plenty?

The Stewardship Committee, under the leadership of Bob Walton, is updating the parish website's stewardship page and assembling materials for the campaign. Volunteers are needed – contact Bob if you can help with the campaign in any way.

The stewardship campaign concludes on Stewardship Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22 when all are asked to turn in their 2027 Pledge Cards to help support St. Peter's in 2027. Look for information at the Ministry Fair.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Ex 20:11.

I am recently back from my summer sabbatical, a benefit I receive as your rector to take some time away every five years for rest and rejuvenation. "Sabbatical" comes from the Hebrew sabbath, a spiritual practice ordained by God as a regular time of rest. God who created in six days, rested on the seventh day, and thus made sacred a regular time for God's people to rest from their labors. In fact, Jewish law said the punishment for not keeping the sabbath was death (Ex 31:14), that's how serious it was to keep the sabbath!



In my time of travels throughout the American West with a camper, Kelli and I did have some time to relax, but we also fell into a different schedule and rhythm in our days, getting us out of our normal routines, which is healthy to do. We were able to explore new things, do some reading, and revisit some familiar places. Plus, we had opportunity to visit my family, which is scattered across the country.

This gave me opportunities to reflect, and to gain perspective. We met new people and discovered things about our country and about ourselves that we hadn't realized before.

It is very important to give yourself sabbath time. Even Jesus did that, going away at times up mountains for prayer and peace from the crowds. If our Lord had a discipline of keeping sabbath, it makes sense that we should practice that as well. It is good for the soul.

I kept a journal during our travels and I'll be sharing some of my experiences by reading from the journal and showing some photos at the Adult Forum on Sunday mornings; I invite you to join me Sundays at 930am beginning September 6.

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Diocese of Easton continues to be without a Diocesan Bishop. The Standing Committee is the ecclesiastical authority, and they have extended the contract with the Rt. Rev. James “Bud” Shand to be the part-time Assisting Bishop for the diocese through the end of February 2027. The Discernment Committee has been spending the summer encouraging parishes to educate themselves on the role of bishops and dioceses and the state of the Diocese of Easton. Conversations about what we value and what possible ways the Diocese of Easton could organize itself in the future will be happening this fall and winter. The 2027 Diocesan Convention will be held at the Cambridge Hyatt Hotel for the first time in many years on February 26-27. Bishop Shand will visit St. Peter’s on its patronal feast day, Sunday, January 17, 2027.

GOOD NEWS FOR GREEN HILL CHURCH

Historic Green Hill Church was full of worshippers for the annual Green Hill Sunday worship service and picnic on August 23 and the weather was very cooperative – sunny and mild with a nice breeze off the Wicomico River. Parishioners from the four daughter churches, including St. Peter’s, traveled to the mother church for worship and fellowship. Father David Michaud was the celebrant and the Venerable Laura Harbaugh was the deacon. It is tradition to have the newest clergy member serving a Wicomico County church preach so Interim Rector for St. Alban’s, the Rev. Shiela McJilton, was the preacher.



A joyful highlight of Green Hill Sunday was the baptism of the granddaughter of parishioners Ron and Hope Morgan – Millie Morgan – who was baptized by Father David during the service. After the service most of the congregation stayed for the outdoor community picnic, which included complimentary fried chicken from the Red Roost restaurant. There were more chairs this year at the picnic, thanks to St. Peter’s – we had found a number of metal folding chairs as we were cleaning out the old Parish Annex building and our parish donated them to Green Hill.

New Parking Area

There was exciting news this year announced at the service: Greg and Sarah Langelier are donating land adjacent to the church yard which has been part of Chesapeake Nurseries for a new parking area and extended grounds. Final arrangements are still being made but those who came to Green Hill Sunday were able to turn into the new road to park and to access the churchyard from the west side of the church. Thank you, Greg and Sarah!

Fundraising for the New Roof

It was announced that a roof contractor has been identified to put on the new roof on the historic church and that the fundraising subcommittee is at 71% of its goal. Donations were encouraged to raise the remainder of the funds. If you would like to make a donation to help reach the goal, there are Green Hill brochures on the table at coffee hour, or you can make an online donation now by going to <https://app.seemylegacy.com/community/2651/campaign/7313/overview>.



FEASIBILITY STUDY WRAPPING UP

Submitted by Karen Shields

Over a year ago, St. Peter's began the process of evaluating the appropriateness of a capital campaign based on projects that had been identified. Through the Discernment process, which included Cottage Meetings to get parishioner input, the decision was made to sell the Parish Annex (which fortunately was sold to the City of Salisbury this year). That eliminated several capital projects from the list. The projects we moved forward with were:

- Parish House Renovation
 - Full Renovation
 - Partial Renovation
- New Chapel Creation
- Church Relighting
- Church Audio System Updating
- Triptych Cleaning



We then began the Feasibility Study to again gain input from parishioners via a household survey. The survey included basic data about parish life, the priority of each proposed project to the future of St. Peter's, and additional input about a possible capital campaign. Fifty-five responses were received through an online or paper survey, and the data is currently being analyzed. The report from our consultant will be presented to the Vestry at the September meeting, after which the Vestry will use the survey results plus other available information to decide about the need for a capital campaign. If the decision is to move forward with the campaign, the projects to be included will be identified.

PLANNED GIVING JOIN THE 1768 SOCIETY

Written by Linda Hurley

Excerpts from www.episcopalchurch.org *"Planned giving is an act of love... 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."*

Planned giving is the cornerstone of our church's financial strength and the ability to do God's work, maintain our buildings and keep the lights on!

It is not complicated! Write or update your will and designate a percentage of your estate to the church. It's that easy!

Then 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.

Linda Hurley, Chair (linda.hurley@comcast.net)

Gil Allen (aallen@agallenlaw.net)

Bill Wyatt (bnjwyatt@comcast.net)

A REFLECTION FROM DEACON LAURA

Written by Deacon Laura

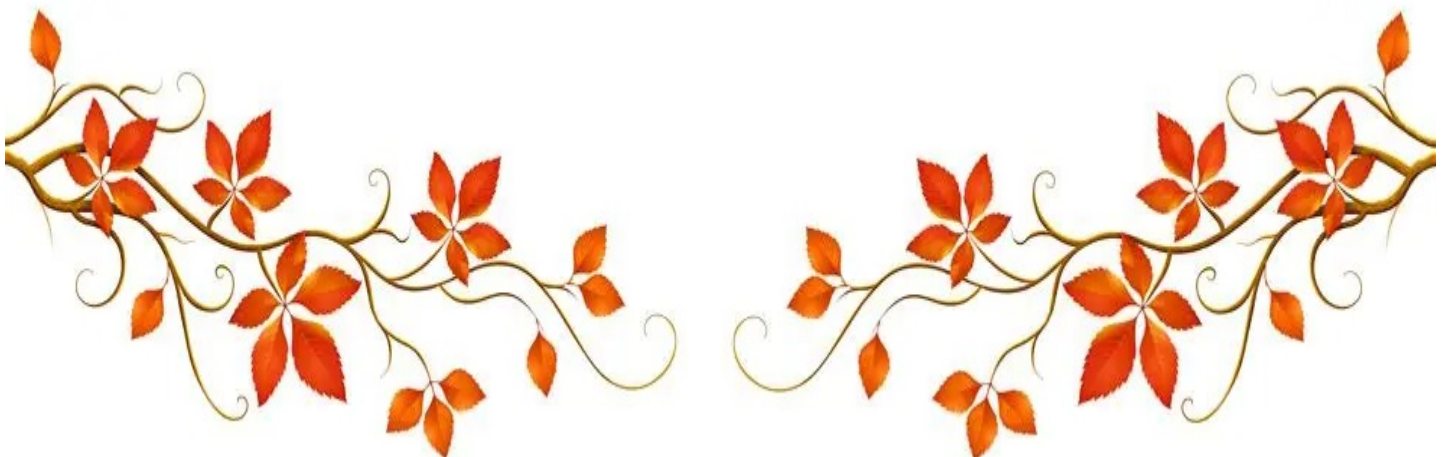
.As I puttered around in my backyard on a beautiful summer morning (68 degrees and low humidity), a safe space formed by my hands to provide food and shelter for God's creatures, I thought about my time at H.O.P .E. (Help and Outreach Point of Entry) the Wednesday before. I am one of two regular volunteers who greet visitors to the day shelter, and help connect them with the many services offered in the cramped basement of Wicomico Presbyterian Church.



Some come to sleep on the couch because they've been walking all night—the shelters are full and the “good spots” under the bridges are all taken. The heat is oppressive and has been for months. Truly, there are no “good spots” for homeless people to find rest and shelter this summer. Some come looking for assistance with a downpayment. They have the income to pay the rent, but the requirements for the security deposit plus first and last month's rent are so steep, they can't put enough money together. We're seeing more people seeking help as other local agencies are struggling to help, too. Some come looking for help because they've been evicted. The income that used to be enough can't keep up with the rising costs of food and gas. We're seeing more retired, older women these days. Some come looking for help with hotel costs so they can have a few more nights rest with their small children. We're seeing more single moms these days. Some come looking for help with dental work—they have an abscessed tooth and an infection and they heard we can help. We're seeing more people of all ages and backgrounds these days. Some come looking for a shower and fresh clothing because they've been wearing the same clothes for days. We're seeing more newly homeless veterans these days.

The needs are endless and the desperation is evident. So much so, that by the time I leave, I'm heavy with the psychic energy that has settled around my shoulders. I shared that feeling with the Board of H.O.P.E. later that evening. Debra Rossi, Executive Director, “gets it”. She's been doing the work longer than I have. She acknowledges that the current space is too small to accommodate a day-shelter for those looking for something to eat or clothing and a shower and a safe space to rest and a separate space for those seeking services. She talks about her hopes for the future and laments that she doesn't have enough time to spend with the people we serve. Real people, facing real challenges, with waning hope that they are even “seen”.

I see them. I'm learning their names and learning what they need when they come in. I see and feel their desperation. So I rest today in my garden with the sounds of the birds and insects and weed whackers and take in the beauty of this space. I watch a newly emerged Black Swallowtail butterfly slowly spread its wings as it waits for them to dry. I watch hummingbirds flit about and chase each other away from the feeders. I see a goldfinch on my coneflowers looking for seeds. I get up to let my cat, Penny, inside knowing that she'll want to come out again in two minutes. This is a space for rejuvenation and the building up my resolve to keep showing up for those who desperately need to be seen and greeted with a smile versus a scowl. I see Christ in them and know that I am exactly where I need to be.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH
SALISBURY, MD

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

SHOP • EAT • ENJOY • SUPPORT

FRIDAY
NOV 20
5-8PM

SATURDAY
NOV 21
9AM-1PM

FEATURING



KING BOYS
OYSTER FRITTER
SANDWICHES



HOLIDAY
CRAFTS



BAKED
GOODS

Come for the shopping, stay for the fellowship!



115 ST. PETER'S STREET • SALISBURY, MD 21801 • WWW.STPETERSCHURCH.NET

INQUIRER'S CLASS MEETS TUESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING NOV 3

'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? Sign up and take part in this fall's adult Inquirer's Class, Tuesday evenings at 7pm. We will meet in the Parish Meeting Room beginning on Tuesday, November 3. 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 of Easton when he visits St. Peter's January 2027, 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 19**. 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 anyone is welcomed to attend. The class will be led by the Rector, the Very Rev. David Michaud.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will be offered for those baptized youth ages 14-17 who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation when the Assisting Bishop of Easton, the Rt. Rev. James J. Shand, visits St. Peter's on January 17, the parish's Patronal Feast (the Confession of St. Peter). The classes will be held on Sunday afternoons at 12:00noon this fall and will be conducted by Father David Michaud and Ms. Karen Papke-Shields. Attendance in these classes is required before being confirmed.

Confirmation is the adult affirmation of one's baptism, when one makes a public declaration of one's faith and desire to be part of the Episcopal Church. The classes will cover Bible studies, the Prayer Book, what we believe, liturgical practices, church organization, church history, and Christian service.

Advanced registration is required, so that enough materials can be ordered for each confirmation candidate. Parents who would like to enroll their child in Confirmation Class should contact Father David at davidmichaud07@gmail.com. For more information, go to the Confirmation page on the parish website: <https://stpeterschurch.net/confirmation/>. Parent orientation meeting is on Sunday, September 27 at 12noon in the second-floor Youth Group room in the Parish House.

ADULT FORUM: Reflections

Reflections on Fr. David's Trip to the American West Father David Michaud during his sabbatical drove almost 12,000 throughout the American West this summer and kept a journal of his experiences and reflections that he will be sharing Sunday mornings in September and October at the 9:30am Adult Forum, beginning on September 6 and running through October 18. Topics include: Being present in creation, sacred places, memories and time, gratitude, life-giving waters, surprise encounters.

Father David will read selections from his journal and share photos from the places he traveled. All are welcome to attend. The first session will take place in the library.

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT MISSION REPORT

Written by Ella Fenoglietto & Deacon Laura Harbaugh

This summer, Ella Fenoglietto and Deacon Laura Harbaugh participated on mission trips to Appalachia as part of two different Appalachia Service Project (ASP) teams. Ella joined the ASP team from Asbury Methodist Church for the first time, and Deacon Laura joined the ASP team from Snow Hill for a second year. Both ended up serving in West Virginia about an hour and a half apart from each other. This year's theme was "Loving Your Neighbor". We hope you enjoy our stories...

Ella Fenoglietto

Over the course of 6 months, the 13 youth that committed to serving an Appalachia community at the end of June were put to work building ramps, cooking/serving food at a homeless shelter, and volunteering at Asbury's monthly pancake breakfasts. Each of these acts of service contributed to our eligibility to attend our trip. All 3 of those required activities helped us prepare for a week of serving others, our community, and ourselves. This past summer was my first time serving in Asbury's Appalachia Service Project, and it was one of the best decisions I have made so far in my life.

During the week, my team and I worked diligently to underpin our homeowners house. Underpinning is the process of strengthening and stabilizing the existing foundation which is done around the crawlspace of a house. Underpinning is also useful for blocking any animals from living in the crawlspace which could potentially mess how the house functions. Every day, my team and I would be greeted by our amazing homeowner, who immediately welcomed us with lots of cookies and very generous hospitality. While we worked she told us stories about her life as well as gave us a bountiful amount of praise and appreciation for all of our hard work. After 5 very long and muddy days, we successfully completed the underpinning of her home with the help of another team and lots of highly skilled adults who handled any complications we had with ease.

After a long day of work, majority of the youth at the center went out to the back field and played an assortment of games such as baseball, football, and soccer. At our center in Nicholas County WV, there were 3 other churches, and it was amazing to watch how 4 churches from completely different states all united to play together and make so many connections even after only 1-2 days. From my experience, I met so many wonderful and determined youth that made my first ASP trip so memorable and enjoyable. Our first meeting for our 2027 trip starts in September, which will begin the process all over again to better ourselves, our community, and grow in our spiritual faith together.

Deacon Laura

Toward the end of June, I joined 27 others from Snow Hill ASP's team. I preached at St. Philip's the Sunday after I returned, using the Gospel text from Matthew 10:40-42 which, in part, reads: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

The following are excerpts from that homily.

I was part of two teams who were sent to an older couple's home (The Reeds) about five minutes from the ASP center. When we arrived at the location, I saw them sitting on the front porch waiting for us. From the first moments we stepped out of the vans, we were greeted with smiles and appreciation for our help. There was a welcoming back porch with two rows of old chairs; enough for all 12 of us to sit at one time. We got our tools out and surveyed what we needed to do, then planned the day's work. But, first we had to say hello to the other member of the family—a chocolate lab mix named Posey, who also greeted us with hugs and kisses.

Our teams were the third set of volunteers to work on their home: one team worked on a bathroom gut and remodel, and the other team was tasked with installing foam insulation board followed by siding. I was assigned to the siding team where I quickly learned that I was not a good measurer, but I could cut a straight line once I had the right measurements!

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As is typical whenever a group of people who don't know each other at all or very little, leaders emerged, which for us was a very bright rising high school senior. She picked up the measuring very quickly and made sure the boys didn't sit around for long. By the end of the first two days, we had foam insulation board installed around the whole trailer (with the exception of the back porch which was going to require additional work first). By the end of the last day, we had one of the ends completely sided, most of the front side, and all but the last span at the peak of the other end. The trailer sat on a slope from end to end, and our ladders and people just weren't tall enough to reach the very top!

Through all of the work and what felt to me, the lack of progress, our homeowners were very welcoming and gracious. Mr. Reed taught two groups how to make candy (which involved a ton of sugar and a lot of stirring!). We met children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The whole family was very kind.

On Friday, the Reeds treated us to pizza for lunch and we presented them with a basket of items they could use in their new bathroom once it was finished (the second crew were hindered by challenges so the progress on the bathroom was slower). Through all the delays, the Reeds embodied what it meant to be welcoming of strangers and accepting of us as ambassadors of Christ.



Seeking Musicians

**Grace Notes Handbell Choir
is looking for musicians to
join the choir.**

(ages 14 and up)

Interested or want more info?

**Contact Megan at
meganfeno@yahoo.com
or the church office
410-742-5118**



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

**Experience with
handbells not
required.**

**Grace Notes is a ministry of
St. Peter's Episcopal Church.
Church membership is
NOT required.**

ST. PETER'S MUSIC MINISTRY

ritten by Lauma Akmene, Music Director

- **August 30** – Leah Yackanech, soprano (Peabody Conservatory), will be featured at both Sunday services
- **October 11** – Choral Evensong with potluck reception
- **November 15** – Maryland State Boychoir at the 10:30 a.m. service
- **December 6** – Advent Lessons and Carols
- **December 20** – Handel's *Messiah*
- **January 6** – Festal Eucharist for Epiphany
- **March 14** – Lenten Choral Evensong with potluck reception
- **May 2** – Spring Concert
- **TBA** – Green Hill Benefit Concert
- **TBA** – Collaboration with Peabody Conservatory



A New Season of Music at St. Peter's!

This season brings a more flexible and welcoming music schedule, with Adult Choir approximately every other Sunday, along with cantors, wonderful instrumental music from local talents such as flute, classical guitar, and cello, and exciting guest ensembles such as the Maryland State Boychoir. There are many ways to be part of this exciting season—sing with the adult and handbell choirs, join our Music Support Group to share ideas and dreams, or help support opportunities such as children's choir and other music programs. We welcome you—please reach out and join us!

St. Peter's Choir

St. Peter's Choir resumes rehearsals on Sunday, **September 13, at 9:45AM. The choir leads music for Sunday services and special events** throughout the season. New members are always welcome, and we are also seeking **Choral Scholars**. Anyone interested in singing with the choir or learning more about the Choral Scholars Program is encouraged to contact Lauma.

Grace Notes Handbell Choir

Under the direction of **Megan Fenoglietto**, the handbell choir resumes rehearsals on **September 10**. Everyone is welcome to join! The group will participate in Sunday services as well as community and mayoral celebrations throughout the year, approximately once a month. Those interested in joining are encouraged to reach out to Megan.

Choir School

The St. Peter's Choir School is currently in a revitalization and planning phase. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help support the program, particularly those interested in serving as **Choir School advisors or on the support board**. If you are interested in helping build this program for children in our community, please contact Lauma.

DO YOU *Love to Sing?*
JOIN THE CHOIR

Rehearsals resume Sept. 13 – 9:45AM

Contact Lauma Akmene, Director for more details.
lakmene@stpeterschurch.net

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Written by Emily Atkin & Jamie Scott

Vacation Bible School was held at St. Alban's this year for one day on August 1st from 9:30 am-3:30 pm! VBS brings together children, youth and volunteers from St. Peter's, St. Alban's and Faith Lutheran Church. Children had fun learning from the Galaxy (Concordia) program. Lunch and snack responsibilities were shared between the 3 churches. The children joined together for two scripture lessons, the first led by Reverend Dr. Sheila McJilton and the second led by Kate Dyer. We learned songs accompanied on piano by Sharon Belcher. Youth volunteered by helping the children with station changes, crafts and games. Thank you to our Youth Volunteers Liam, Olive, and Pierce. Children rotated between stations including crafts run by Katie Fowlkes, lessons on service by Karen Price and STEM by Nancy Linck. We played games in the morning and afternoon, coordinated by Emily Atkin and Kate Dyer. Families and church parishes contributed by collecting supplies for birthday blessing boxes for needy children in the local area. 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 2027!





St. Peter's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLESSING of the BACKPACKS

Start the School Year with God's Blessing!



Bring Your Backpack and Receive a Special Blessing for the School Year!

Students, teachers, administrators, school staff, homeschool families, and college students are invited to bring their backpacks, book bags, laptop bags, or school supplies for a special blessing as we begin a new school year.

Let's pray for a year filled with learning, growth, friendship, wisdom, and God's guidance!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

During the
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Services



STUDENTS OF ALL AGES WELCOME!



TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF INVITED!



COLLEGE STUDENTS ENCOURAGED!



SPECIAL BLESSING FOR ALL WHO ARE INVOLVED IN EDUCATION!

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” – Luke 2:52

Whether you are entering kindergarten, beginning a new grade, starting college, teaching in a classroom, or supporting students in any way, come receive a blessing and begin the school year surrounded by prayer and community.

≡ All Are Welcome! ≡



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



www.stpeterschurch.net



For more information,
please contact the church office.
(410) 742-5111 or office@stpeterssalisbury.org

ALTAR GUILD

Written by Kathy Fahey

Altar Guild members have a way of noticing things about the altar and elements of worship that might be easily taken for granted by most. We share a reverence for the vessels and linens we care for, and that love enriches and enhances our own worship in very personal ways.

The following depicts so well an altar guild's viewpoint, I wanted to share it with everyone — and especially with my fellow altar guild members. This is quoted from an advertisement for Ecclesiastical Sewing:

To most, an altar cloth is just a simple piece of white laundry. It's 'just there', a background detail that gets washed and folded without a second thought. But when you treat sacred linens as a mere commodity, you lose the literal 'thread' that connects our modern liturgy to the tomb of Christ.

The church didn't choose linen because it was cheap, or easy, or pretty. In fact, for centuries, Cannon Law demanded it. Why? Because linen is born from suffering. To create it, the flax plant must be pulled from the earth, broken down, soaked, and refined. Only then does it become thread that can be woven into linen. It is a material that mirrors the Gospel itself: death, burial, and transformation. Using anything less than the best isn't just a practical mistake. It's a missed opportunity to witness to the Resurrection. Every altar cloth does more than cover. It speaks.

You, too, can experience the same spiritual fulfillment by joining us in our service to St. Peter's. If you're interested, contact any one of us: Betsy Hanulak, Susan Cabral, Ann Chaffinch, Kathy Fahey, Jimmy Hill, Annie Nichols, Debbie Oakley, Linda Smith, Deb Souza, Cheryl Steczak, or Lynn Tomczak. We would love to have you join us.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

This summer the HVAC system in the church failed and extensive repairs were made, including the installation of a new compressor. There is now efficient air conditioning in the church.

In May the security surveillance system in the Parish House was upgraded, including monitors and remote door locks. Lights were installed in the organ console alcove.

The Parish House office doors have been refurbished thanks to Bob Souza. The stall door in the women's first floor restroom in the Parish House has been fixed.

An old, non-working freezer has been removed from the pantry room in the Parish House basement.

The Property Committee recommended and the Vestry approved allowing the Red Cross to ask to use our Parish Hall as a possible shelter in the event of a Natural or Man-made Disaster.

Members of your Property Committee are: Sean Fahey, Mike Steczak, Bill Day, Mary Lou Coffin, Gerald Otten, and Marion Robinette.



PARSONS CEMETERY

Submitted by Rick Fahey



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. In January, many volunteers showed up again to remove the wreaths and transport them to Wright's Market to be respectfully burned. 2026 will be our tenth event. It will be on Saturday December 19th, rain (or snow) or shine



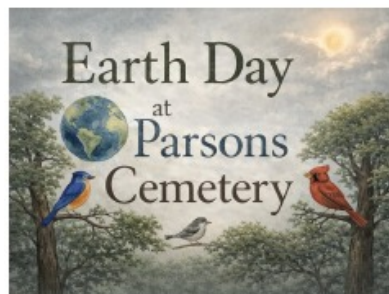
In 2025, Parsons Cemetery became an accredited Level-1 arboretum by ArbNet, an interactive community of arborists and tree professionals. In 2026, we received notification that 14 of our trees qualified for Maryland's Big Tree Program including 8 county champions and 1 State champion



Volunteer groups help us in many ways throughout the year. This year students from Parkside High School, along with Coach Riley, were a big help with our annual Spring Cleanup. They also helped with the wreath cleanup earlier in the year



Donations to the Friends of Parsons Cemetery Fund allowed us to do several improvement projects including maintenance of the roads, repair of the brickwork in the columbaria area, intensive tree and brush removal, and improved signage.



On April 25th, we held our first annual Earth Day event. The event included presentations by the Salisbury Zoo and the Tri-County Birding Club as well as tours of our champion trees and notable headstones



In the weeks before and after the 250th anniversary of our country's founding, we published daily posts of a fictional journal that could have been written by Henry Handy. Henry fought in the Revolutionary War and is buried at Parson. These posts were on our Facebook page from June 17th to July 17th and describe what was happening in Salisbury during this pivotal time

ST. PETER'S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Reported by Stacey Cottingham, Treasurer

7/30/2026

	2026	2025
	12 Months YTD Actual	12 Months YTD Budget
INCOME		
Total Offerings	236,101	240,614
Total Other Sources	5,295	23,643
	241,396	264,257
Outside Investments		
Community Foundation (CFES) Income	13,955	5,523
Hodgson Trust	2,000	2,008
Withdrawal from Vestry Endowment	134,000	8,000
Grants Income	0	0
	149,956	15,532
TOTAL INCOME	391,352	279,789
EXPENSES		
Church Staff Compensation	103,084	90,189
Clergy Compensation	97,194	103,532
Diocesan Apportionment	33,411	23,333
Outreach & Mission	19,035	11,361
Overhead	120,328	76,998
TOTAL EXPENSES	373,050	305,412
NET ORDINARY INCOME	18,301	-25,624

Through the end the July 2026, NET ORDINARY INCOME came in at \$18,301. TOTAL INCOME as well as TOTAL EXPENSES were more than budget.

TOTAL INCOME: Total Offerings, especially Pledge Offerings, almost met budget with most of the income not realized in Other Resources in part due to lack of major fundraiser 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 over budget.

TOTAL EXPENSES: Over budget in Overhead in part due to left over costs from Annex prior to sale, security/camera repairs and upgrades, increase in utility costs, and several repairs and then replacement of parts to air conditioner. Staff insurance cost also increased. We are contributing \$10,000 more each month than last year to provide Full Apportionment to the Diocese.

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

COMMUNITY DINNER

Wednesday, Sept. 23rd 5:30 – 7PM

*Join us for fellowship and a free
homecooked meal by Chef Danny.
ALL ARE WELCOME!*

St. Peter's Church Parish Hall | 115 St. Peter's Street | 410.742.5118

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, 2026.

February 25, 2025

Vestry unanimously approved the 2025 Parochial Report.

Vestry unanimously approved to pay for Ron Morgan to draw up plans and scope of tasks for the proposed chapel and Parish Hall renovations to present to the congregation.

March 18, 2025

There were no items voted on at this meeting.

April 15, 2026

Vestry unanimously approved to remove the remaining funds from the Annex Fund and move them to the Property and Equipment Fund.

Vestry unanimously approved to use \$13,964.31 from the Property and Equipment Fund for the video surveillance system upgrade project.

Vestry unanimously approved the agenda for the Vestry retreat on May 2.

Father David thanked Mary Lou Coffin, Sherri Hall, Fiona Duncan, and Sr. Warden Karen Shields for their service on the Vestry and for Karen's work on the discernment project.

May 20, 2026

Vestry unanimously approved to accept the proposed Sabbatical responsibilities plan.

Vestry unanimously approved the budget for Father David's Sabbatical.

Vestry unanimously approved Rev. Greg Harbaugh's agreement as presented.

Vestry unanimously approved Deacon Laura Harbaugh's agreement as presented.

Vestry unanimously approved the Vestry's 2026-27 Goals. A Task Force of Linda Abbott, Linda Hurley, Megan Fenoglietto, Marion Robinette, and Bravard Cornbrooks will be meeting on how to achieve some of these goals. Vestry voted unanimously to table further discussion until June meeting.

Vestry unanimously voted to no longer retain our designation as a Pro-Cathedral.

Vestry unanimously voted to change our June and August meeting to June 10 and August 26 so that Father David can be present before and after his Sabbatical.

June 10, 2026

Vestry unanimously voted to accept Father David's proposed resolution to give Pastor Greg authorization to sign for the Discretionary Fund during his Sabbatical.

Vestry unanimously agreed to allow the Red Cross to use St. Peter's facility as a shelter in the event of an emergency.

Vestry unanimously approved not to meet in July unless the Executive Committee determines it is needed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

9/13 Ministry Fair & Back to School Blessing
9/20 Diocesan Discernment Info Day
9/23 Community Dinner
10/11 Evensong & Potluck Dinner
10/28 Community Dinner



StPetersSby



SCAN ME

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