

March 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





Fredin Family Baptism

On Sunday, February 19th, 3 members of the Fredin Family were baptized here at St. Peter's. Randy "Bud", Melissa and AnnaMae were baptized and welcomed into our St. Peter's Family and received their first Communion as well.

The ECW provided a wonderful luncheon after the service.

Congratulations and we are so happy to have you with us here at St. Peter's!



Valentine Parish Supper

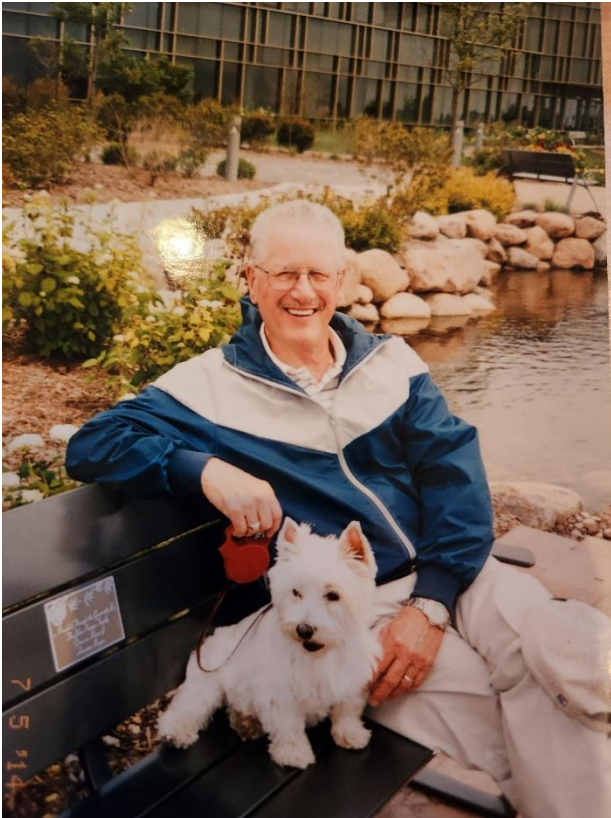
The February Parish Supper was celebrated on February 9th with special cookie decorating activities for the kids – but it looks like the adults had just as much fun. Thank you, Cindy Vain, for organizing.



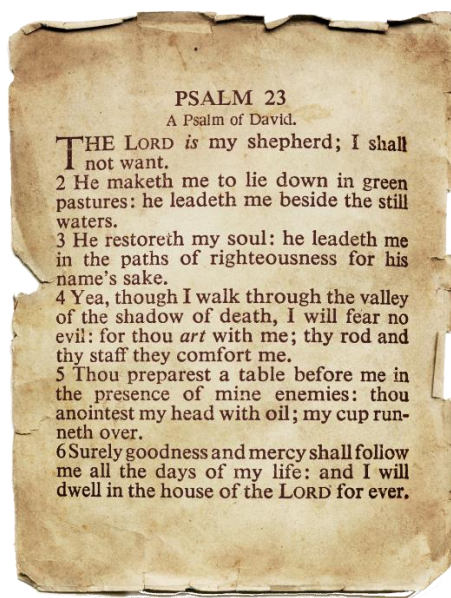
In Memoriam

We lost 2 of our members in February.

Bob Hamill passed away on February 9th and his funeral was held at St. Peter's on February 18th.



Mother Verna Fair passed away unexpectedly on February 14th. There will be a memorial service for her at St. Peter's at a time yet to be determined.



MARCH 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. Valentine's greetings were sent to all on the list. 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

HOPE HAVEN

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed their time and cooking talents to help prepare and deliver a meal to Hope Haven in February. 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 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 amount of donations was overwhelming, and Hope Haven sends a big "thank you" to St. Peter's for the quick response to this urgent need!

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.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT (ERD)

The earthquake in Turkey and Syria killed more than 40,000 people and caused widespread damage across the region on February 6. Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is working with Action by Churches Together Alliance to provide supplies, hot meals, and other emergency support in the aftermath of this earthquake. The Christian Outreach Committee has donated \$1,000 to Episcopal Relief and Development to help in continuing this effort.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX MINISTRY

There was little participation in the Shoebox Ministry during this past year. The Outreach Committee has decided to approach this project in a new way. Each month the Morning Star will announce items to be gathered for the shoeboxes. Next fall the children of the Church School and interested parishioners will be invited to fill a shoebox using the collected items. During the month of March we will be collecting toothbrushes, bars of soap and wash cloths. There will be a bin on the "sign-up" table for the items parishioners donate. We hope to be able to fill 20-25 shoeboxes next fall, making the cost much lower and providing an experience filled with fun and fellowship for St. Peter's parishioners.

ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST MARCH, 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 Buttmer
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 Axel Lane
Sycamore, IL 60178

Harriet George
1008 Joshua Street
Genoa, IL 60135

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
140 Wendy Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Linda Saxer
440 Exchange Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

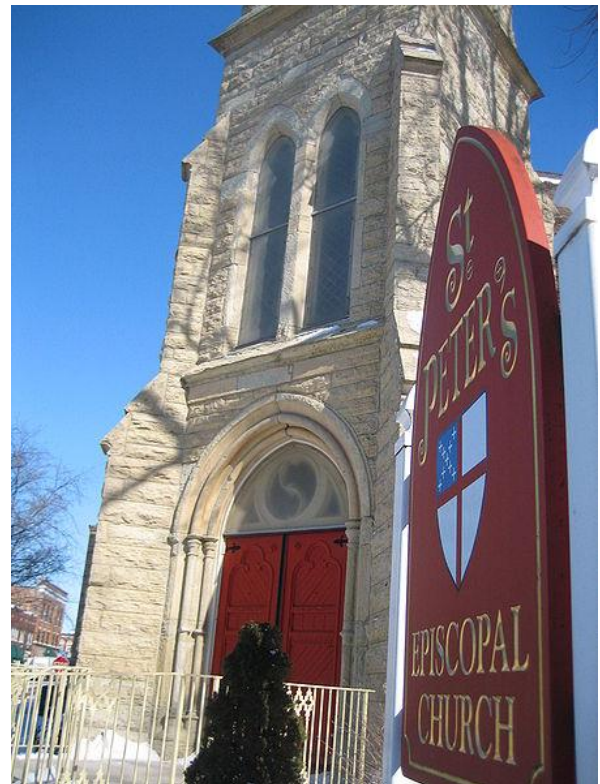
Dan and Jenny Sidmore
418 Yorkshire Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Henry Vincent
921 Knollwood Village Road
Apt 208
Caseyville, IL 62232

Tricia Rusin
1640 Brickville Road
Sycamore, IL 60178

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

Tom Percy
21509 Rock Wells Drive
Lebanon, MO 65536



MARK MY WORDS

Roger Segebarth and I were good friends from college. Roger and I were from the same hometown, although we didn't meet until a few months before he came to NIU. Our mothers were teaching colleagues and my family was invited to a backyard party hosted by the Segebarths. That's when I met Roger.

One Friday night, Roger and I had dinner in our dorm, Gilbert Hall. It was Lent. The choices on the menu were meat and fish. The fish did not look very appetizing, but I was fasting. Fish it was.

I sat down next to Roger. He had selected the meat. He looked at my plate and was absolutely horrified. He asked me why I chose the fish and not the meat. I told him that fasting was something that my family practiced during Lent. He said he was a Christian (Roger was Lutheran) and that in his tradition, he could have all the meat he wanted. He wanted to know why I couldn't. All I could muster in response was, "Tradition."

I thought about what Roger said. It occurred to me that I was on my own now and that it was perfectly OK to reassess this practice in my life. I determined that it was time to let go.

We are currently moving through the early stages of Lent. A major part of Lent involves engaging in a spiritual discipline. Maybe you fast. That's great! I've brought it back to some degree in my own life. Maybe you are spending more time with Holy Scripture. Maybe you are accomplishing more spiritual reading. Maybe you are working on curbing a bad habit. Maybe you are doing more works of service.

The important thing is that we do *something*. It's definitely not too late to start. It's better to start late than not at all. Engaging in a spiritual discipline brings us closer to God and helps keep us focused on God's will for us.

I invite you to choose a spiritual discipline that works for you. There is no be all and end all. What works well this year might not work next. Whatever you choose, listen to the voice of God. May our Lord direct you in all things this Lent and always.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Mark A. Geisler

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 MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2023**

PRESENT: Fr. Georges, Varsie Geisler, Henry Burgweger, Cindy Vain, Liane O'Keefe, Stefanie Hill, John Vain, Fr. Mark Geisler, Anita Biletzky.

VIA ZOOM: Deacon Dee Buttmer

GUESTS: Lynne Roberts, Barb Beasley

ABSENT: Brian Duffy, Jenny Sidmore

AGENDA: Add the annual meeting to new business. Agenda approved with change.

December minutes: several small corrections were made, and the amended minutes were approved. A copy of the amended minutes will be sent to the office to keep on file.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Expenses for the month of December were \$3,158.48 less than income. A positive month. We finished the year with a positive of \$26,742.18. Included in this number is \$460 pre-paid pledges for 2023. This will be subtracted from the positive year-end total; we will move \$26,282.18 to carryover. This is an excellent carryover at a critical time. As we discussed last month, the church needs to be tuck-pointed and the limestone resealed.

Pledge income for the month was excellent with a total of \$11,472.34. Full-year pledge income was \$123,992.30 against a budgeted plan of \$113,402.00. Included in this total is the \$11,800 in 2021 pledges received in 2022, along with a special gift pledge.

Plate giving was outstanding for 2022 with a total plate at \$7,202.60 against a plan of \$3,000. Six (6) of these families have become pledging units in 2023.

Stefanie Hill and Cindy Vain moved to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried

TRUSTEES: Trust funds performed as planned. Totals for the three funds are \$1,469,360.49.

Liane O'Keefe agreed to join the Charitable Trust Fund to fill the needed position.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT: Our membership list cannot be shared for solicitation means. This information will be part of the membership directory and the Morning Star. Fr. Georges was asked to speak with Joe Woodstrup.

Vestry members were reminded to please wear their badges!

Everyone is to complete the online training program: "Safe Church, Safe Communities" asap.

Liane O'Keefe and Henry Burgweger were thanked for their three years of service to the Vestry.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT: Vestry concern with radon present in our buildings was voiced at the December meeting. The National Radon Program Services has been contacted and 3 short-term test kits have been ordered for a total cost of \$51. Anita will work with the rental house tenants and with Fr Georges for set up. Kits should arrive in 10 business days. If Vestry feels that additional test kits are needed, they can be purchased at \$17/each.

Reverse osmosis is needed for the rectory. The tenants in the Nolan house had a reverse osmosis system installed by Soft Water City and are very happy with the improved water quality. We may want to consider using Soft Water City for the needs of the church kitchen. There was also mention of a water issue under the kitchen sink which has been resolved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Outreach: Lynne Roberts presented a detailed report from the January meeting: CROP Walk resulted in a donation of \$4588 to the DeKalb County Community Gardens. Hope Haven Dinners: Sign-up sheets are available in Waterman Hall. Additional volunteers are needed for food prep and meal deliveries.

Sycamore Food Pantry: 2022 donations totaled \$2100.

Salvation Army Angel Tree: 12 area children were supported through this program.

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry: 7 total boxes were donated.

VAC: A total of 8813 meals were delivered to various area shut-ins in 2022. St. Peter's supports the program by providing meal deliveries 4 months each year.

Baby Diaper/Wipes project: There is a need for at least one parishioner to volunteer to chair the committee. Many plans need to be in place before public announcement. Outreach has a balance of \$24,941 available to fund the project.

OLD BUSINESS: Major concerns for the Restoration and Renovation Committee and Building and Grounds for the imminent need for major tuckpointing to our church were discussed. Funds currently available in Carryover and FPIF will be needed. The vestry approved moving forward with the need for bids for the repairs which is estimated will cost as much as \$80,000.

AED PURCHASE: (Automatic External Defibrillators) A quote was received from American AED for the purchase of two LifePak CR2 units with a price of \$3300. Funding for the units will come from Pumpkin Fest funds, four small memorial funds accounts, and a donation from Stefanie Hill. The motion to purchase was approved.

The 2023 annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, following the 10:15 Service. A plentiful brunch will be provided by the Vestry.

PAROCHIAL REPORT: Moved to February Vestry meeting.

RECTOR'S REPORT: Last rites were given to Pat Knudsen on December 17.

December 22: Community Blue Christmas service was held with four churches participating.

April – United Methodist Church will host live stream services for Good Friday.

Baptism will be held for the Fredin family on February 19.

Communion will be provided for shut-ins during Christmas.

A new family was welcomed and will be offered membership.

Henry Burgweger moved to adjourn with a second from Stefanie Hill. Motion carried.

The closing prayer was offered by Fr. Mark at 9:50 PM

The meeting moved to an executive session to review the 2023 budget.

Schedule for Lenten Services

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.

Parish Supper

It has been decided not to have the Soup and Supper dinners on Tuesdays during Lent so we will have our normal parish supper.

The next parish supper will be Thursday, March 9th at 6:00 pm in Waterman Hall.



March Birthdays

- 6 Nick Klein
- 7 Natalia Boies
- 15 Frank Beasley
- 18 Benjamin Lane
- 19 Amanda Klein
- 23 Steven Roberts

March Anniversaries

- 14 Ryan & Tricia Drake



Service Times

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

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Sycamore, Illinois 60178 815-895-2227
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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

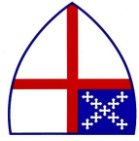
The Vestry of the Parish

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
John Vain	815-761-5169
Lynne Roberts	815-751-7846

Pat Klein, Treasurer	815-751-0722
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Volume 28, Issue 3 – March 2023



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