

THE MORNING STAR

August 2021

SERVICE TIMES

Come and worship with us!



Service times for August have changed:

No Zoom Worship in August

All Sundays In-Person only at 10:00 AM

The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of Desiree Ann Goodale-Mikosz and Lawrence Vincent Buttimer

Family and friends gathered at St. Peter's on June 25 to witness this lovely evening ceremony. Deacon Dee chose her closest friend, Sandra Greeham to be her maid of honor, while Larry chose his brother Gerald as his best man. Flower girl was Aurora Buttimer, Larry's granddaughter. Fr. Georges and Fr. Mark officiated, with Dee's brother, Rev. Bill Goodale delivering the sermon. Billy Goodale, nephew and godson, did the readings, and Brad Osborn read the prayers.

The reception which followed in Waterman Hall was a delicious feast, and because we are all "good Episcopalians" the wine selection was much enjoyed!

A note of thanks from Dee and Larry read in part: "...New beginnings are one of life's many gifts. May each of you be blessed with lives full of love that spills over into all whom you touch as you walk through life."

We are blessed to have Dee and Larry as part of our St. Peter's family.



Mark My Words

Dear Friends,

Welcome to “Mark My Words!” I have decided to use this month’s column as a brief introduction.

“Mark My Words” began in 1996, when I was a curate at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Wayne, IN. The title was suggested by Mike Hesterman, a parishioner at Trinity who became a good friend. I have liked this title so much that I have used it since my days at Trinity.

This column will be published monthly and will undoubtedly cover a number of topics. Some may pertain mainly to St. Peter’s, others may have to do with the wider Church.

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I am very much looking forward to that day when everything is fully back to normal.

Faithfully,

The Reverend Mark A. Geisler

From Pat Knudsen

A big thank you to the ladies of St. Peter’s who drove me to and from my radiation treatments every day for the past 5 weeks. I couldn’t have done it without you. I am truly blessed with my St. Peter’s family.

Peace and love.

Pat Knudsen

Father Georges Vacation

Father Georges will be leaving on vacation on Sunday August 1st after the 10:00 service and he will be back in the office on the 17th. Father Mark Geisler will be on call during his absence.

August Birthdays

- 1 James Wilson
- 2 Susan Frost
- 5 Harriet George
- 8 John T. Vain
- 8 Michael Grimson
- 13 Mark Mendenhall
- 13 David Ayres
- 14 Alexander Harley
- 15 Grant Mommer
- 16 Regan Mommer
- 16 Cynthia Dorband
- 23 Nancy Franke
- 24 Landon Egler
- 25 Quinn Carrier
- 29 Peter Grimson

Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Jean Evans & Jerry Lane
- 11 Debra & John Woodstrup
- 16 Mary Glynn & John Boies
- 17 John & Nancy Castle

Blood Drive at St. Peter’s

On Tuesday August 10 we will be hosting a blood drive at St. Peter’s in Waterman Hall. The blood drive will be from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and is being coordinated by Versiti Blood Center of Illinois. Our goal is to get 12 products. Versiti needs to see at least 600 donors every day in order to meet the demand of hospitals. The key to success is to fill all appointment slots. If you are able to donate or know of someone who is you can use this link to schedule an appointment or call the office and we will schedule it for you.

The link is:

https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5581951

Minutes from May Vestry Meeting

St. Peter Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

May 20, 2021

Approved July 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Georges. Those members present were Liane O'Keefe, John Vain, Henry Burgweger, Lynne Roberts, John Boies, Donna Hill, and Varsie Geisler. Also present were Fr. Georges Jallouf, Fr. Mark Geisler, and Deacon Dee Goodale. Absent were Phil Montgomery and Anita Biletzky. This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Opening prayer was offered by Fr. Mark. The agenda for the meeting was accepted.

There were no corrections to the minutes of April 15 and they were accepted. Varsie Geisler suggested one change to the minutes of the March 18 meeting. In discussion of the MIDI system for the organ, it was erroneously stated that no organist would be necessary with this system. This will be reworded to: This would allow us to program the music and not have the need for an organist at the actual service.

The report of the Treasurer was made by John Vain who reported that the parish has finished the months of January through April in good order. Thus far we have had normal expenses. Memorial funds have been received for Jan FitzHenry, Carol Wells, and Mike Blakeslee. Expense of carpet and vinyl hardwood for the library and stairway has been taken from FPIF. Income from the trust funds has increased dramatically in the past three years while ensuring the maintenance of the principal. The report was approved.

The report of the Building & Grounds Committee was sent to Vestry members through an email from Anita Biletzky.

The Outreach Committee continues to organize the Hope Haven dinner each month. The Caregivers group maintains contact with those parishioners who are in any need.

Fr. Georges provided a report which included a reminder that the Annual Meeting will be conducted on Sunday, June 6 at 10:00 in the

church. This meeting was postponed from January due to the pandemic. He has asked that members of the Vestry join with him in contacting parishioners to inform them of the meeting and to encourage attendance.

Appreciation was expressed for the service of Phil Montgomery, Donna Hill and John Boies during their Vestry terms which conclude with the Annual Meeting.

Judy LaPorta has taken a leave of absence for a period of two to three months during which time Pat Klein will serve as the parish administrator.

The parish has contracted with Metronet to provide computer services.

It has been requested that the Vestry consider a change of the Rite II service from 10:00 to 10:15. With the conclusion of the Zoom service which begins at 9:00 there is insufficient time for our musicians to practice for their performance. Fr. Georges would prefer that no other changes be made to the scheduling of the Rite II service. His preference would be for the Zoom service to begin at an earlier time; this would be at perhaps 8:30 or 8:45. He will discuss this with the Zoom congregation and advise the Vestry.

Earlier this week several parishioners received an email addressed from the rector requesting gift cards for individuals in need of assistance. This was a scam. Fr. Georges notified the affected parishioners and the entire parish that this had taken place and warned not to respond to any further email requests from him for monetary assistance. If there were a need, this would be communicated personally by Fr. Georges.

The marriage of Deacon Dee and Larry Buttimer will take place on Friday, June 25 with a reception to follow in Waterman Hall. The parish has been invited to attend.

John Boies requested information regarding plans for the Sunday School program to begin in September. Fr. Georges reported that Erin Duffy will return to teach. He is still seeking another person to assist. When this person is identified, a curriculum will then be chosen. John requested that the Sunday School program be placed on the agenda of the Annual

Meeting since this is such an important aspect of our parish life.

A virtual Vacation Bible School program is being offered by the Diocese for our children at a cost of \$35.00 to cover materials. There will be no cost to our children since the parish will pay for each child's participation. This program has been announced at church services during the past weeks. Suggestion was made that families with children should be contacted about the availability of this program either by email or preferably by a telephone call.

It was previously recommended that a check in the amount of \$250 be sent to the Diocese for a gift in support of our new Bishop. In view of Canon Clark's continuing recovery and the several changes in the date of the consecration, it was decided to wait until this is more settled. It was also suggested that individuals be encouraged to add to this gift by contributing through our parish office.

We have been using a keyboard owned by our organist, Sarah Mendenhall, for a long period of time. In order that Sarah has the opportunity to return this to her home, the church wishes to purchase a new keyboard for use at services. Sarah has identified a Yamaha 515b keyboard as the best for our needs. The price of the instrument is \$1,500. There may be an added cost of a stand for the keyboard to rest upon and/or an additional speaker. The Vestry approved the purchase of the keyboard. John Vain was asked to identify the source of the funds for this purchase. Lynne Roberts and John Vain suggested the use of memorial funds. A motion was made and approved to accept this proposal.

Paul and Robin McNamara, who service our organ, have brought to our attention a safety issue when they tune the organ. Three pipes must be removed in order to allow Paul access for his work. The pipes are long and heavy and it is a somewhat dangerous task for Paul and Robin to accomplish on their own. They had suggested a permanent removal of the three pipes to a cabinet that Paul would construct; this cabinet would enclose the pipes and it would be situated at the rear of the choir area. Paul indicates there would be no change in the sound of the organ. Another solution suggested by several members of the parish was to

provide assistance to the McNamara's whenever they come to the church for the twice-yearly tuning. It was decided to identify persons who could/would assist in this task in the future. It was moved to secure persons to assist and make payment to them for that assistance. The motion was approved.

Donna Hill questioned when the next confirmation of new members would be held at St. Peter's. Due to the continuing health problems of our Bishop-Elect, no response could be made. Until the consecration of Canon Clark is held and she makes known her plans for visitations to parishes, no confirmations have been scheduled in the Diocese. Fr. Georges will continue to question the Diocese about future confirmations and share information as he receives it.

Adjournment was at 8:25. A final prayer was then offered by Fr. Georges.

Respectfully submitted by,
Larry Dirst
Acting Vestry Clerk



Prayer Corner

Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless your friends who are sick. Give them the strength in body, courage in spirit and patience in pain. Let them recover their health, so that they may joyfully praise your name. Amen

ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST

July 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
675 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

Shirley Hamill
3466 Prairie Flower Circle
Rockford, IL 61114



Baptism on August 29th

On Sunday August 29th we will celebrate the baptism of Aiden Ryan Kulakowski who is the grandson of Dan and Jenny Sidmore.



Northern Illinois Hospice will be holding eight summer sessions for grief support. All sessions will be held in Zoom format. You may attend all or choose only those that interest you. To register, visit northernillinoishospice.org or call 815-312-8338 or email jconley@niha.org.

The last 4 sessions:

August 9 Music Therapy for Comfort, Grief Expression and Self-Care

Explore ways music can enhance self-care and provide an emotional bridge to your loved one. Participate in a guided meditation to music and engage in lyric analysis including writing prompts.

August 16 Food and Preparation for Healing

Learn about how food preparation can be not only an important part of personal health and well-being, but also an avenue to ritual, connection, meaning, legacy and a healing avenue for our grief.

August 23 Art Therapy for Grief Support, the Memory Mosaic

Art is a metaphoric language, and a vehicle for healing which allows us to honor, remember and transform. A visual representation can also provide an emotional “container” for difficult feelings.

August 30 The Healing Arts as Companion

Discussion of integrating healing arts practices into your life. Grief Journaling, additional support opportunities and next steps in your journey.

If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer you can contact Jen Conley at 815-312-833 or jconley@niha.org.

Coffee Hour

Everyone loves a cup of coffee and a treat after our 10:00 service. Now that we are allowed to gather, our coffee hours are a great way to catch up with friends we have been distancing from for the past year and a half. For the past 12 years or so, Pat Knudsen and Shirley Hamill have been our coffee hour committee: posting the signup sheets, encouraging others to sign up for coffee hour, and training new members what coffee hours are all about. Due to health issues, Pat and Shirley are unable to continue. Thank you, Pat and Shirley for all you have done to keep coffee hours going, we really appreciate you! We are now looking to fill their shoes. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out.

If you have hosted coffee hour in the past, you know the coffee is already made when you arrive. The coffee does not just appear! Jean Erlenborn and Jane Ovitz have graciously been making the coffee for years! With Jane moving, Jean has agreed to make the coffee when she is able, but will need a backup for those Sundays when she is unable to attend. Thank you, Jean! Instructions for making the coffee are posted in the kitchen. If we don't find someone to help, the coffee hour host will be responsible for having the coffee ready. Again, please let me know if you are available to help.

The final step in making our coffee hours happen is the host! We're trying to simplify, so a sweet and fruit or crackers and cheese make a great coffee hour. Clean up is usually pretty simple. If you've never hosted a coffee, give it a try! Many people host by themselves or pair up with a friend. We need your help to continue our coffee hours. Coffee hour is especially important when we have guests. It's nice to be able to offer a cup of coffee and a treat to visitors. It's a great way to get to know everyone.

We're working on a new instruction sheet for coffee hour hosts and it will be posted in the kitchen.

Please contact me if you can help, have questions, or want to sign up! Judy LaPorta





An article by Richard Chartres, retired Bishop of the Church of England.

"...Priests are not called to be salesmen for God.

He does not need our merchandising. Christian priesthood is not a profession; it is a vocation, a covenant, a kind of possession by the holy and eternal God.

As it says in the letter to the Hebrews [V: 4] "no man taketh this honour to himself but he that is called by God as was Aaron"...."

We live at a time of disorientation.

There is a malaise which even afflicts some priests who seem to have no idea of who or what they are; no clear idea of what they are trying to do or why they are trying to do it.

This has tempted some to describe aspects of our church tradition including priestly ordination as "key limiting factors" as they search to connect with "young people".

It is true that we have been overtaken by very rapid social change in which we can expect the Holy Spirit to reshape the Church.

As an era in which perhaps we felt too much at home, passes away, it is right to look expectantly for the living forms that Jesus and his Church will take in the Christian centuries to come.

But alongside this proper expectancy there is an insidious temptation to believe that we can abbreviate the birth pangs of the new age by drastic surgery when we really don't have the spiritual insight to understand what we are doing.

It seems to me that we are in particular danger of reducing the Christ given sacramental character of the Church to a thin and insubstantial sociological concept.

The Wesley brothers were well aware of the potential of lay led cells for praise, mutual encouragement and study of the bible.

Such gatherings are as relevant and fortifying today as they were in the 18th century.

But as the Wesleys would have been the first to point out they complement but cannot replace the Church.

The Church worthy of the name is brought into being by baptism and nourished by the eucharist it grows into the place where we can be incorporated as very members of the body of Christ.

The reality of the Church is constituted not by the prescriptions of some committee but by the celebration of the transformative eucharist by an ordained priest in the presence of the community of the faithful.

The priest is the representative of the Diocesan Bishop and together they are knots in the net which maintains the unity of the church in faithfulness to the teaching of the Apostles.

This is how it has been over many centuries and in many different cultures...

The Eucharist builds the Church and is not something the Church "puts on" to cater for our religious needs and tastes.

It is the way appointed by Christ in which the world itself is re- membered through the growth of his body.

No doubt the impatience with inherited forms reflects a disappointment with so much church life that many people currently experience.

It has always been so.

As Origen wrote in the third century "If Jesus had good reason to weep over Jerusalem, he will have much better reason to weep over the church".

The church should be a restorative cell capable of neutralising the cancers that are gnawing at our society but as we know the reality is so often depressingly anemic.

But demolition is no answer.

Andrew Brown, one of the shrewdest commentators on the religious scene in our day, observes that one of the symptoms of extreme hypothermia is the urge to remove all one's clothes even in a blizzard.

Panic is a faithless and fruitless response to the challenge we face..."

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

*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
The Parish Vision Statement:
The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church*



The Morning Star



Volume 25, Issue 8 – August 2021

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