

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: *Rejoice!*

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



THE MORNING STAR

SERVICE TIMES

Come and worship with us!



Service times will continue as follows:

Zoom Worship 8:30 AM

In-Person Worship 10:00 AM



Mark your calendars!! St. Peter's will hold it's 2020 Annual Meeting on **June 6th at 10:00 AM in Church**. This will be a meeting only; no food will be served. Water bottles may be brought, but must be taken home with you as we will not have trash receptacles available. We will have one in person service on June 6th at 9:00 AM with the meeting to follow in the Church. We need a quorum to conduct this meeting, so please attend if you are able. The meeting will not be available on Zoom since we have to have in-person voting. Hope to see you then!

BISHOP-ELECT UPDATE

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry today announced that after consultation with Bishop-elect Paula Clark and the Rev. Anne B. Jolly, president of the Standing Committee, he is rescheduling Clark's ordination and consecration from June 12 to August 28.

Bishop-elect Clark suffered a brain bleed in mid-April and is recovering at home after surgery and a brief stay in a rehabilitation center.

"The reason for this is that it will provide a bit more space and time for Bishop-elect Clark to continue her work and her healing, her occupational and physical therapy, and to do all the things necessary so that she can assume the duties of the Thirteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago,"

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST. PETER'S?

The new flooring is now installed in the Sky Room and it looks beautiful. The landings have also been finished. The overall look of the Sky Room has changed dramatically since Larry and his committee took on this project. Thanks again to Larry, Judy Detloff, and Cindy Vain for their hard work and dedication.

The Internet and phone service have been updated. There are still a couple of small tweaks to be made but John Vain is working with the carrier to make sure things are completed.

Several members of the congregation have received text messages indicating that Father Georges was requesting that they send money for someone who is sick. Please be aware that these are scams and delete the texts. Father Georges will never request money from the parishioners in this way. If you receive any such message and are uncertain about them please contact Father Georges.

A Brief History of Flag Day

Flag Day is celebrated in America on June 14, commemorating the day the first flag resolution was passed. On June 14, 1777, less than one year after Betsy Ross had received the order from General Washington to make the

first flag, the Second Continental Congress passed a flag resolution stating:

Resolved, That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.

The first national observance of Flag Day was on June 14, 1877; 100 years after the flag resolution was adopted by the Continental Congress.

In the late 19th century, schoolteachers all over the United States began conducting patriotic ceremonies commemorating Flag Day as a way to teach children about history. One such schoolteacher, Bernard J. Cigrand, is often referred to as the "Father of Flag Day." He lobbied Congress for many years for Flag Day to be officially observed.

Other patriotic groups, including the Colonial Dames and the Sons of the American Revolution, also spent years trying to convince Congress to make Flag Day official. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation stating that June 14 shall be National Flag Day, and in 1949, it was made official by an Act of Congress.



**SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MINUTES**

April 15, 2021

Approved May 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Fr. Georges Jallouf. Those present were:

Anita Biletzky, John Vain, Henry Burgweger, Lynne Roberts, John Boies, Donna Hill, Varsie Geisler, Fr. Mark Geisler, Fr. Georges Jallouf, and Judy LaPorta, vestry clerk.

Absent were: Phil Montgomery, Liane O'Keefe

After an opening prayer by Fr. Mark, Varsie Geisler moved to approve the agenda, Henry Burgweger seconded, and the motion carried.

Anita Biletzky asked for an addition to the minutes, stating that John Boies would review the driveways at both the Wetzel house and the rectory. Varsie Geisler moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Anita Biletzky seconded, and the motion carried.

Jr. Warden Report: Anita Biletzky had e-mailed her report to the Vestry prior to the meeting. She reviewed the bid for the tree service from Davey's Tree Service. There were 8 items on the bid, three that we should do, and, after reviewing the bid with Pat Klein (former B&G chair), it was decided that Tom Klein could complete the other 5 items. Tom would charge less than Davey's and is capable to complete those items. The cost for the three items from Davey's is \$3,100.00. This would include spring and fall pruning and Emerald Ash boring in the summer. (Copy of proposal attached).

John Boies moved that we should contract with Davey's for the three items discussed and the \$3,100.00 should be taken from carryover. Lynne Roberts seconded the motion and the motion carried.

After making some changes in the placement of the computer, and using an internet hot spot, the Zoom service from the church on Easter Sunday went very well.

Anita will plan a clean up day for May 1st. Nick Klein will be taking care of the grounds this summer, so will need to decide what we want him to do and what we will need volunteers for.

John Boies reported that he had 2 contractors look at the driveways of the Wetzel house and rectory. Because these projects would be costly, it was recommended that they be put off until the major projects needed for the church and the air conditioning for the Wetzel house are completed.

Treasurer's Report: John Vain reported that the pledge income is down for the month, but the prepaid pledges have been added to the operating account, putting us above the 3 month accrual. Expenses are in order, but the Nicor gas bill continues to be high. Church attendance has been up and plate giving is increasing. We also have 2 new memorial accounts, for Jan FitzHenry and Carol Wells. These funds will be used according to the families' requests. John Boies moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Varsie Geisler seconded, and the motion carried.

John Vain reported that we are changing our phone and interned systems to Metronet. He received bids from Comcast and Metronet, and the Metronet bid was less and provided more than Comcast. He is waiting for an installation date.

John reported that the insurance company will have additional adjusters come out to look at the church.

Caregivers: Lynne Roberts reported that it had been a difficult month for the Caregivers committee, as we had three deaths in the parish. She commended Fr. Georges for making sure he was able to see our members in nursing facilities, where priests were not being allowed to visit. He was able to give last rites to all three of our members.

Outreach: She received \$150.00 from the congregation for the food pantry and added \$350.00 to send \$500.00 to the Sycamore Food Pantry with instructions to purchase food from the NI Food pantry, where for every

dollar spent, they can receive seven dollars in food.

Rector report: Holy week went very well, and people were pleased to have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. The Zoom service from the church was very well received.

Bishop elect Rev. Canon Paula Clark is in the hospital. She has had surgery for a brain bleed. The ordination of the bishop will therefore be postponed.

John Boies asked if we should send a donation to the fund for the bishop-elect, perhaps \$250.00. We will wait until we hear how she is doing and if she is able to serve as bishop before we send.

John also asked if we had updated St. Peter's information on the Episcopal Asset map. Fr. Georges said he would review.

Fr. Georges reported that on May 8th the ECW will have its annual meeting. During the meeting they will honor the women who have been nominated from each parish. St. Peter's ECW nominated Barb Weaver and all are encouraged to attend the Zoom meeting.

John Boies moved that the meeting be adjourned, Varsie Geisler seconded, the motion carried. After a closing prayer by Deacon Dee, the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaPorta
Vestry clerk

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. 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 St. Peter's families and friends remains a top priority for our mental wellbeing.

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 May 26. Your efforts to prepare St. Peter's Savory Tator Top Casserole, as well as the rest of a complete meal, were appreciated by Hope Haven clients. We are fortunate to have a team of parishioners who offer to help support our monthly commitment to Hope Haven. If you want to help out with the Hope Haven meals, look for the volunteer sign-up sheet in the back of the church or give Lynne Roberts a call or email. Preparing a casserole or purchasing items to complete the meal are two ways parishioners can help with this effort.

SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY

The Outreach Committee continues to receive funds to be donated to a local organization fighting hunger. The Outreach Committee will add funds to those donations and will send a check quarterly to the Sycamore Food pantry requesting that the funds be used to purchase food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. This assures our donation provides the maximum amount of food for our community needs.

COVID 19 PROCEDURES

The diocese has made some modifications to the Covid 19 procedures. We can now increase the capacity of the church to 50%. Wearing masks, sanitizing, and social distancing are still mandated. We are also allowed to have flowers in the church and the choir has been expanded to 4 singers.

While many of us have been vaccinated, there are also a number who have not. Vaccinations are now open to anyone 12 years of age and up. There are now walk-in sites as well as appointments. You can Call 815-748-2401, or for online registration <https://health.dekalbcounty.org>



BARBARA WEAVER RECOGNIZED AT ECW ANNUAL MEETING

The Chicago Diocese ECW annual meeting was held via Zoom on Saturday, May 8th. The theme of the meeting was “A celebration of the women of the Diocese of Chicago, honoring their work in their church and communities.” Barb was one of 18 women nominated as an Honored Women by their church. The members of St. Peter’s ECW voted unanimously to select Barb as our honored woman.

Barb received a certificate and a “goodie bag” from the diocese prior to the meeting, which was hand delivered to her home.

A few of our members joined Barb for the meeting to celebrate with her!

The following is the bio that we sent in. We were limited to 400 words, so it doesn’t begin to tell all the things Barb has been a part of at St. Peter’s!

Thank you Barb Weaver for all you do for St. Peter’s! Your faith, knowledge, and dedication to St. Peter’s is truly a blessing for us all.

Honored Woman Nominee Barbara Weaver

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Sycamore, IL is proud to present Barb Weaver as our Honored Woman nominee. When Barb married John Weaver in 1950, she knew being an Episcopalian was in her future; it was a big part of the Weaver family. Prior to being married, Barb received her first communion. Barb and John moved to Sycamore in 1960 and, in 1961, she was confirmed at St. Peter’s. Barb studied the canons, the by-laws, and the Book of Common Prayer. Her wealth of knowledge was often called upon, especially at vestry meetings during her 18-year tenure. Barb was the first female Senior Warden at St. Peter’s! John became the organist and choir director at St. Peter’s and Barb’s beautiful voice became an important part of the choir until her retirement in 2016. Barb was elected to the Diocesan



ECW board and served for twelve years: as treasurer for 6 years and president for 3 years. Barb was blessed to meet many people during her tenure and as a delegate to Diocesan conventions and Triennial meetings.

Barb was a Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter's and has been the Directress of the Altar Guild for 45 years. Our altar is always carefully adorned and beautifully kept. As a member of our Worship committee, Barb's knowledge and willingness to serve is invaluable. Barb has been on numerous committees and chairman of many. She can often be seen at the church or in the office, working on projects and assisting our bookkeeper. She can be seen in the kitchen for funeral luncheons, St. Nicholas dinner, and just about any activity that is held.

Barb is also active in the Sycamore community. She is a member of PEO, an organization promoting education for women, the Order of the Eastern Star, and Signa Alpha Iota, a professional music sorority. She was a member of the DeKalb County migrant ministry, aiding migrant workers find housing, and the bookkeeper for the Children's Learning Center for 23 years.

Barb is an integral part of the St. Peter's family. Her knowledge, know how, and willingness to serve are unparalleled. A teacher, a friend, a confidant, a manager, an advisor, and a shoulder to cry on, Barb has been all these and more to St. Peter's. We are truly blessed with her presence. The women of St. Peter's unanimously named her as our nominee.

MY TIME WITH COVID-19
a memoir by JUDY DETTLOFF
MAY 25, 2021

I am SO HAPPY we have gotten our vaccines and are both now "fully vaccinated". I finally feel as protected as possible against contracting the virus. Contracting it again. My vaccine side effects were expected. They were gone in a couple of days. I'll get booster shots in the future if that's recommended. Getting COVID-19 last November was awful, and I never want to get it again, nor do I wish it on anyone else.

Like everyone else, in March 2020, Gerry and I watched the news, read the papers, became more & more alarmed at the rapid worldwide spread of this virus that caused sickness of varying degrees—from unnoticed or very mild to hospitalization, ventilators and death. And it was brand new—almost nothing was known about it. It was frightening. I kept a (still) growing file of newspaper clippings, online articles from sites like the Mayo & Cleveland Clinics, local statistics of positivity rates—and later, of vaccine doses. And we followed all the state of Illinois shutdown and safety protocols.

Then in November 2020, I started feeling "not good." No temperature or difficulty breathing, though. I tested positive for COVID, and several days later Gerry called our doctor and then took me to NW Kishwaukee's emergency room. I was hospitalized for 6 days and came home with oxygen and confusion. I don't remember the first several days of any of this, due, I guess, to the lack of oxygen and then "COVID pneumonia." I had to ask Gerry to tell me what happened. If he hadn't been there, I really don't believe I would have survived. I couldn't track much of anything. By mid-January I felt pretty much recovered. Thank you God!

Our doctor said there is "no rhyme nor reason" as to who gets infected in a family or how mild or severe the infections are. (Gerry was tested a number of times, all negative results and never any symptoms). Just that COVID-19, and its ever evolving variants, spread easily, chiefly through respiratory droplets from one infected person to others.

It was so exciting to find that there were several vaccines available beginning in December 2020. These were vaccines that had been in the research pipeline for several years, when there were earlier concerns about SARS and MERS spreading. From December 2020, when availability was limited and we each had to wait our turn to qualify, vaccines are now ok'd for everyone (excepting those with certain conditions) from age 12 up. It's free. It's even available at Jewel. It's the reason new cases are decreasing and we are all getting closer to what life

was before the COVID-19 pandemic began. It's the reason St. Peter's can slowly lift the very strict restrictions that have kept us safe. I feel so grateful. There are so many people in the world who cannot get enough vaccines, oxygen, treatment and are dying.

We at St. Peter's care about each other. You cared about me during this time. Please continue to care about and protect yourselves and others.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TOM & PAT KLEIN

In celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, Tom and Pat Klein renewed their wedding vows on Sunday, May 23rd, at our 10:00 service. Fr. Georges officiated the beautiful ceremony, which included their renewal of vows and blessing of their wedding rings.

Tom shared afterwards that they've been married for 50 years without a fight. (Really, Tom?)

Congratulations Tom & Pat! Thank you for sharing this special day with us!



Candidates for Vestry

At our Annual Meeting on June 6th we will elect a new Senior Warden and 2 Vestry Members.

The candidate for Senior Warden is Varsie Geisler and the 2 candidates for Vestry are Stephanie Hill and Larry Buttimer.

Following are their bios and pictures. (No bio or picture was available of Larry Buttimer at the time of printing.)

Varsie Geisler



When I was asked to think about being the next senior warden at St. Peter's, I was surprised to say the least. When I thought and prayed about it and talked with Fr. Georges, I realized it was something I am interested in doing. The more I have immersed myself in the life of this parish, the more I have come to love it and its people.

I grew up in the Episcopal Church and I have been an active member of several parishes over the years, and I have witnessed weak and strong lay leadership (the lay leadership at St. Peter's is strong!). I would like to be given the opportunity to expand upon that strong lay leadership. I know Anita Biletzky, Fr. Georges, and I will make a good team and our individual strengths and weaknesses will work well in leading St. Peter's forward.

I possess the skills and leadership qualities to be an effective senior warden. I am an active listener who tries to understand the many sides to an issue and then build consensus. I am not afraid to ask questions and make tough decisions, if necessary. My time on the vestry has opened my eyes to the workings of a vestry and I would like the opportunity to help lead us as we look forward to being fully open again and welcoming new and returning parishioners.

If given the opportunity, I will work hard for all of us at St. Peter's

Stephanie Hill



Peter's is home for me. There is a feeling when I walk in the door that comforts me and allows me to feel closer to God. I feel safe to hang my burdens and stress at the door. I would be honored to serve as a vestry member.

My name is Stefanie Hill. I live in Genoa with my husband, Jim, and my youngest son, Rob. He is 15 and a sophomore at Genoa-Kingston High School. My oldest son, Alex, is 28 and lives in Chesterfield, MO. He is a computer programmer. My daughter, Hannah is 25 and she lives in Aurora. She is a Speech Language Pathologist. I grew up in Sycamore and attended St. Peter's my whole life. I am currently the principal of Kingston Elementary School in the Genoa-Kingston School District. I taught for many years in middle school and upper elementary. Growing up in the parish, I was honored to serve on BACOY (Bishop's Advisory Committee On Youth). I traveled to downtown Chicago once a month for meetings with other Episcopal youth in the area. As an adult, I have held many roles at St. Peter's in the past including Sunday School teacher, youth group leader and two terms on the vestry. St.

ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST

May 2021

Harriet George
1217 Loren Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Cynthia Dorband
1600 North Fourteenth St. #204
DeKalb, IL 60115

Beth Krogman
29449 Greenwood Acres Dr.
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 Bellevue Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Billy Clem
PO BOX 4559
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dan Sidmore
418 Yorkshire Dr.
DeKalb IL 60115

June Birthdays

- 1 John Castle
- 6 Barbara Weaver
- 8 Brooke Lee Koehnke
- 8 Oscar John Boies
- 9 Allie Marie Drake
- 11 Patricia Klein
- 16 Rick Johnson
- 17 Janice Abizaid
- 23 Patricia Knudsen
- 25 David Kim Roberts
- 26 Shela Lahey
- 26 Jamie Harley
- 29 Caden Edward Carrier

Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 John & Cindy Vain
- 2 Lamont & Joan Mommer
- 15 Steve & Kathy Reid
- 20 Daniel & Shannan Harley



Prayer Corner

All your works praise you, Lord; we, your faithful people, extol you. We tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
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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