

THE MORNING STAR

July 2021

SERVICE TIMES

Come and worship with us!



Service times will continue as follows:

Zoom Worship 8:30 AM

In-Person Worship 10:00 AM

Jane Ovitz Retiring to Virginia

Before the pandemic on most any Sunday you could find Jane Ovitz sitting in the third pew on the left for the Rite I service. She has a long history with St. Peter's and the city of Sycamore as well.

Jane, along with Ginger Engh, was the first woman to be elected to St. Peter's Vestry. Jane has a wealth of knowledge of the of history of both St. Peter's and Sycamore. She knows the history of the parish, the Watermans, the buildings and the priests who served here even those who served before Jane was a parishioner here.

Jane was chair of Building and Grounds for several years and was responsible for many of the improvements made to the campus along with the day-to-day care of the grounds. There wasn't a clean-up day when she wasn't present with her garden gloves on raking, pulling weeds or doing whatever chores needed to be done.

Jane was in charge of the "greening" of the church at Christmas and she chaired the St. Nicholas Dinner for several years and was



always available to assist with funerals and receptions. She made sure everything was done properly with beauty and respect.

She took an avid interest in the business of St. Peter's and often attended the Vestry meetings as an observer.

Jane is retiring to Alexandria, Virginia where her daughter Anne lives. She is currently staying with Anne until there is an opening at a senior living facility in Alexandria. Jane plans to be back in Sycamore in late July and early August to make the move and to say goodbye.

There will be a special brunch in honor of Jane on August 1st after the 10:00 service in Waterman Hall. More details to follow regarding the brunch.

Jane will be sorely missed by all of us but you can still keep in touch with her. Her current mailing address is:

Jane Ovitz

401 Duke Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

And her email is janeovitz@gmail.com.



**SAINT PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Annual Meeting Recap**

June 6, 2021

The Annual Meeting for 2020 was held on Sunday June 6th in the Church. The meeting had been delayed several months due to covid restrictions.

The meeting opened with a prayer and outgoing Senior Warden Phil Montgomery led the business portion of the meeting. The minutes of the 2019 minutes were approved. Election of the new Vestry members was held. Senior Warden, Varsie Hill, Stephanie Hill, Larry Buttimer and Larry Dirst were all elected by acclamation. Delegates for the Diocesan Convention, Anita Biletzky, Varsie Geisler and Judy LaPorta were elected as well. John Vain was elected to continue as Treasurer.

John Vain gave a report on the parish finances and Father Georges gave the Rector’s report. He has brought the Church Registry up to date. There are now 110 Active members of St. Peter’s and 80 Inactive members.

All of the committee and financial reports are available in the Annual Meeting Report. If you were unable to attend the meeting there are still copies of the Annual Report available.

The 2021 Vestry

Varsie Geisler – Senior Warden

Anita Biletzky – Junior Warden

John Vain – Treasurer

Judy LaPorta – Clerk

Lynne Roberts

John Vain

Lianne O’Keefe

Henry Burgweger

Stephanie Hill

Larry Buttimer

Larry Dirst

CAREGIVERS COMMITTEE

Committee members continue to monitor the status and needs of St. Peter's parishioners as we open up from the pandemic, 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.

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 June 23. 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. Let's all help fulfill St. Peter's commitment to help the homeless and hungry in our community.

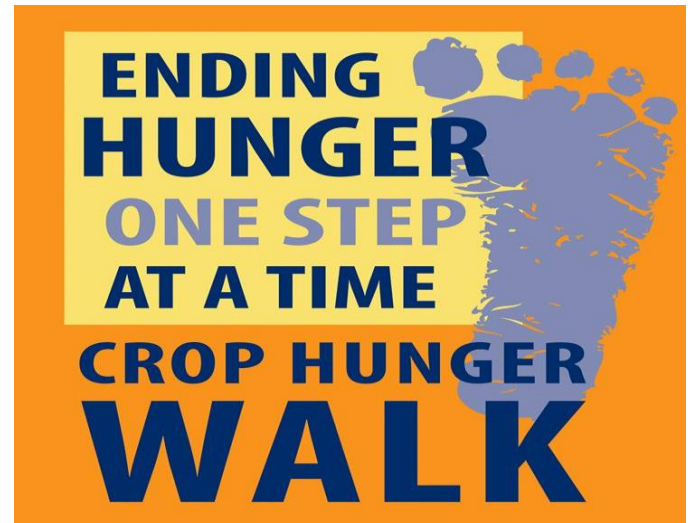
SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY

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.

CROP WALK

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 3rd for the 2021 Sondra King CROP Walk. Last year was a "virtual" walk due to the pandemic, and \$24,213 was raised. Of those funds, 25% will stay locally to help fight hunger in our community, and the remainder will go to global

organizations. This year the local CROP Walk goal will be \$28,000, with 25 organizations participating. The location of the 2021 CROP Walk will be the Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb. Please plan on joining St. Peter's team walking on October 3, or support the team or a team member by donating on line. Watch the Morning Star for details in the coming months.



12 OFTEN OVERLOOKED BLESSINGS

1. The kindness of strangers
2. Feeling the presence of Spirit in your life.
3. The aroma of something delicious wafting from the kitchen.
4. Your boundless imagination
5. Trying something new and loving it.
6. Waking up early enough to watch the sun rise with a cup of coffee or tea.
7. The warmth and security of home. Crossing the threshold and closing the door after a hard day.
8. A walk in the woods and becoming aware of life all around you.
9. The desire for knowledge.
10. Friendship that endures and thrives, despite the obstacles of time and distance.
11. Relishing a wonderful movie. Liking it so much you want to see it again as the credits roll. Seeing it again.
12. Feeling you're part of a loving and supportive community or church.

MOMENTS

YOU HAVE TO DRIVE DOWN A ROAD JUST WHEN THE SUN IS GOING DOWN WITH COOL AIR BLOWING IN YOUR FACE.

YOU HAVE TO SIT IN THE LOCAL COFFEE SHOP WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND AND TALK FOR HOURS.

YOU HAVE TO GET UP EARLY AND GO TO CHURCH WITH YOUR GRANDMA.

YOU HAVE TO SIT ON A PORCH SWING WITH A GOOD BOOK AND A WARM BREEZE.

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THE WAY YOUR MOM KISSED YOUR FOREHEAD WHEN SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP.

YOU HAVE TO TAKE NAPS WITH YOUR DOG SLEEPING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BED WHILE YOU'RE CURLED UP IN A FUZZY BLANKET.

YOU HAVE TO BRUSH YOUR TEETH NEXT TO YOUR SIBLING IN THE MORNING AND SPIT OUT TOOTHPASTE, LAUGHING AT THE FACE THEY MAKE AT YOU IN THE MIRROR.

YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR MOM'S CONTAGIOUS LAUGH WHEN YOU'RE BEING SILLY AT DINNER.

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THE 80'S MUSIC YOUR DAD PLAYS ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE GROCERY STORE.

YOU HAVE TO GO OUT ON A FRIDAY NIGHT AND MAKE CRAZY MEMORIES WITH YOUR CLASSMATES.

YOU HAVE TO SLEEP UNTIL 11AM AND ROLL OUT OF BED TO MAKE SOME BREAKFAST AND CHAT WITH YOUR FAMILY.

YOU HAVE TO LAUGH UNTIL YOU PHYSICALLY CAN'T BREATHE.

TOO MANY TIMES WE FORGET ABOUT THE WONDERFUL LITTLE THINGS THAT COME ALONG WITH LIFE. WE TAKE FOR GRANTED WHAT WILL SOMEDAY BE GONE. SO, FOR NOW LET'S RELISH IN HOW AMAZING THE LITTLE MOMENTS ARE AND BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT AND WHO REALLY MATTER TO US.

HAVE SPUNK
HAVE FAITH
HAVE TRUST.
HAVE PURE INTENTIONS.
HAVE A POSITIVE MINDSET.
HAVE PASSION
HAVE LOVE

(This was sent to the office by a parishioner who wanted to share it with the congregation.)



4th of July History – Little Known Facts

1. The Declaration of Independence was not signed on July 4, 1776. That's actually the day it was formally adopted by the Continental Congress, but it wasn't signed by most signatories until August.
2. American typically eat 150 million hot dogs on Independence Day, "enough to stretch from D.C. to L.A. more than five times," according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council.
3. Three presidents have died on July 4: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe.
5. President Zachary Taylor died in 1850 after eating spoiled fruit at a July 4 celebration.
6. The famed Macy's fireworks show in New York City uses more than 75,000 fireworks shells and costs about \$6 million.
7. Independence Day became a federal holiday in 1870.
8. As of 2016, July 4 was the number one holiday for beer sales in the U.S., according to the National Beer Wholesalers Association.
9. In 1778, George Washington gave his soldiers a double ration of rum to celebrate the July 4 holiday.
10. Every July 4, descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence tap the Liberty Bell 13 times in honor of the original 13 colonies.

July Birthdays

6 John Engstrom
8 Ryan Hill
10 Erin Duffy
11 Marcus Mommer
15 Al Masco
18 Robbie Hill
18 Larry Buttimer
19 Tricia Drake
20 Drake Crittenden
22 Helen Beamish
22 Anne Ovitz Ayres
28 Mary Kowing
31 Carol Quitno

Wedding Anniversaries

19 Michael & Cecelia Grimson
20 Pam & Stan Bradford
26 Ann & John Engstrom



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

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
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

Shirley Hamill
3466 Prairie Flower Circle
Rockford, IL 61114



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 first 4 sessions:

July 12 Grief Overview, Telling our Story and Grief Journaling.

An overview of the grieving process, the benefits of creative coping and self-expression, sharing our journey and an introduction to Grief Journaling.

July 19 Mindful Meditation and Resilience

Take a look at, and practice, the arts of mindfulness and breath-work, and learn how we can begin to control trauma and grief when they rear their ugly heads using simple applications.

July 26 Resource Tapping for Emotional Healing

Using mindful awareness and intention to bring imagery and body sensation to emotional healing. The session will include an introduction to guided imagery as another way to bear emotional distress.

Aug 2 The Labyrinth

We keep in sight a center that holds as we journey with grief through the twists and turns of a handheld labyrinth. The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual symbol particularly helpful in times of transition and change.

If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer you can contact Jen Conley at 815-312-8333 or jconley@niha.org.

Thank you, Judy LaPorta

After 3 years of serving St. Peter's as Administrative Assistant Judy has decided to become a full-time retiree. Judy is very active in the activities at St. Peter's and has played a vital role in many ways besides manning the phones in the office for 3 days a week.

Judy was the head of the Search Committee which brought Father Georges to our parish. She is Vice-President of the ECW and chair of Ladies Night Out. Also, she is currently serving as clerk of the Vestry.

We owe a big thank-you to Judy for all she has done and continues to do for St. Peter's. Even though she won't be in the office she is an integral part of our parish life and we are so grateful to her for her devotion and love for St. Peter's.

Thank you, Judy, and enjoy all the benefits of retired life especially these 2 special guys!



Diocesan COVID Restrictions Lifted

On June 16th we received a message from the Diocese that they were lifting the Covid-19 restrictions. They asked that each congregation decide on the guidelines to be followed for their congregation.

Father Georges and the Wardens, Varsie Geisler and Anita Biletzky have decided on the new policies for St. Peter's.

The Diocesan suggestions as we proceed in Phase 5 were as follows:

- Wear masks during service and when singing
- No common cup
- No handshaking, hugging or kissing during Peace.

The policies for St. Peter's effective Sunday 6/27:

- Clergy do not need to wear masks until the Great Thanksgiving
- Musicians do not need to wear masks
- Readers may read from the pulpit without masks.

Effective Sunday July 11:

- Those who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks
- Coffee hour will resume with drinks and individually wrapped snacks.

The Vestry will resume in-person meetings starting July 15.

As we progress in Phase 5, modifications will be decided upon and communicated.

Rector & Wardens

Update on Shirley Hamill

Shirley continues her rehab at PA Peterson at the Citadel in Rockford. She will be there for three more weeks.

She would love to hear from her St. Peter's family. You can send cards to:

PA Petersen at the Citadel

Room 201

1311 Parkview Ave

Rockford, IL 61107

Or you can call her at

815-329-1100 Room 201



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

*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*



The Morning Star



Volume 25, Issue 7 – July 2021

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