



The Presentation of Our Lord



On Thursday, February 2, the Church will observe the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple as told in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke. By observing Jewish law, Mary and Joseph took their first-born son to the Temple. As prescribed in the Book of Exodus, every first-born son was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and dedicated to God. This was done in commemoration of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, when the firstborn sons of Egypt died and those of Israel were spared. If the parents could afford the expense they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice. If not, which was the case for Mary and Joseph, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves.

Upon arrival at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by an old man named Simeon, a holy and learned man. Simeon spent much of his time in study of the prophets of Israel and in prayer for the arrival of Messiah. While in prayer one day he heard the voice of God, promising Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. When he saw the son of Mary and Joseph, Simeon took Jesus into his arms and proclaimed: *Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised. For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see. A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel* (Luke 2:29-32). The placing of Jesus into the arms of Simeon was the

meeting of the Old and New Dispensations. The old sacrifices – lambs, pigeons, and turtle doves – were no more. With Jesus a new and perfect offering had been provided by God, an offering of the Son, made once for all on the cross.

The Song of Simeon, a canticle which consists of the words spoken by him is found in the Book of Common Prayer. Also known as *Nunc dimmittis*, meaning “now let depart” in Latin, this canticle is principally used after the second lesson at Evening Prayer (p. 120). But the option remains for its use during the evening service of Compline, at the Burial of the Dead, or at Morning Prayer.

Every time we say or sing the *Nunc dimmittis* we not only recall The Presentation and the words of Simeon, but also the fact that the presence of Jesus in this world transformed humanity's relationship with God and our understanding of God. The old burnt-offering is done away. As followers of Jesus we gather at the Lord's Table to present to God a new and most worthy offering, as expressed in Eucharistic Prayer I, Rite One: *and here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee* (BCP, p. 336). By way of this relationship we now receive a divine response, the offering of the gifts and of the grace of God.

Peace, Fr. Jim

The Season of Lent: Commences March 1

March 1st is Ash Wednesday, ushering us into the penitential season of Lent. Additional information will be provided in the March edition of the Morning Star, but I do want to give you a preview of upcoming events planned for Lent. For five Wednesdays during the season I will present a video and conversation series based on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This gathering will include

Holy Communion and Lenten Supper (soups and salad) in Waterman Hall. Deacon Dee Goodale will present her series, *A Lenten Journey through the eyes of Luke: Scripture, Conversation and Prayer* each Sunday morning during the season. I hope everyone will take an opportunity to join together in community and discover a new, more meaningful Lent.

Blessings, Fr. Jim

Ash Wednesday Services: March 1

St. Peter's Church

7:30 a.m. – Liturgy for Ash Wednesday; Imposition of Ashes.

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, Rite II.

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes.

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes, with Hymns.

Oak Crest Community Chapel

2:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II; Imposition of Ashes.

Schedule of Lenten Studies

March 5 – April 5: Wednesday evenings In Waterman Hall

5:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II –Waterman

6:00 p.m. – Lenten Supper and Program:
Bonhoeffer: The Life and Writing of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with Eric Metaxas.

Week One: What is the Church?

Week Two: Living in Christian Community.

Week Three: Religionless Christianity.

Week Four: Come and Die.

Week Five: Conversation: The Significance of Bonhoeffer.

March 5 – April 9: Sunday mornings In Waterman Hall

9:00 a.m. – *A Lenten Journey through the eyes of Luke: Scripture, Conversation and Prayer*:

Week One: A Theophilus Near You.

Week Two: Are You Listening?

Week Three: Tempted.

Week Four: Who Told You About Jesus?

Week Five: Honest Doubts.

Week Six: The Things That Make For Peace.

Parish Notes

Staff Vacation Time

Fr. Jim will be taking vacation time on February 8-22. He will be back in the office on February 23.

Catherine Carroll will be away from the office on Friday, February 24.

Supply Clergy on February 12 and 19

On the two Sundays, February 12 and 19, we welcome back Fr. Thomas Lamb as our supply priest.

Search Committee Update

January 13, 2017

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

The Search Committee would like to update you on our progress for a new Rector. We met on January 12, 2017, and had a very productive meeting.

The next phase of the search centers around the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). Some of you may be familiar with this having taken it a few years ago. The CAT survey is an opportunity for all members of the parish to participate in the search process. It is essential that as many parishioners as possible participate. The survey is anonymous and easy to take. This is an example of the committee's need for not only your prayers but for your input as well.

The CAT survey will be available on-line from January 23, 2017 until February 10, 2017. You will receive an email with a link to the survey in order to take it. Additionally, computers will be available at the church on January 29, 2017 and February 5, 2017 with someone available to assist you in filling out the survey.

On February 23, 2017, the Search Committee is having a joint meeting with the vestry to go over the results. After that members of the Search Committee will meet in small groups with parishioners to discuss the results.

As always the committee thanks you for your prayers.

Judy LaPorta and Phil Montgomery,
Co-chairs

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 28 festivities before Lent begins

Come one, come all: A pancake supper will be served on Shrove Tuesday this year presented by the men of the parish. Mark the date on your calendar: February 28, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

A special menu will be offered featuring a choice of 2 styles of pancakes. Regular pancakes and Henry's world famous corn pancakes, (featuring corn grown on the Burgweger farm). Scrambled eggs, sausage, milk, juice and coffee will round out the menu.

So join us to eat and make merry before the Lenten season begins. Sign up sheets for workers and diners are in Waterman Hall. We ask that you put your family name and the expected number of diners on that list so we know what to buy; and helpers, please sign up as well.

And here's a bit of history to remind us of the meaning of Shrove Tuesday:

Shrovetide, Sin Confession and the Last Feast Before Easter

The Sunday, Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday are collectively known as Shrovetide, with Shrove Tuesday being the last day. The word 'shrove' is the past tense of the verb 'shrive', which means the confession of sins in order to be forgiven for them. Shrovetide represents a time when Christians would confess their sins and ask God for forgiveness, in preparation for Lent.

Being the last day before Lent, Shrove Tuesday was not only a time for confession and forgiveness, but a time for a celebratory feast. Christians made pancakes on this day in order to use up the leftovers in their cupboards that they would have to give up during the fasting period. It would be the last chance they would have to indulge in rich foods such as dairy, eggs and fats until Easter, because these were forbidden for the duration of Lent.

Although Pancake Day has its origins in religion, nowadays it is enjoyed by many people, regardless of their religious orientation. Pancake Day is also known as Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday, and its cultural traditions vary around the world.

Henry Vincent

A New Organist for St. Peter's

After a lengthy period of time following the resignation of Ken Wagman, a new organist has found us. Audre Kurowski began her service to St. Peter's on December 11. With her Sunday responsibilities completed at her home church of St. Katherine Drexel in Sugar Grove, Audre is now with us every Sunday.

Audre comes to us after having served as organist/pianist/keyboardsist for many programs and for many churches. These include the Salvation Army Church in Waukegan, Holy Family Episcopal Church in Midland, Michigan, and her home parish in Sugar Grove.

Audre received her Bachelor's degree in music with an emphasis in piano at Dominican University in River Forest and her Master's degree in early childhood education at National Louis University in Evanston. She has taught in the public schools of Franklin Park and Elk Grove.

If you have not yet done so, please welcome Audre. We are very pleased to have her join us and she is "absolutely delighted to participate in the music ministry of St. Peter's."

Larry Dirst

Christian Outreach Committee

Red Bowl Offering

Funds collected in the December Red Bowl Offering were used to provide a holiday Rosati's pasta meal to Hope Haven. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped fulfill our December responsibilities to Hope Haven.

The designated organization for the February Red Bowl Offering will be The Children's Waiting Room at the DeKalb County Courthouse. The Children's Waiting Room provides a safe, secure and supervised place in the DeKalb County Courthouse for children to play while their parents or guardians are involved in court proceedings. Children, ages 6 months to 10 years of age, are accepted on a first come, first served basis. This service is provided free of charge. The Children's Waiting Room depends partly on donations to remain open and staffed. Please consider contributing to the February Red Bowl to help this County Courthouse asset.

Hope Haven Dinners

St. Peter's continues to provide a meal for the community homeless at Hope Haven on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Needed volunteers include a chair for each month and persons to prepare or purchase food items. Sign-up sheets for each month in 2017 are located in Waterman Hall. Plan ahead to help prepare a home-cooked meal for our area homeless this year!

Sycamore Food Pantry

Food items collected during the month of February will be transported to the Sycamore Food Pantry located at the Sycamore United Methodist Church, and distributed to needy families in the area. The food pantry typically runs very low on donations after the holidays. Please include the pantry in your weekly grocery shopping trips. Volunteers are needed to transport donations from St. Peter's to the Sycamore Food Pantry. This can be done on Sunday mornings, before 12 noon, or on any weekday. A sign-up sheet is located in Waterman Hall. Please direct questions to Maggie Peirce.

The month of January was designated for the food pantry at Grace Place Campus Ministry. Rev. Amy Fallon provided a list of needed food items chosen by the students. These supplies will help feed students when they drop into Grace Place for Wednesday services, study or fellowship, or when their supplies in the dorm or apartments run low at the end of the month. Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to this special food pantry effort supporting NIU students.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

St Peter's parishioners can help small Outreach Projects in a big way by saving and donating these items:

- * Personal items collected from vacations are sent to Safe Passage
- * "Pop Tops" benefit a Ronald McDonald House
- * Print Cartridges for recycling help the local Habitat for Humanity
- * Campbell Soup Labels are used for books and equipment at local elementary schools
- * Milk carton bottle tops benefit local schools
- * Box Tops for Education benefit local elementary schools
- * Canceled Stamps are sent to a Catholic Native American School in AZ for cleaning and sale to collectors

The next meeting of the Christian Outreach Committee will be held Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 12 Noon, in Waterman Hall. Please feel free to join us!

Lynne Roberts

Love Your Church Project February 18 – 8 AM to Noon

The Buildings and Grounds Committee received an idea via the Suggestion Box that in addition to the semi-annual clean-up day which focuses mainly on the outside grounds we also have a clean-up day for the interior of the Church and Parish Hall. The Committee felt this was certainly worth pursuing. Since it falls so close to Valentine's Day we have scheduled a "Love Your Church" project day for Saturday February 18 from 8am to 12pm.

The committee will put together a project list and there will be a sign-up sheet in Waterman Hall.

Refreshments will be served so save the date and plan on coming for whatever time you can spare. There will be cleaning supplies provided but feel free to bring along your favorite sponges, rags or cleanser!

Pat Klein

Buildings and Grounds Chair

Vestry Notes, January 19, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Father Jim Clement at 7:05 p.m. with evening prayers. In attendance were Father Jim Clement, Senior Warden Bill Nicklas; Junior Warden Anita Biletzky; Vestry members Lynne Roberts, John Castle, John Vain, Judy Dettloff, Dan Sidmore, Jack Frost, and Mike Blakeslee; and Clerk Donna Hill. Jane Ovitz, Barb Weaver, Cindy Vain, Susan Frost, Jenny Sidmore and Nancy Franke were in attendance as guests. Opening Prayers were led by Father Clement.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with minor amendments.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 15, 2016 meeting were approved.

4. Open Forum

Jane Ovitz thanked the Vestry for their help in the Christmastide celebration.

5. Committee Reports

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report.

John Vain gave the report in the absence of Jacquie Drake. Trust fund revenues have come in and appropriate transfers have been made to specific budget line items. These fund transfers will be noted in the Annual Report. The year-end numbers for 2016 and the proposed 2017 Budget were presented in a unified spreadsheet.

Building & Grounds Report. The Committee proposed making February 18 a "Love Your Church" day in honor of Valentine's Day. A general cleanup will be organized. The Nolan House rent was discussed. In the absence of the committee chair, this matter will be held over until the February meeting of the Vestry. In the meantime, the Vestry will ask a member of the parish who is a licensed realtor to assess the appropriate market rent for the Nolan House.

Capital Planning Committee. No Report.

Caregivers Committee. Minutes of the December meeting will be distributed by Lynne Roberts.

Christian Outreach Committee. Minutes of the December meeting have been distributed by Lynne Roberts.

Search Committee. Cindy Vain reported that the church assessment tool will be available to the congregation on January 23. The completion of the tool on line is estimated to take about 30 minutes. Hopefully, all members of the parish will participate. The responses will be anonymous.

6. Interim Rector's Report. Father Jim thanked everyone for their work in making the Christmastide celebration a success. He reported that an ad hoc "Communications Committee" has been organized consisting of Christal Guziec, Denielle Noe, Linda Boynton, Jan Fitzhenry, and Anne Hulsey. The Committee will meet irregularly with the aim of updating the church's web design and newspaper advertising. In addition, the Committee will develop a social media plan and creatively re-think the bulletin board in Waterman Hall. Father Jim continues to officiate at morning prayer, which was especially well-attended during Christmastide. Father Jim is regularly active in administering his pastoral duties, including serving the Eucharist on the third Wednesday of the month at Oak Crest at 2:00 p.m. in their chapel. Father

Jim has also inaugurated a monthly staff meeting including organist Audre Kurowski.

7. Old Business

The annual meeting brunch was discussed and a signup sheet was passed around.

8. New Business

Three parishioners have stepped forward to run for the three open Vestry seats. The candidates are: Barb Weaver, Steve Guziec, and Bronwyn Burgweger. Brief biographical sketches of the candidates will be included in the agenda packet for the annual meeting.

The senior warden noted that the security for the office computers had been compromised, but no files had been contaminated. The breach has been remedied.

The senior warden thanked John Castle, Mike Blakeslee and Dan Sidmore for their service on the Vestry.

9. Executive Session: No executive session was conducted.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m, and the closing prayer was led by Father Clement.

*Respectfully submitted
Bill Nicklas, Senior Warden*

Prayer Corner

For the Search Committee

We pray for our Search Committee as they assess the needs of our congregation and evaluate candidates for Rector. Grant them open minds, perceptive hearts, balance and integrity in their work together, responsiveness to all points of view and unity of purpose. Help them to recognize that your guiding hand is in their midst ready to reveal that which they should do. Help them to listen and respond with open hearts, to the honor and praise of your Name. Amen.

For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

Birthdays

- 3 Chad Newquist
- 5 Dennis Hill
- 5 Reese Hill
- 5 Ella Hill
- 5 Jim Hill
- 8 Alyse Mommer
- 8 George Abizaid
- 9 Jason Vain.
- 13 Presley Klus
- 15 Lisa Montgomery
- 16 Clare Shea
- 17 Jennifer Hulsey
- 18 Suzie Geisler
- 19 Henry Burgweger
- 20 Brian Koehnke

Anniversaries

- 26 Henry and Pat Burgweger

Nursery Schedule for February - 2017

February 2017

- 5 Lindsey Neal and Nancy Franke
- 12 Lindsey Neal and Jenny Sidmore
- 19 Lindsey Neal and Linda Saxer
- 26 Lindsey Neal and Pat Klein



Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

To dedicate Altar Flowers or a Sanctuary Candle for a Sunday in 2017, please sign up on the reservation sheets on the bulletin board just outside the Parish Office. Then fill out the dedication form and turn it in to the office.

The Morning Star

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk Street
Sycamore, Illinois 60178
815-895-2227

www.sycamorestpeters.org

Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Friday
Newsletter Staff

The Rev. James Clement	Publisher
Catherine Carroll	Editor
Jane Ovitz, Barbara Weaver, Carol Quitno, Pat Burgweger, Helen Beamish, Nancy Franke	Circulation

Deadline for Submission of Articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Email your articles to office@sycamorestpeters.org or place them in the Parish Office mailbox in Waterman Hall by the 15th of the month. All articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Email subscriptions

You may receive the Morning Star by email by sending a message to office@sycamorestpeters.org.

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. James Clement	Interim Rector
james@clementsc.com	
The Rev. Desiree Goodale	Deacon
gjm89dgm@gmail.com	
Audre Kurowski	Organist

Catherine Carroll	Assistant to the Interim
office@sycamorestpeters.org	
Days in office: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	

Jean Erlenborn	Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@sycamorestpeters.org	
Days in office: Monday, Wednesday	

The Vestry of the Parish

Bill Nicklas, Senior Warden	815-981-6611
Anita Biletzky, Junior Warden	815-793-5500
Michael Blakeslee	312-671-7045
John Castle	815-762-1663
Judy Dettloff	815-895-4225
Jack Frost	772-631-4464
Lynne Roberts	815-895-4196
Daniel Sidmore	630-728-8144
John Vain	815-899-1124

The Parish Vision Statement

Red doors open for growth and renewal, where we find ourselves and others transformed.

The Parish Mission Statement

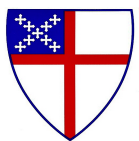
To be an inclusive fellowship growing in the Holy Spirit, nurturing the burdened and the joyous, reaching out to our communities and God's world.

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00 AM Holy Eu- charist ■ 10:30 AM Annual Meeting 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 11:30 AM Altar Guild Luncheon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12:00 PM DAR Meet- ing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist ■ 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Buildings and Grounds Com- mittee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:30 AM Book Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Knitters ■ 12:00 PM Christian Outreach Committee 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist ■ 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 651 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Vestry Meet- ing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:30 AM Men's Fel- lowship Breakfast ■ 8:00 AM "Love Your Church" project day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist ■ 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:30 AM Morning Star Mailing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 11:00 AM Staff Meet- ing ■ 7:00 PM Search Committee Meeting w/ Vestry 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Daughters of King Retreat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist ■ 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:00 PM Pancake Supper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:30 AM Liturgy for Ash Wednesday ■ 8:30 AM Morning Prayer- Rite II ■ 9:00 AM Holy Eu- charist - Rite II ■ 2:00 PM Oak Crest - ■ 7:00 PM Holy Eu- 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:30 AM DAR Meet- ing

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
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Sycamore, IL 60178
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The Morning Star



The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

"...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" 2 Peter 1:19