



THE MORNING STAR

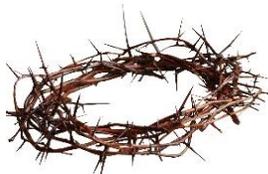
MARCH 2021

ASHES TO GO

This year was the third year that Fr. Georges offered “Ashes to go” on Ash Wednesday. The first year he had three people, the second 7 and this year 10 people! Three parishioners who couldn’t make the service came and 7 others saw our article in the Daily Chronicle. All were very pleased to be able to ashes, as their churches were not offering them this year. Fr. Georges was also able to give communion to a woman who has not been able to have communion for a year! Thank you Fr. Georges for serving not only our church, but our community as well.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

A reminder that Fr. Georges is offering The Way of the Cross at noon on Fridays during Lent. In order to comply with social distancing, those attending must wear a mask, follow social distancing, and will follow the stations from their pew as Fr. Georges proceeds through the church.



BIBLE STUDY

Fr. Georges is once again offering a Bible Study during Lent. Due to the pandemic, the study will be held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm – 8 pm. Sign in information and the readings will be sent weekly to the congregation. You may attend one or all of the classes, which began on Wednesday, February 24th and will run for 6 weeks, ending on March 31st. We will continue our study of St. Luke.

The schedule for Bible Study is as follows:

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| March 3 | Luke 5:17-26 Jesus forgives sins |
| March 10 | Luke 6:20-26 The Beatitudes, The Woes |
| March 17 | Luke: 6:27-42 Love of enemies |
| March 24 | Luke 7:36-50 Forgiveness of a sinful woman |
| March 31 | Luke 8:40-56 Jairus Daughter Raised as a woman healed |

SERVICE SCHEDULE

One thing we have all learned during this pandemic is to be flexible and ready for change! Thank you to all for adapting to our ever-changing service schedule.

For the month of March we will continue to have our in-person Sunday services at 9:00 AM and our Zoom worship at 10:00 AM. This will include Palm Sunday, March 28th. Unfortunately, palms are not available this year; therefore, we will not process from Waterman hall, as is our custom. The service will begin in the church.

We will send out the service schedule for Holy Week after we receive the recommendations from the diocese.



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. St. Patrick's Day greetings will be sent. Staff and parishioners in our local health care centers are receiving the second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine... a sign that the lockdown on those facilities might loosen up a bit. Please continue to help with prayers, phone calls and birthday cards for those individuals on our list, those alone at home, and residents in health care facilities. Contact with friends will be much

appreciated and essential for their mental wellbeing.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL CROP WALK 2020

After the funds raised for the 2020 CROP (Sondra King Memorial) Hunger Walk were counted, the total was \$24,235. (Total for 2019 was \$29,353.32.) Not bad for a pandemic year and a virtual walk! Thank you to all who participated as a board member, organizer, walker or donator!

HOPE HAVEN

Thank you to parishioners who contributed their time and cooking talents to help prepare and deliver a meal to Hope Haven on February 24th. Your efforts to prepare St. Peter's Savory Tator Tot Casserole, salad, fruit, rolls and dessert were appreciated by Hope Haven clients. We are fortunate to have parishioners to help support our monthly commitment to Hope Haven. If you want to help out with the Hope Haven meals, give Lynne Roberts a call or email.

MEALS ON WHEELS

A big thank you to all parishioners who are participating in the Meals on Wheels program by driving a route and delivering meals to our community shut-ins in March.



**MINUTES OF ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH VESTRY
MEETING JANUARY 21, 2021
Approved 2/19/21**

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

After an opening prayer, Phil Montgomery moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Varsie Geisler. The motion carried.

Varsie Geisler moved to approve the minutes from the 12/17/20 meeting, John Vain seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Senior Warden report: Phil Montgomery reported that he, Anita Biletzky, John Vain and Fr. Georges had spent a great deal of time on the budget for 2021 and that we should be happy with our numbers.

Junior Warden – Anita Biletzky reported that everything in all of our buildings was good. She has hired a contractor to plow and shovel whenever we have 2" or more. The ice and snow has been taken care of.
The light outside the kitchen door will need an electrician and she will call to have it taken care of.

Treasurer report: John Vain reported that we have hit our pledge amount for 2021. He also noted that although we were not able to attend the church in person, our members continued to send their pledges in through 2020. We are thankful for the dedication of our members. Our end of year numbers are quite favorable and we will have a carryover. John was asked what we will do with the money we now have in carryover, as it is a large sum. John informed the vestry that we have some big-ticket items coming up: It was found when inspecting the roof of Waterman and the roof of the church that

there was a lack of ventilation; particulate found on the pews and the floor of the church could be insulation and must be tested for asbestos; the church needs tuck pointing and limestone is falling off the church. Our heating system for the church may need to be replaced with a cost of approximately \$45,000.00. DeKalb Mechanical will reassess the system and it will be reviewed by the vestry for discussion.

John Boies moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Anita Biletzky seconded, and the motion carried.

2021 Budget – John Vain reported that our pledge income was up this year from last year. We have 8 pledging units from last year that did not pledge this year. Our trust funds are doing well. Operating costs – Music – music number is for the whole year, although we have begun 2021 with no music.

John explained the increases in some budgeted items.

Phil Montgomery moved to approve the 2021 budget, John Boies seconded and the motion carried.

Committee reports: Lynne Roberts reported that she is having a difficult time filling the needs for the Hope Haven dinners. Lynne also reported that there are some members of the church and community who may need to get a Covid 19 test, but can't afford it. She was considering using Out-reach money to pay for the testing. A discussion regarding tests and how to qualify ensued. Varsie Geisler offered to check with people in public health and work with Lynne on this.

Fr. Georges reported that in addition to having 9:00 in person services for the next 4 weeks, he will continue having the 10:00 Zoom service for those who cannot attend in person. Fr. Georges will once again have Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday in front of the church. There will be a 9:00 am in person service and a 7:00 pm in person service as well.

New Business: Parochial report - Father Georges reported that he and John Vain had reviewed the church register in order to move

those who had not attended church at least twice a year for the past two years and who have not contributed during that time to “inactive” status.

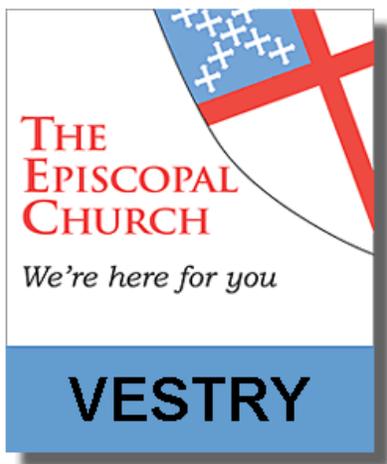
Because of the lateness of the hour, (and the fact that she hadn't had dinner yet) Anita Biletzky requested that we table the discussion on this until the next meeting. We have until the end of March to submit the Parochial report. Father Georges agreed to send the list of those being removed from “active” status to the Vestry.

Phil Montgomery commended John Vain for all his work on the budget for 2021.

Varsie Geisler moved that the meeting be adjourned, John Vain seconded, and the motion carried. After a prayer by Fr. Mark, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted

Judy LaPorta
Vestry clerk



PRAYER CORNER



Lent Prayer for Strength and Guidance

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way.

And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need.

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.

Lent Prayer for Strength and Protection

Lord God, heavenly Father, you know that we are set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection, to support us in all danger, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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 7TH STREET
APT 801
ROCHELLE, IL 61068

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.
DEKALB, IL 60115

DAN SIDMORE
418 YORKSHIRE DRIVE
DEKALB IL 60115



March Birthdays

- 6 Nicholas Klein
- 7 Natalia Glynn Boies
- 18 Benjamin Lane
- 19 Amanda Klein
- 23 David Suh Roberts

Anniversaries

- 14 Ryan & Trisha Drake



Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Georges Jallouf Rector
918-859-5877/ Rector@sycamorestpeters.org
Fr. Mark Geisler Assistant to the Rector
815-766-0694 markgeisler1963@gmail.com
Desiree Goodale Deacon
630-738-1933 gjm89dgm@gmail.com
Sarah Mendenhall Organist
815-766-1048 msmend1@yahoo.com
Larry Dirst contributing Organist
630-513-1048 larrydirst@hotmail.com

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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Newsletter Staff

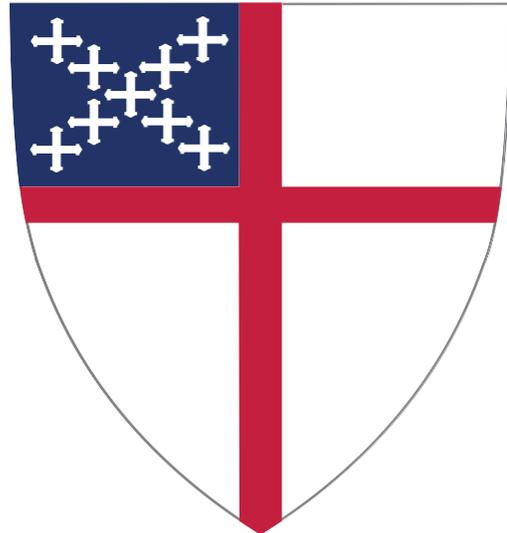
Judy LaPorta Editor
Barbara Weaver and Nancy Franke Circulation

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.

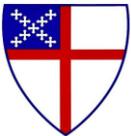
The Vestry of the Parish

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



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