

# THE MORNING STAR

September 2021

## SERVICE TIMES

*Come and worship with us!*



### Service times starting in September

**All Sundays In-Person at 10:00 AM**  
**Zoom service will resume on**  
**September 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM**

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### Our Beautiful Helen turns 100!

July 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our most treasured parishioners. Helen Beamish was honored at Church and with a special coffee hour afterwards. Both of her daughters, Jacquie Drake and Jerilyn Wilson along with her sons-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren were in attendance for the celebration.

Helen has been a long-time member of St. Peter's and her years of service date back to the 1950's. I asked the family for some special memories that I could share with you and the list was so long that I could only pick a few. At one time she counted the money from donations and took that job very seriously according to Jacquie. She has been a member of the Altar Guild for almost as long as she has been a member here. She and her husband, Lloyd, who passed away in January 2012, once lived in a small house that sat behind the rectory. Lloyd was the sextant and they became good friends with Father Abel and his wife and eventually they joined St. Peter's.

Best Wishes, Helen, and thank you for all you have done for St. Peter's over the years.





### **CAREGIVERS COMMITTEE**

Committee members continue to monitor the status and needs of St. Peter's parishioners as we experience the roller coaster effects of the pandemic. We also keep 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 Cindy Vain and Friends who contributed their time and cooking talents to help prepare and deliver a meal to Hope Haven on August 25. Their efforts 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.

### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

Thank you to the eight volunteers who delivered meals to our community "shut-ins." Not only did the "shut-ins" get a full meal and a sack lunch, they also received a big smile and "hello" from each driver. Deliveries are made in the months of March and August, and take about one hour. Please consider supporting this community effort to fight hunger by volunteering to deliver meals for Meals on Wheels.

### **OCTOBER 3 CROP HUNGER WALK**

The DeKalb Sondra King Memorial CROP Hunger Walk is looking for walkers! The 2021 event is set for Sunday, October 3, 2021. Participants may choose to walk either a one mile or a three mile route. The walk will begin (1:30pm) and end at the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 830 North Annie Glidden Road. St. Peter's is now forming our fundraising team. Participants may choose to walk virtually or in person. The goal is \$28,000.

The CROP Hunger Walk proceeds transform communities around the globe through responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised are returned to the DeKalb County area to support local hunger efforts. The Walk will be distributing local funds to Feed My Sheep" Food Pantry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, West Minister Presbyterian Drive Thru Pantry, Meals on Wheels (VAC), and the Sycamore Food Pantry located at the Sycamore United Methodist Church. The walk is sponsored by Church World Service.

Watch for the sign-up sheet and online information at the back of the church in September. Please consider joining us for this essential fundraiser to fight hunger.

## **Mark My Words**

Like you, I am sick and tired of the COVID-19 virus. I am sick and tired of people dying from this horrible disease. I am sick and tired of the controversies surrounding vaccinations and the wearing of masks. I am sick and tired of the ways in which this pandemic has disrupted all our lives, some more than others.

COVID-19 has greatly affected the ministries of all our churches. These difficult times require prayer and patience. St. Peter's has experienced significant disruption and changes to Sunday worship and other areas of parish life over the past one and one-half years. We have been navigating a great deal of uncharted territory. You are to be commended for your patience and ability to "go with the flow."

It has indeed been a long journey. When the vaccines came out, the numbers started getting better. Eventually those who were vaccinated could choose whether to wear a mask.

But now there has been a resurgence of the pandemic in the form of the delta variant. Positivity rates are going back up, as well as hospitalizations and deaths. A Chicago restaurant owner described this as a "kick in the gut."

It is more than understandable to be discouraged. Fr. Georges, Deacon Dee, Brad Osborn, and I are always available if you need to talk.

This pandemic will not last forever. Hopefully the delta variant will mark the final stage of it. In the meantime, know that God is greater than COVID-19, and that God will always stay right beside us in our struggles.

Faithfully,

The Reverend Mark A, Geisler

## **A Note of Thanks from Shirley Hamill**

Thanks to all my St. Peter's family for keeping the cards and prayers coming my way during my long stay in the hospital and nursing home in June and July.

And a special thank you to Father Georges for being there for me during this difficult time.

With sincere appreciation,

Shirley Hamill

## **Church School Update**

We are moving forward with plans to begin the program year on September 26th. Fr. Georges, Anita Biletzky, and Varsie Geisler will be meeting the week of 8/30 to discuss the Sunday School curricula that have been researched. Stay tuned for an email announcing which curriculum will be used. If the start date needs to be changed because of the COVID-19 situation, another email will be sent.

## **Missionaries to Visit St. Peter's**

A few months ago, we were speaking to Fr. Georges about a missionary couple that we support and following that conversation Father agreed that it would be a blessing to have them introduced to the congregation of St. Peters. Sarah and I met Jack and Alyssia about 25 years ago when we were attending the same congregation together. In addition to being passionate about doing the work of Christ, Jack shares our passion for music as he is a very accomplished jazz drummer. Alyssia gets credit for putting up with the zany behavior of Jack and is a registered nurse, a mother and most importantly a woman that loves God.

I look forward to introducing them to all of you on October 10 and I hope you find them as wonderful as we think they are. Please read their story in the newsletter! More news to come over the coming days.

Blessings. Mark and Sarah Mendenhall

## **Introduction of Missionaries**

Hello! We are Jack and Alysia Kinney, and we serve with the ministry SonSet Solutions in Elkhart, Indiana. Jack and I met back in 1990 at the University of Cincinnati. We both had a heart for serving in missions when we met. We married in '93 at the Church of the Advent Episcopal in Cincinnati; I worked as a nurse while Jack studied electrical engineering technology. After he graduated, babies started coming. We often talked about our desire to still be involved in missions, but we just weren't clear on when or where! In 2006 we heard several messages at our church's missions conference. One in particular caught our attention when he requested that we pray for someone capable of operating the technical side of a radio station. We both felt confident this was the time God had been preparing us for. We interviewed for and accepted a position with HCJB Global, a radio ministry. They wanted us to serve in their Sub-Saharan Africa region, so we eagerly began raising funds. Three years in, with our funding getting close, our 7<sup>th</sup> baby was born. He was diagnosed with Down Syndrome, and our world turned upside down. Since we were unsure of what his medical needs were going to be, we knew Africa was not in our future. However, the ministry had an engineering facility in Indiana. We contacted the director and our supporters, and we arrived, 7 kids in tow, in Elkhart, Indiana, at the end of 2010. This ministry has since become independent of HCJB Global and is called SonSet Solutions. Every year we work with over 100 partner ministries overseas equipping them with tools, information, and support services to further the Gospel. In particular, we specialize in radio stations and water monitoring services. Although we are able to do much of the work from Indiana, Jack has made many trips over the years to provide technical assistance to our partner stations. The vision of SonSet Solutions is that the name of Jesus would be made known among the nations, and people everywhere would become his fruitful disciples. Jack and I are very excited to join you this October and share more about the ministry of SonSet Solutions

## **Minutes from July Vestry Meeting**

### **St. Peter Episcopal Church**

### **Vestry Meeting**

**July 15, 2021**

**Approved August 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Fr. Georges Jallouf.

Those present were: Fr. Georges Jallouf, Fr. Mark Geisler, Deacon Desiree Goodale, Varsie Geisler, Anita Biletzky, John Vain, Liane O'Keefe, Henry Burgweger, Larry Dirst, Larry Buttimer, Lynne Roberts, Stefanie Hill, and Judy LaPorta.

Guests were Cindy Vain and Brad Osborne.

Lynne Roberts moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Liane O'Keefe seconded, and the motion carried.

Sr. Warden Report: Varsie Geisler informed the vestry that Sarah and Mark Mendenhall were putting together notebooks to be put in the pews, with music not in our hymnals that we will be using. This will eliminate the need for copies of music being inserted in the bulletin.

Varsie requested that reports be kept short and to the point.

Jr. Warden Report: Anita Biletzky had previously sent her report to the vestry for review. There was a discussion regarding how bills were paid. Anita is requesting that our vendors send bills to her for review before being paid.

Treasurer's report: John Vain reported that the carryover had been transferred to the special account. He reported that next year we could have a 15-20,000 shortfall.

Our member Jane Ovitz had been paying \$100/month for our tree service, which will discontinue now that she has moved. The funds will be taken from the carryover.

Henry Burgweger moved to approve the treasurer's report, Lynne Roberts seconded, and the motion carried.

John Vain informed the vestry that our roofing project is currently on hold, as materials are not available.

Caregivers Committee Report: Lynne Roberts reported that the committee has been keeping busy giving rides, sending cards, and keeping up with the housebound.

Outreach Committee Report: Lynne Roberts reported that we continue to supply meals to Hope Haven monthly. August is our month for Meals on Wheels and all dates are filled.

Old Business: Brad Osborne has been researching programs for our children's program. He has contacted St. Mark's for information on their children's program. Erin Duffy has agreed to continue as one of our teachers. Several programs were discussed. It was decided that we should poll our parents of school age children, to determine what they would like to see in our children's program and what they want them to learn from it. Stefanie Hill and Varsie Geisler will work on creating the questionnaire.

New Business: Fr. Georges reported that our re-opening celebration is set for September 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have one service at 10:00 on that date (no Zoom service) and the Vestry will be in charge of the coffee hour. The Book of Common Prayer will be back in the pews, we will have a procession, acolytes, no masks will be needed, and we will enjoy a feast after the service. We will also have a "Welcome back" sign. Sunday school will start on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, and we will have 8:00 and 10:15 services. Welcome back gifts for the congregation were also discussed. Anita Biletzky will research.

A question was brought up about the Bishop's gift. It had been decided that we will wait until the Bishop is confirmed.

Larry Dirst and Cindy Vain reported that Pumpkin Fest will return this year and St. Peter's will again be a part of it with our food stand. Sign-up sheets will be in Waterman Hall for volunteers to help out that day.

Rector Report: Fr. Georges reported that he and Fr. Mark will be sharing pastoral care

visits. Shut-ins will be visited by one of them every two weeks.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> St. Peter's will be hosting a Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center from 3:00pm-7:00pm in Waterman Hall. Versiti will supply all of the equipment and snacks. Pat Klein has offered to be on hand during that time.

Our last ZOOM service will be August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Fr. Georges will be on vacation from August 1<sup>st</sup> (after the service) to August 17<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Mark will celebrate the two Sundays Fr. Georges is away.

Fr. Georges thanked John Vain for the countless hours he has spent on the roofing project. He also thanked Anita Biletzky for getting DeKalb Mechanical to come out and get the upstairs of the rectory cool.

A Stewardship committee is needed. A letter needs to be sent out to the congregation in September. Varsie Geisler volunteered to create the letter.

Church photos were discussed. Information had been previously received from Life Touch and will be reviewed.

Larry Dirst moved that the meeting be adjourned, Liane O'Keefe seconded and the motion carried.

Fr. Mark gave a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaPorta

Vestry Clerk

## September Birthdays

- 6 Tom Klein
- 6 Shannon Egler
- 7 Maha George Jallouf
- 8 Larry Smith
- 16 Jack Frost
- 17 Kristin Hill
- 18 Gretchen Boies
- 19 Alex Hill
- 21 Elizabeth Adamczyk
- 22 Barbara Jo Koehnke
- 23 Shirley Hamill
- 25 Brian Duffy
- 26 Logan Egler
- 26 Kara O'Keefe
- 28 Tricia Rusin
- 30 Brady Shea

## September Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Joshua & Beata Boies
- 12 Ryan and Kristin Hill
- 21 Donald and Anne Hulsey
- 21 John & Laura Hulsberg

## 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 7<sup>TH</sup> 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 and Bob Hamill  
3466 Prairie Flower Circle  
Rockford, IL 61114



## 9/11 Remembrance

On Saturday September 11 at 12 Noon outside the Church we will have a prayer service in remembrance of the 20-year anniversary of 9/11. Prayers will be offered for those we lost and their survivors as well as the first responders who risked their lives in service to others.

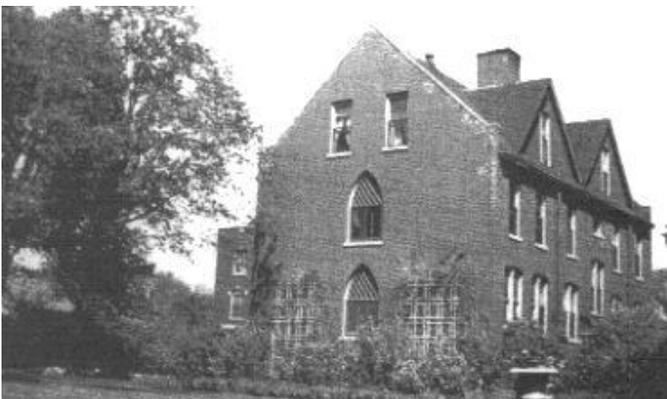


## History of Sycamore Waterman Hall for Girls

Waterman Hall for Girls was opened in 1888 by Mrs. J.S. (Abbie) Waterman, who endowed part of her homestead for the school through her will. The original Waterman Home was converted into a rectory for the Episcopal rector in charge of the school, and three other buildings were also built nearby, including the main building, Tower Hall.

The school attracted girls primarily from affluent families, some of which came from Chicago as well as the remainder of Illinois, and others travelled from other states like Waterman Hall was a preparatory school for some Eastern colleges, including the prestigious Wellesley College, in addition to some Western universities.

Sadly, Waterman Hall closed its doors in the spring of 1918 due to financial difficulties and the resignation of its rector, Rev. B.F. Fleetwood D.D., who had served the school in that capacity for 29 years. The school reopened a year later in the fall of 1919 when St. Alban's Academy for Boys moved from Knoxville to Sycamore, but later ceased as a center of education when that school closed in 1938. It was also a National Youth Administration center for young men to learn a trade during World War II, and served as an Episcopal retreat center called the Bishop McLaren Center into the 1960's before the buildings were torn down in 1967 to make way for apartments.



*“...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*



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**Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
218 Somonauk Street  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
[www.sycamorestpeters.org](http://www.sycamorestpeters.org)**