



**THE MORNING STAR**

**JANUARY 2021**



Our doors were once again adorned with beautiful wreaths given by the Griffith family in memory of our beloved Barb Griffith.



This is how St. Peter's does Covid 19 birthdays! On December 16<sup>th</sup>, friends of Jan FitzHenry greeted her with a birthday song outside of her Oak Crest apartment. Jan was in the window and was so excited to see everyone. Thank you to all who made this day so special!

## WE HAVE A NEW BISHOP!



### **Washington D.C. Priest will be first Black person, first woman to hold the job**

The Rev. Canon Paula E. Clark was elected December 12<sup>th</sup> to be the thirteenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. She will be the first Black person and the first woman to hold the position.

Clark, who currently serves as canon to the ordinary and chief of staff in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, was chosen unanimously on the fourth ballot in an election conducted on Zoom from a slate originally composed of four candidates. She received 229 clergy votes and 284 lay votes.

“We Episcopalians are strong people who can model for the rest of this country and the world what it looks like to walk the way of love,” Clark told the convention over Zoom. “God is calling us to a new day and a new way of being.”

Clark was baptized into the Episcopal Church at age 10 by Bishop John Walker, the first Black

dean of Washington National Cathedral and first Black bishop of the Diocese of Washington. She received her undergraduate education at Brown University and earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Before entering the seminary, Clark served as public information officer for the Office of the Mayor and the District of Columbia’s Board of Parole for nine years and spent five years as director of human resources and administration for an engineering and consulting firm in the District.

In 2004, she received a Master of Divinity degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, and served at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C. and St. John’s Episcopal Church in Beltsville, Maryland, before joining the staff of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. Her work for the diocese focused initially on clergy development and multicultural and justice issues.

The bishop-elect is married to Andrew McLean and describes herself as “the proud matriarch of our blended family of five adult children and seven grandchildren.”

Clark, who is scheduled to be consecrated on April 24, will succeed Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee, who is retiring on December 31, as bishop of a diocese that includes 122 congregations and more than 31,000 members in northern, central and southwestern Illinois. Under the canons of the Episcopal Church, the diocese’s Standing Committee will serve as its ecclesiastical authority during the interim.

The other nominees were:

- The Rev. Edwin Daniel Johnson, rector, St Mary’s Episcopal Church, Boston
- The Rev. Dr. Fulton L. Porter III, rector, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Chicago
- The Rev. Winnie Varghese, priest for ministry and program coordination, Trinity Church Wall Street, New York

## **THANK YOU**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to thank you all for your prayers and cards after the death of my brother Adnan. You all mean so much to me and I appreciate your love and support during this difficult time.

Fr. Georges

## **ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED**

According to the by laws of St. Peter's, "The annual meeting of the Parish shall be held in Waterman Hall on a Sunday in the month of January of each calendar year following the last service of the day, unless the Rector and Vestry shall have previously approved by vote another time or convenient place for such meeting."

This will not be possible in 2021 due to the restrictions in place for Covid 19. At a meeting with the Bishop and Chancellor, we were told that because our bylaws define the place and the time of the meeting, we cannot meet. In this situation we have been granted an extension of six months (until June) to meet.

At the December vestry meeting, the vestry voted unanimously to delay the annual meeting until such time as we can all meet in person, and to extend the terms of those vestry members whose terms were to expire in January. Thank you to Donna Hill, John Boies, and Phil Montgomery for agreeing to extend your terms.

## **CAREGIVERS COMMITTEE**

Members continue to monitor the status and needs of St. Peter's parishioners during Covid-19, and keep very busy visiting and staying in touch with people on the "shut-in" list. The current "shut -in" list is in the Morning Star monthly. Cards are being sent for Christmas and New Year's. Over the holidays, please consider helping with prayers, phone calls and birthday and Christmas cards for those individuals on the list, those alone at home and residents in health care facilities. Contact with friends will be much appreciated.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

### **HOPE HAVEN**

Thank you to parishioners who contributed their time and cooking talents to help prepare and deliver a meal to Hope Haven on November 25th. Your efforts to prepare St. Peter's Savory Tator Tot Casserole, salad, fruit, rolls and dessert were appreciated by Hope Haven clients.

We will be catering the December 23<sup>rd</sup> meal for Hope Haven. Chicken and plain Alfredo pasta, salad and garlic and buttered bread will be delivered to Hope Haven from Rosati's. Sweet Dreams is preparing chocolate and vanilla ganache Christmas Cupcakes for dessert. Parishioners are supplying fruit and beverages. We hope the residents of Hope Haven enjoy this special meal for the holiday season.

## **CHRISTMAS 2020 PROJECTS**

### **Salvation Army Tag Tree**

The Outreach Committee sponsored the Salvation Army Tag Tree again this year. Salvation Army picked up clothing and toy sets for eleven area children, as well as an assortment of clothing and toys brought in by parishioners. From St. Peter's the gifts end up in a "store" for area parents to shop for their children. We wish them all a very special, Merry Christmas celebration!

### **Donations**

The Outreach Committee will send "end-of-the-year" checks for \$500 each to VAC – Meals on Wheels, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Sycamore Food Pantry and Eldercare Services in DeKalb. A separate check to Sycamore Food Pantry will be sent at the end of December from gifts St. Peter's parishioners have mailed to the office. We hope these donations will help in hunger relief and care for our Senior Citizens during the hardships of Covid-19 and the winter season.

# **MINUTES OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VESTRY MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

**Approved December 17, 2020**

The Zoom meeting was called to order by Phil Montgomery at 7:02 pm. Those present were: Phil Montgomery, Anita Biletzky, John Vain, John Boies, Varsie Geisler, Donna Hill, Lynne Roberts, Henry Burgweger, Liane O'Keefe, Fr. Mark Geisler, Deacon Dee Goodale, and Judy LaPorta, clerk.

After an opening prayer by Fr. Georges, the agenda was approved by all. No additions were made. Phil Montgomery moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting, Varsie Geisler seconded, and the motion carried.

Senior Warden report:

St. Peter's annual meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2021. In speaking with the diocese, Phil was told that by laws can be suspended by a resolution at the beginning of the meeting to allow the meeting to be on Zoom. After a lengthy discussion regarding holding the meeting on Zoom, the subject was tabled until after Fr. Georges receives direction from the Bishop at their December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Phil has contacted 3 people regarding the vestry openings. He received 1 yes, 1 no, and 1 no response.

Junior Warden report:

Anita Biletzky reported that she had made an error when paying for the electrical upgrade to the Wetzel house. She had the money (\$2,105) taken from the maintenance account, when it had been agreed by the vestry that the money be taken out of carry over. She requested those funds be transferred from the carry over account to the maintenance account, allowing the funds for the new furnace to be paid from the maintenance account. John Vain moved that the funds that had been taken from the maintenance account would not be transferred from the carry over account, and the amount for the new furnace (\$2,850), should come from the property maintenance account. The shortfall

would be lent from the carry over account to be paid back when enough had been accrued in that account. The vote was 5 No, 3 Yes, and 1 Abstain. The motion did not carry.

John Boies moved that the funds for the electrical upgrade of the Wetzel house be moved from the carryover account to the maintenance account, allowing the new furnace to be paid from the maintenance account. Varsie Geisler seconded the motion and the vote was 5 Yes, 2 No, and 2 Abstain. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report:

John Vain reported that our 2021 pledges are short of last year. With increases needed in many accounts, some cuts may be necessary.

In December we may need to use carryover funds for expenses.

Phil Montgomery moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Varsie Geisler seconded, and the motion carried.

Committee reports:

Lynne Roberts reported that the Caregivers and Outreach committees have not been meeting. Caregivers have been following our shut ins and checking on them.

Outreach – The Shoebox ministry had the same number of boxes filled as last year. 4 boxes were filled personally and 8 were filled on line.

We will again ask for people to participate in the Salvation Army Angel project. We have 10 tags. Items are still needed for the Hope Haven monthly dinner. Vestry members offered to fill those items needed.

Old business:

Ministry review: Fr. Georges reported that he had a Zoom call with the children of the parish and they enjoyed it.

John Vain questioned the parochial report that the vestry had signed, saying we reported 187 members, but we only have 33 pledging units. Fr. Georges responded that John Vain had supplied that number and that he would verify. John Vain responded that he had not supplied that number.

A question was raised as to why the roofing project was not completed on Waterman Hall.

John Vain reported that there were Covid cases among the crew causing a delay and then the weather turned cold. The project will be completed in the spring.

#### Rector Report:

At the advice of the Bishop, the church will be closed for 3 Sundays. Fr. Georges will provide Zoom worship from his office at 10:00 each Sunday followed by a virtual coffee hour.

Fr. Georges is offering a Zoom Bible study on December 2, 9, and 16 from 7-8pm. We will be studying the first three chapters of Luke. The Zoom information will be sent to the congregation, so sign up is not necessary.

Phil Montgomery moved that the meeting be adjourned. Varsie Geisler seconded and the motion carried. After a closing prayer by Fr. Mark, the meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy LaPorta  
Vestry clerk



## PRAYER CORNER



### 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Jan. 1- Pray for spiritual growth & revival in your life and in the life of your family/friends. May God shape you all and mold you in His image this year.

Jan. 2- Pray for God's direction in your life as you trust Him to guide your path according to His will.

Jan. 3- Pray that you will listen to God's voice and learn to discern when He wants your attention. Pray with an open spirit, believing that God will meet you there in fellowship.

Jan. 4- Pray that you will be obedient to God's calling as He leads you, no matter how scary it may be to take a leap of faith.

Jan. 5- Pray that God will give you a spirit of self-control; trusting that when you're tempted, He's provided you with a way out and the ability to stand firm in Him.

Jan. 6- Pray that you will learn true humility; recognizing that God calls us to serve and put the needs of others before ourselves.

Jan. 7- Pray that you will embrace God's grace as you accept His forgiveness and salvation; recognizing that the blood of Jesus

frees us from guilt and condemnation of our sin.

Jan. 8- Pray that your joy will come from the Lord and not from things of this world. May you learn the difference between joy and happiness, knowing that the joy of the Lord can be present in times of heartache.

Jan. 9- Pray that you will lean on God for strength, in the good times and in the bad. May He become your backbone and source of your strength.

Jan. 10- Pray that you will learn to trust God with everything; when life is a breeze and when it is painful.

Jan. 11- Pray for a spirit of gentleness and that God's love will radiate to others through you.

Jan. 12- Pray that you would hunger for God's Word and long to spend time in fellowship with Him.

Jan. 13- Pray for the heart of the servant and that God would show you ways in which to serve others.

Jan. 14- Pray that you will be diligent in memorizing Scripture and that you will desire to know His Word.

Jan. 15- Pray that you will be bold in faith and share the Gospel even when it is uncomfortable!

Jan. 16- Pray that you will find rest in the Lord and allow Him to fill you with peace each day.

Jan. 17- Pray that you will be diligent in seeking the Lord in every aspect of your life.

Jan. 18- Pray that you will be faithful in giving even when it means you have to sacrifice.

Jan. 19- Pray that your hidden sin will be brought to light and dealt with. {You know, the

times you told the half-truth or exaggerated a story!}

Jan. 20- Pray that God will change a bad attitude and your heart in those, "I'm gonna lose it" moments.

Jan. 21: Pray that you live with a mission and search for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Jan. 22: Pray that you will be bold in sharing the Gospel, even in moments when you are afraid.

Jan. 23: Pray that you will use God as your standard for living, not the world.

Jan. 24: Pray that you will live out of your comfort zone, even as God calls you to take leaps of faith.

Jan. 25: Pray that you will be bold in faith, trusting God in those moments when you can't see what He has planned.

Jan. 26: Pray that your relationship with your spouse will be strengthened, and that God will be the center of your marriage.

Jan. 27: Pray that you'll be empathetic to others and be ready to encourage a hurting heart.

Jan. 28: Pray that your relationship with your children will be blessed and strengthened as you teach them to grow in the Lord.

Jan. 29: Pray that you exude Christ in all you do and may His love radiate from your spirit.

Jan. 30: Pray that you'll be ready to be used by God and open to the plans He has for you.

Jan. 31: Pray that you focus on Christ this year, and passionately pursue a deeper relationship with Him.

**ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST  
JANUARY 2021**

CAROL WELLS  
3298 RESOURCE PARKWAY #109  
DEKALB, IL 60115

HARRIET GEORGE  
1217 LOREN DRIVE  
DEKALB, IL 60115

CYNTHIA DORBAND  
1600 NORTH FOURTEENTH STREET #204  
DEKALB, IL 60115

BETH KROGMAN  
2499 GREENWOOD ACRES DRIVE  
DARC HEALTH CARE CENTER – W104  
DEKALB, IL 60115

CAROL QUITNO  
2675 ROBERTS CIRCLE  
DEKALB, IL 60115

DICK BALSTRODE  
1133 NORTH 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
APT 801  
ROCHELLE, IL 61068

BUD GREGORY  
2600 NORTH ANNIE GLIDDEN ROAD  
ROOM 203  
DEKALB, IL 60115

PAT KNUDSEN  
1228 BELLVUE DRIVE  
DEKALB, IL 60115

MIKE BLAKESLEE  
111 EAST LINCOLN STREET  
SYCAMORE, IL 60178

BILLY CLEM  
PO BOX 4559  
SYCAMORE, IL 60178

JAN FITZHENRY  
2944 GREENWOOD ACRES DR.  
NE203  
DEKALB, IL 60115

RICK JOHNSON  
619 DEKALB AVE.  
SYCAMORE IL 60178

**January Birthdays**

1 Aubrey Hulseberg  
2 Laura Hulseberg  
3 Natalie Egler  
4 Abbie L. Waterman  
5 Robert Hamill  
9 Wright B. George  
12 Joshua Boies  
13 Henry Vincent Jr.  
14 Anita Biletzky  
18 Carla Riego  
20 Patricia Burgweger  
21 Liane O'Keefe  
23 Evyn Carrier  
27 Debra Sipp  
27 Lamont Mommer  
31 Varsie Geisler

**Anniversaries**

13 David & Kelly Potter  
25 Robert & Jacquelynn Drake



## Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Georges Jallouf Rector  
918-859-5877/ Rector@sycamorestpeters.org  
Fr. Mark Geisler Assistant to the Rector  
Desiree Goodale Deacon  
Sarah Mendenhall Organist  
Larry Dirst contributing Organist

Judy LaPorta Admin. Assistant  
office@sycamorestpeters.org  
Days in office: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

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

**Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Friday**

### Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

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815-895-2227

[www.sycamorestpeters.org](http://www.sycamorestpeters.org)

### Newsletter Staff

Judy LaPorta Editor  
Barbara Weaver and Nancy Franke Circulation

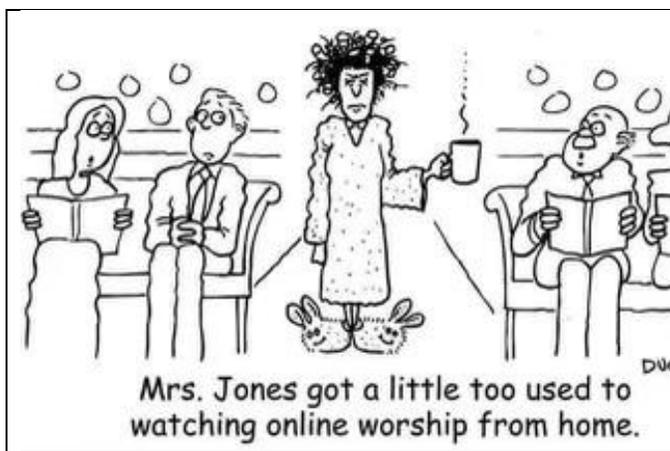
### Deadline for submission of articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Email office@sycamorestpeters.org. **All articles must be submitted electronically** and are subject to editing for length and content.

### The Vestry of the Parish

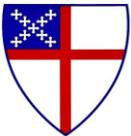
Phil Montgomery, Sr. Warden	847-702-7445
Anita Biletzky, Junior Warden	815-793-5500
Lynne Roberts	815-895-4196
John Boies	815-353-9703
Donna Hill	815-739-1493
John Vain	815-899-1124
Liane O'Keefe	815-501-7798
Henry Burgweger	815-751-8248
Varsie Geisler	815-766-1127
John Vain, Treasurer	815-899-1124
Judy LaPorta, Vestry clerk	815-970-2015

### Holy Humor



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
218 Somonauk Street  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
www.sycamorestpeters.org

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# ***The Morning Star***



*The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church*

*The Parish Vision 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*

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