

February 2023 Morning Star

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk St. Sycamore, IL 60178

815-895-2227

Website: www.sycamorestpeters.org

Facebook: Saint peter's episcopal church



*HAPPY
Valentine's
Day*

Lent 2023

My dear beloved

As we approach lent, the Holy mother Church invites us to remember that we are ashes and to ashes we shall return. This is the time of grace in prayer, fasting and self-denial.

In Psalm 86: 5 we read “For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, and great is your love toward all who call upon you” and versus 15 “but you, O Lord are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth”. BCP Page 709-711.

This passage of Psalm is a hopeful passage of reflection in this particular time of lent. To remind us how the Lord different from any kind of human being and not treat us as we treat people. We already know how infinite God’s mercy is, how his love toward us is and the way forgives us. Lent is the time of repentance and seeking God grace. The Lord doesn’t hold our transgressions against us and look to revenge, but He wants us to go back to Him with contrite hearts. He forgives us not because we deserve it, but the nature of God is love, forgiveness and truth.

The lord is also slow to anger and he's patients with us and does not punish us when we do wrong but gives us the opportunity to go back to ourselves and repent. He is a loving God and willing to work with us and see past our faults in giving us the opportunity the to do the right thing, to change our mind in evil doing. He loves us as his own children and he wants us to have every possibility in this world to succeed.

God blesses us with many things in this life: home, families, friends, jobs etc. and He gives us free salvation in his beloved son our Lord. It is up to us how we react in acceptance of his love.

Let us share what God’s giving us with unfortunate people who have no job, home or friends in prayer and charity. Lent is not only time to give up something on your table, but also is time to add, like more prayer, more participation in worship and Bible study, spiritual reading, call someone lonely, share your faith. Lent is the favorite time to see the beauty of God in his creation in us. The Christian life is about work and desire, we have tasks that God’s giving us and when we do them, we should be joyful in them. St. Augustin said: “By desiring heaven we exercise the powers of our soul. Now this exercise will be effective only to extent that we free ourself from desires leading to infatuation with this world. God means to fill each of us what is good. So cast out what is bad! If He wishes to fill you with honey and you are full of sour wine, where does the honey to go? The vessel must be emptied of its contents and then be cleansed. Yes, it must be cleansed even if you have to work hard and sour it. It must be made fit for the new thing. Whatever it may be. Let us extend ourselves toward the measure of Christ so that when he comes, he may full us with his presence”. Take delight in the Lord and he will give you your heart’s desire as Psalm 37:4 says.

So, my dear beloved one, let us be generous, joyful, Christian, and Episcopalian.

FG

Valentine Potluck Dinner
Thursday, February 9th
6:00 P.M.

Roses are red, Violets are blue, Parish Suppers are for me and you!

Please bring a generous dish to share with one another. Always a variety and so delicious. Thank you!

Kids activity following dinner.

Sugar cookies, icing and a variety of sprinkles will be available for decorating. Per request, little hands will be more than happy to decorate a Valentine cookie just for you. Feel free to decorate your own cookie. If you have a favorite sprinkle, please bring and share.

Come share a meal with your church family. Engage in conversation, build new friendships and share in all that is offered at St. Peter's.

Questions, please contact Cindy Vain (815-899-1124)

FEBRUARY 2023 MORNING STAR ARTICLES....

CAREGIVERS COMMITTEE

Committee members, along with the Clergy of St. Peter's, continue to monitor the status and needs of St. Peter's parishioners. We visit "shut ins," send greetings through email and cards, and meet every other month to keep up with our parishioners. The current extended Caregiver's List is in this newsletter and is also at the back of the church. We also realize that there are many "Circles of Friends" in the parish who care and support each other during times of need. That effort is recognized and much appreciated. 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. Visits, phone calls and written words are invaluable.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CROP WALK 2022

The updated total of funds raised in DeKalb County through the DeKalb Sondra King CROP Walk 2022 is \$18,330.25. The DeKalb County Community Gardens,

the single recipient of local funds, will receive a check for \$4,588 in January of 2023. Thank you to all who donated online or to an individual walker, and those who worked at the St. Peter's rest stop the day of the walk!

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 in January. Sign-up sheets for future monthly 2023 dinners for Hope Haven residents are in Waterman Hall. A monthly email will also be sent from the office if additional help is needed. Let's all continue to help fulfill St. Peter's 2023 commitment to Hope Haven and our community homeless and hungry.

Hope Haven has requested the following items to help supply the increased numbers of homeless seeking shelter at Hope Haven due to winter weather: fitted twin sheets; blankets; pillows; pillow cases; and towels. The Outreach Committee is requesting that donated articles from the list be brought to Waterman Hall and placed on the "sign-up" table. The Committee will see that all donations are taken to Hope Haven by the end of January and again in February.

SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY

St. Peter's is no longer gathering food donations for the pantry, but monetary donations are always welcome. Quarterly donation checks are sent from the Christian Outreach Committee to the Sycamore Food Pantry, indicating our desire to have food purchased through the Food Bank to guarantee the most value for our donated funds. For Sycamore Food Pantry 2023 donations by check, please indicate "Sycamore Food Pantry" on the memo line.

ST PETER'S THINKING OF YOU LIST - FEB 2023

George and Janice Abizaid
1129 Milan North Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dick Balstrode
BICKFORD of AURORA
7 S Orchard Road
Aurora, IL 60506

Helen Beamish
414 High Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Larry and Deacon Dee Buttimer
20913 West Snowberry Lane
Plainfield, IL 60544

Billy Clem
PO BOX 559
Sycamore, IL 60178

Cynthia Dorband
1600 North Fourteenth Street #204
DeKalb, IL 60115

John and Ann Engstrom
1349 Axcel Lane
Sycamore, IL 60178

Harriet George
1008 Joshua Street
Genoa, IL 60135

Bob and Shirley Hamill
4366 Prairie Flower Circle
Rockford, IL 61114

Rick Johnson
619 DeKalb Avenue
Sycamore, IL 60178

Tom and Pat Klein
344 Manning Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Beth Krogman
2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DARC Health Care Center
DeKalb, IL 60115

Barbara Morton
11715 Ellwood Greens Road
Genoa, IL 60135

Chris and Denielle Noe
1256 Ali Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178

Jane Ovitz
Goodwin House Alexandria
4800 Fillmore Avenue #316
Alexandria, VA 22312

Carol Quitno
2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DARC Health Care Center
DeKalb, IL 60115

David Roberts
1776 C L Hudson
Sycamore, IL 60178

Linda Saxer
440 Exchange Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dan and Jenny Sidmore
418 Yorkshire Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Henry Vincent
921 Knollwood Village Road
Apt 208

Caseyville, IL 62232

Tricia Rusin
1640Brickville Road
Sycamore, IL 60178

Al and Anneliese Masco
4630 Grace Street
Schiller Park, IL 60176

Tom Percy
21509 Rock Wells Drive
Lebanon, MO 65536



A Chat with Barbara Weaver, St. Peter's Sycamore

I recently spent a most delightful 2 hours with Barbara. My intent was to “interview” her about her past role as ECW Chicago Diocesan President. Our chat went well beyond my prepared questions. Barbara possesses a wealth of information about

the ECW and our Diocese in general. She confesses to being a nonagenarian who has been at St. Peter's for about 70 years. She was raised in the faith of the Disciples of Christ but was later confirmed into the Episcopal Church, joining her husband, John. Before his death in 2007, John was the Choir Director and Organist at St. Peter's. Barbara continues to be an active member of the parish, and currently serves as the head of the Altar Guild. Previous positions include being the first woman Senior Warden at St. Peter's, and serving on the Vestry for “at least 5 terms.” She was their ECW president twice, and has served as Stewardship Chair many times. Barbara is obviously a vital member of St. Peter's!

Barbara was the President of the ECW Chicago Diocesan Board from 1985 – 1988. She served a total of 12 years on the board, which included 5 years as the Treasurer. Because meetings were held at 67 E. Huron, Chicago, Barbara made many trips into the city from Sycamore. She recalls the ECW was supported a great deal by the Deans. The makeup of the board at that time was President, Vice President (who was not necessarily the President-Elect), Secretary, and Treasurer, along with representatives from the 10 deaneries. Barbara noted that this is an area that concerns her, as the far outreaches of our Diocese are not now actively represented. She also remarked that those without electronic communication equipment or skills are often out of the loop of what is happening across the Diocese. The written word is the preferred (or only) means of receiving information for many parishioners. How can we improve on this?

I was particularly interested with what projects the ECW Board was involved during Barbara's tenure. She remembers a process was created whereby Books of Common Prayer were provided to a women's penitentiary, along with creating a space for the women to worship. The large UTO cross used at services came into being during her tenure. Another project was working with Bishop Scantlebury and his wife for the benefit of the women of Panama.

I enjoyed my chat with Barbara. Please take the time to have conversations with your fellow parishioners. You'll enjoy it and learn a lot!

Submitted by Peg Newby, St. Paul's DeKalb, ECW Chicago Diocese Secretary

The CHOSEN SEASON 2



Adult Bible Study – Season 2 of the Chosen

Weekly Christian Education study Tuesday night

Please join us in Waterman Hall from 7pm-8:30pm for our weekly Tuesday evening study. We will be continuing our viewing of the CHOSEN and watching one episode weekly.

Each episode is about 45-55 minutes long and we will follow it with a discussion led by Mark Mendenhall of some of the key points of the show as well as the historical perspective that is used in telling the story.

Even if you didn't watch season 1 with us in the fall, come join us this spring. If you've seen it before, come watch it anew and get a fresh take. The life of Jesus is presented in a way you've never seen before. If you have any questions about this study, please contact Mark Mendenhall or the office. Light snacks will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite viewing snack as well!

To help prepare you for what you will see here is the trailer of season 2 of the events portrayed.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tZ7cg4D_z8

Can't wait to see everyone!

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2022

Call to Order at 7:25p.m.

Present: Varsie Geisler, Cindy Vain, Stefanie Hill, Jenny Sidmore, Liane O'Keefe, Henry Burgweger, Fr Georges Jallouf, Fr Mark Geisler, John Vain

Absent: Brian Duffy

Guests: Maha Jallouf, Pat Burgweger

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by Varsie, and it was seconded by Stefanie. Cindy asked to add *Safe Church – Safe Communities* to Old Business. Everyone was in favor of the change and the motion carried. The agenda was approved with the addition.

Approval of the November meeting minutes:

The discussion started with corrections. Father Mark asked that the prefix Fr be added to his name in the section of those present. Cindy brought up a question regarding a sentence regarding the water in the rectory. It was decided to remove that whole sentence for clarity. Stefanie made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Liane seconded it. The motion carried. Stefanie made the corrections to the November minutes to be submitted.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that we have become dependent on our trust funds. If we move away from 5% to 4%, the drop is more like 20%. It is predicted that this financial predicament will be with us until 2025. The trustees will have an obligation to watch out for the funds. John handed out the 2023 budget workup. He talked over some important points with everyone to prepare for the budget meeting on Saturday. A motion was made by Varsie and seconded by Liane to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Senior Warden Report: Varsie started her report by moving to give Fr Georges a housing allowance. This means a portion of the salary would be moved to a housing allowance, it will help with tax

purposes. It doesn't do anything to his salary but just puts a portion to the side. Father's burden will be keeping receipts to properly file his taxes. The vestry will have to approve the housing allowance every year by the end of December. Varsie read Whereas the Rev. Georges Jallouf is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Sycamore, Illinois, which provides a residence, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation to be paid to the Rev. Georges Jallouf during 2023, \$3,000 be designated as a Housing Allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. This housing allowance will apply to the year 2023 and all future years unless otherwise provided. Varsie made a motion to approve the housing allowance as requested and Jenny seconded it. The motion passed. John added that we remember the state mandated \$ 1-an-hour increase for the office staff starting in January. He also mentioned that there is a bill for meat and other things needed for the cabbage rolls served at the St. Nicholas feast. The amount is \$237.74, and he suggested that it come out of the vestry discretionary fund, adjusted to carry over because donation baskets were not used at the St. Nicholas feast. Cindy added that we previously used collections from coffee hours to help with these bills. She mentioned that we need to bring that back and educate the congregation about it. Varsie continued her report by sharing that she shopped for two Hope Haven families. She said it was fun and she purchased items like gas cards, Encanto movies, clothes, books, and more. It was very rewarding.

Junior Warden Report: Varsie had the report as Brian was absent. Brian's report is as follows; Secured and signed a contract for snow removal. We now have a Smart TV for the Sunday school and the TV will be mounted on the basement wall after Bible study is through with it, so we aren't putting it up and taking it down. We still need to come to a consensus about the purchase or non-purchase of the large TV for Waterman Hall and what type of furniture it will be placed on if purchased.

The topic of Reverse Osmosis for the kitchen in Waterman Hall was discussed. John shared the pipe and the cause of the water problem. We need to look at the pipes. They will have Anita contact Dorr plumbing.

No Committee Reports

Old Business:

Website Update – Everyone is encouraged to look at other websites to see things that they like. Stefanie will invite Rob to come to the February Vestry meeting.

Name tags – New tags are ready for this Sunday.

There is a need for ushers and greeters.

TV updates – This was discussed in the Junior Warden's Report.

Reverse Osmosis – They discussed trying the water at the Nolan House. They will further investigate this need and issue.

Radon will be mentioned to Anita. Radon testing needs to be done for the church, Waterman Hall, the rectory, and the rental properties. They should be charged appropriately.

Safe Church – Safe Communities. Cindy asked where we are on this. We may need to add a line to the budget for background checks. It will probably cost about \$25 each so maybe budget around \$500-\$600 dollars. This is necessary for anyone working with money or children.

Rector's Report: Father shared that he had a meeting with the diocese last Wednesday. He mentioned that everyone on the Vestry must finish the Safe Church – Safe Communities by December 31st. He also shared that the decorating of the church would happen on Saturday at 9:30. Next Wednesday there will be no 8:30 service, but there will be the Blue Christmas service at Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore at 7:00 pm and will include communion and healing. It should be about an hour. He stated that a lot of work was put into this, and it will be a great service. This service was put together by several churches in Sycamore and DeKalb.

Father shared our services for the Christmas season as Christmas Eve will be 4:30 for hymns and singing and then the 4:45 service. Christmas Day will be at 10:15. There will be no Zoom services until January 8. Father leaves Christmas Day and will be back on January 5. There will be no coffee hour on Christmas Day. Father continued by saying that Deacon Dee will be out for a bit.

He is grateful to John for all his hard work on behalf of the church for the roofing/ceiling projects. John then added that the workers are aware of the watermark on the ceiling in the church and will take

care of it. There are also some issues with tuckpointing. This could be a \$40,000-\$80,000 project.

Father ended his report by sharing that this Sunday the service will be lesson and carols. The children will be doing the readings. He wants to encourage the children to participate in the service. Varsie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Jenny. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by
Stefanie Hill, Substitute Clerk

Schedule for Lenten Services

February 22:

Service times scheduled that day are

9 am church service

Ashes to Go: 11 am to 1 and again from 4:30-5:30.

A 7pm church service completes that day.

February 24, and every Friday during

Lent: Way of the Cross. 5:30 PM (note time change from previous years). A short service will follow using the chapel area in the Weaver music room.

A short presentation focusing on historical facts surrounding the Way of the Cross will be added to the Sunday Services.

February 28 and every Tuesday during

Lent: our weekly "Soup and Supper" gathering will be held in Waterman Hall. We will enjoy supper together from 6-7 PM and all are then welcome to stay for the viewing of *The Chosen*.

There will be no Thursday Parish Supper in March.

February Birthdays

1 Sarah Mendenhall

- 3 Chad Newquist
- 5 Reese Lyn Hill
- 5 Ella Ryan Hill
- 5 Jim Hill
- 8 Alyse Mommer
- 8 George Abizaid
- 9 Jason Vain
- 13 Presley Klus
- 15 Lisa Montgomery
- 16 Clare Shea
- 18 Suzie Geisler
- 19 Henry Burgweger
- 23 Eryn Carrier
- 20 Brian Koehnke
- 22 Barbara Morton

February Anniversaries

- 26 Henry & Pat Burgweger



Sunday **8:00 am In-Person Rite I**
8:45 am Zoom Service
10:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am In-Person Rite II

Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Thursday
9-11am Friday

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
 218 Somonauk Street
 Sycamore, Illinois 60178815-895-2227
www.sycamorestpeters.org

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Georges Jallouf Rector
 918-859-5877/ Rector@sycamorestpeters.org
 Assistant to the Rector: Fr. Mark Geisler
 815-766-0694
 Deacon: Desiree Goodale
 Sarah Mendenhall Organist

Pat Klein Admin. Assistant
 office@sycamorestpeters.org
 Days in office: Wednesday, Thursday,
 Friday

Jean Erlenborn Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@sycamorestpeters.org
 Days in office: Monday, Tuesday

The Vestry of the Parish

Varsie Geisler, Sr. Warden 815-766-1127
 Brian Duffy, Junior Warden 815-298-6182
 Stefanie Hill 815-761-5052
 Jenny Sidmore 815-501-0102
 Cindy Vain 815-899-1124
 Lianne O'Keefe 815-501-7798
 Henry Burgweger 815-751-8248
 Lynne Roberts 815-751-7846

John Vain, Treasurer 815-761-5169

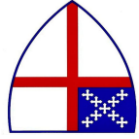
Service Times

“...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 27, Issue 2 – February 2023

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