



MARK MY WORDS

Most Episcopal churches from time to time offer Inquirer's Classes. These classes are designed primarily for people who are new to the Episcopal Church. But there are sometimes long-time members who desire a refresher course. The world changes and so does the Church. It's good to see what's new in the larger Church.

Inquirer's Classes typically cover worship, the Prayer Book, Episcopal Church history, organization, governance, and local concerns. Classes generally run for approximately six weeks. In some churches, the Inquirer's Class serves as preparation for

October 2023
Morning Star
St. Peter's Episcopal
Church

218 Somonauk St.
Sycamore, IL 60178

Website

www.sycamorestpeters.org

Confirmation, Reception, or The
Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

I am trying to gauge interest in having an Inquirer's Class at St. Peter's. I would envision starting the first week of December (perhaps on Tuesday night). We would take a break for Christmas and then resume in January.

I do have a book in mind that we would use. I need to see if it's been revised or expanded since I last used it.

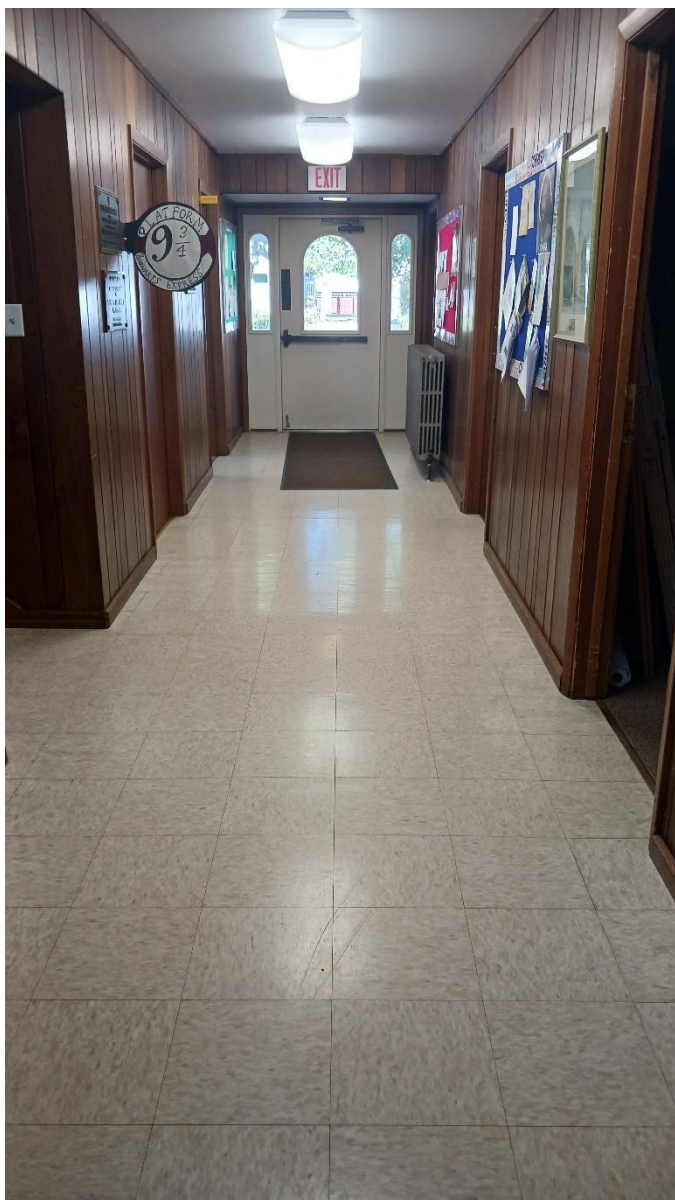
Please see me on Sunday or call, text, or email me if this sounds like something you'd like to do. My phone number is 815.766.0694 and my email address is markgeisler1963@gmail.com.

Faithfully,

Mark+

Parish Hall Entry Gets an Update

The flooring in the entryway to the Parish Hall and the stairs going up to the library have recently been updated. The new floors were installed the week of September 18th. The aim is to make the entryway look brighter and feel more welcoming.



The second part of the update will be having the walls painted a lighter color and having the trim and doors refinished. The painting is scheduled to start on October 14th. Both bathrooms will also get painted.



90 and Fabulous!

Our beloved parishioner, Shirley Hamill celebrated her 90th birthday on Saturday September 23rd and on the 24th we joined in the celebration with a lovely luncheon in her honor.

Many of the teachers Shirley worked with over the years were here to share in the happy occasion, along with Shirley's daughter, Angie.



From the Senior Warden

A priest friend of mine posted a quote on Facebook that really spoke to me. I had it posted on the Saint Peter's Episcopal Church Facebook page. I wanted others to have the opportunity to read and think about what had spoken so clearly to me. I commend it to your reading. It was a quote from the Rev. Dr. Caleb J. Lines. I did an Internet search on him and found this:

Rev. Dr. Caleb J. Lines holds standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. He has a passion for pursuing social justice for the marginalized, demonstrating the Good News of God's radically inclusive love, and proclaiming a relevant message for today's ever-changing world.

Imagine how it would change our theology if we didn't look up to heaven for God but saw God in the face of neighbors. It is not long. It is not difficult to understand. It is a simple statement that carries a big punch.

To me, this is a powerful statement of how we should be living our lives in our ever-changing world. The world changes all the time, but some things remain constant: God's love for us; God's call to us to love one another as he loves us; and for us to love our neighbors as ourselves. As Christians, we believe that we are all God's children; we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and it is not up to us to judge others. Mind you, there are very few among us who have never judged others by the way they look, the way they dress, and by whom they love. We need to set aside our fears and prejudices and trust in God. He will not fail us.

Peace,
Varsie

2nd Annual Breakfast with Heroes

On Thursday, September 28th we hosted our 2nd annual Breakfast with Heroes. We served approximately 30-35 first responders and once again it was a gratifying experience. There were Sycamore Police department, Sycamore Fire Department and County Sheriff's officers in attendance.

Thank you to the crew who helped with the set-up, food preparation, serving and clean-up.



LOVE
THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY
LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

If Jesus had only one word in His vocabulary, it would be love. In fact, Jesus says all of His teachings can be summarized in one powerful word, agape: to think of the other person first and be willing to sacrifice in order to help that person. Agape love is selfless love. Generous love. Sacrificing love. Jesus is God's agape love. God sent His son to us and then sacrificed Him for us. God loves us first.

Jesus issues the invitation to us all: Love Him. Hear the words of Jesus: "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him". When we worship Jesus in the Eucharist, we love Him. When we obey Jesus and fulfill His commandments, we love him. Our actions and our service to Him become expressions of our love for Him. And when we love Jesus, we love God. When we begin to realize the full potential that God has in mind for us, we start to understand *who* we are. And we also realize *whose* we are. We are God's children. We belong to God.

In Jesus, we see God taking the first step to touch and shape our lives. In offering His son to you, God shows you His highest dreams for your life. He wants us to be like Christ. That is the best version of yourself. Just as Jell-O takes the form of the container it is surrounded by, so too are we shaped by what we are surrounded by. God loves you. That is who you are: His precious Child. God has dreams for your life. He has a blueprint for who He intends you to be. That blueprint gives your life meaning, direction, and purpose. And that God-given dream begins with a simple word: love. Who are you? A child loved by God.

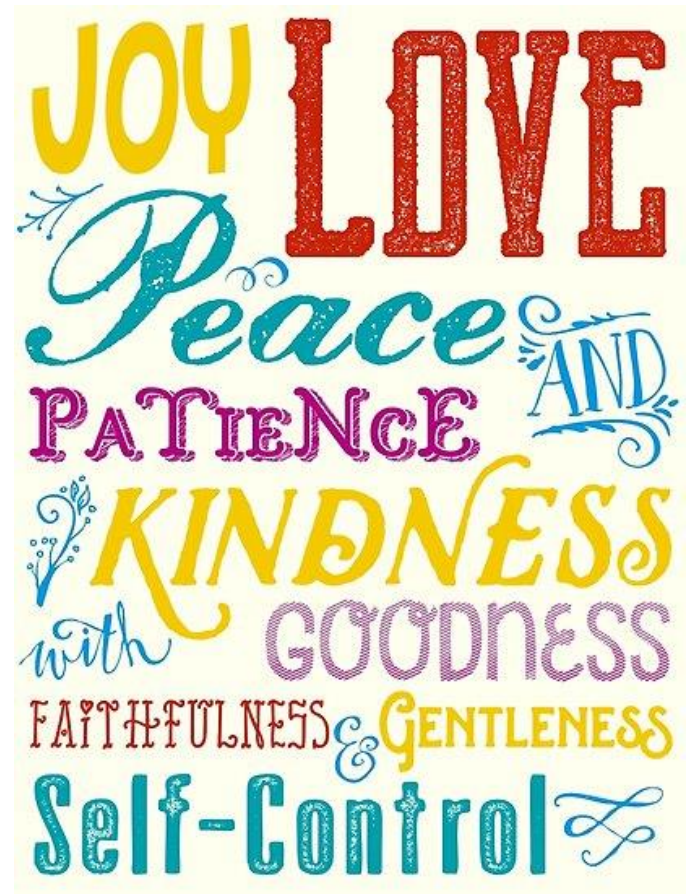
Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

1Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

John 14:21

Adapted from "NINE WORDS" written by Allen R. Hunt



AUGUST 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. 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 from friends and family are invaluable.

Father Mark has volunteered to visit St. Peter's "shut-in" parishioners during our time without an Interim/Full Time Priest. Visit requests can be made directly to Father Mark, our Senior Warden, Varsie Geisler, or any Caregivers Committee members.

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 September. Sign-up sheets for future monthly 2023 dinners for Hope Haven residents are in Waterman Hall. Students are welcome to help out by cooking or baking! Volunteer hours needed for school can be acknowledged by the office. 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.

Help needed! The Outreach Committee is also searching for new recipes, easy to prepare and low in cost. If you have suggestions, please put the in the mailbox of Lynne Roberts

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.

SPARTAN FOOD PANTRY

A donation of diaper wipes and assorted sizes of diapers was donated to the Spartan Food Pantry in September to help supply the needs of Sycamore School Families. A parishioner also donated feminine needs products during September after a special request was received. Our monthly donations are in response to the local growing need for diapers, and is also a way St. Peter's can assess what size and kind of diapers are most needed in our community, and the least expensive way to purchase them. The Spartan Food Pantry was most appreciative for the donations. Currently the Spartan Food Pantry is the only local community pantry with consistent supplies of diapers and wipes. St. Peter's Outreach Committee is proud to be a part of that local service and effort!

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Sunday, October 22, the children of the Church School and any interested parishioners will be invited to fill a shoebox as a gift to a child in a third world country. St. Peter's has been collecting items for these boxes all year and we hope to be able to fill 20-25 shoeboxes, making the cost of each box much lower while providing an experience filled with fun and fellowship for St. Peter's parishioners.

In November the Outreach Committee will take the filled shoeboxes to the nearest Samaritan's Purse collection center and see that our special gifts begin the journey to children around the world. Thank you to all those parishioners making donations throughout 2023 to help make this world-wide effort successful.

**ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST
OCTOBER 2023**

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

Helen Beamish
414 High Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Larry Buttmer
Room #202
1936 Brookdale Road
Naperville, IL 60563

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

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

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

Henry Vincent
921 Knollwood Village Road
Apt W208
Caseyville, IL 62232

**ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Vestry Meeting
August 17, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. with an opening prayer read by the Vestry.

Present for the meeting were Varsie Geiser, Brian Duffy, Cindy Vain, Stefanie Hill, Jenny Sidmore, John Vain, Fr. Mark Geisler, Pat Klein

Absent: Lynne Roberts, Deacon Dee

Meeting agenda: request to add Breakfast with Heros to new business. The agenda was approved with the change.

Minutes of the July Vestry meeting: approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Klein reported that a one-time annual pledge was received, which allowed our monthly income to show as over budget for the month by \$35,026.24. Year-to-date income vs. expenses show income is \$26,505.98 over budget. Utilities and rectory operating expenses will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. The report was approved with a motion by John Vain and a second by Stefanie Hill.

SR Warden report: Varsie Geisler reported that she was pleased with how the vestry handled the resignation of Fr. Georges. There was a dispute over the number of vacation days earned for 2023. The Diocese was called and asked to review. They agreed with the Senior Warden that he had used all but two of his earned/accrued vacation days. He was paid out for the two remaining vacation days.

JR Warden report: Brian Duffy shared a mock-up of new signage for the front yard, which will mirror our current church sign. It was pointed out that the word "Nursery" should not be on the sign as we currently do not offer nursery care. The sign will direct people to Waterman Hall and Sunday School. The cost for the new sign will be \$1905 which includes permit and installation. Motion to approve by Brian Duffy and seconded by Cindy Vain. Approved. Funding for the sign will be covered using Lloyd Beamish and Mabel Smith Memorial funds.

B&G report: Frank Beasley reported that the Hallway project of new flooring and painting is still on track for September/October.

The rectory remains a radon issue. Frank suggests we do another retest when the heating season starts to see if there is a change. Radon mitigation is costly, so the wait would be worthwhile, as the rectory is not in use.

The list of repairs needed in the rectory will be addressed as soon as the office hallway project is complete.

Committee reports: **HOPE HAVEN DINNERS:** Cindy Vain and friends will cover the August 23, 2023 dinner. We continue to have difficulties with the availability of food preparation volunteers and delivery of food to Hope Haven when committee members are out of town. Directions need to be clarified for volunteers: Casseroles must be baked and in the church kitchen by 5 p.m. for delivery unless alternative arrangements have been made

SPARTAN FOOD PANTRY: Delivery of assorted sizes of diapers, pull-ups, and wipes was made on August 16. The Spartan Food Pantry continues to be very appreciative of St. Peter's donations and involvement in this local pantry.

MEALS ON WHEELS: August driver responsibilities seem to be going well and all dates were covered except one. We did have fewer driver volunteers this month

OUTREACH COMMITTEE made the decision to send a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Chicago Diocese ERD/Maui Relief in response to the recent wildfires on that HI island. The Episcopal Church is strong in the state of HI, and we felt this was the best agency to send responsible donations. Another check might be issued to ERD if the need is apparent in the near future. Submitted by Lynne Roberts, Christian Outreach Committee Chair.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Varsie Geisler suggested that we have a small number of household items put in the rectory to allow Supply Priests use of the house on Saturday night before the Sunday Service. A bed, chair, and nightstand were suggested items.
- AED and First Aid/CPR training is scheduled for September 30. A maximum of 10 people can attend.
- Anita reported that the tenants at our Wetzel House have received a letter indicating that the

current lease will not be renewed effective October 19, 2023.

- The Caring Box currently in Waterman Hall will be moved downstairs.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ushers will be instructed to bring the elements and collection baskets to the altar at the appropriate time during the service.
- Fall cleanup: Consider hiring professionals twice annually for a thorough cleanup of all the grounds. No decision was made.
- Grip strips will be needed on the back steps before winter.
- Convention delegates are Stefanie Hill and Jenny Sidmore. Registration costs are due this month. St. Peter's will cover.
- Church policy stating that the Waterman Hall back door is to be locked at all times will be initiated immediately. One exception will be the once-monthly Hope Haven dinner deliveries to the kitchen until 5pm. The door will be unlocked.
- Missing items have created a need for security cameras on site. Arlo, Ring, and Blink all have basically the same features. Cameras will be placed in the church as well. Eight cameras will be ordered for the church, Waterman Hall, and the rectory. Brian Duffy moved and Varsie Geisler seconded the motion to proceed, All approved.

Discussion about the current downstairs location of the Nursery Room revealed the vestry felt this was not the ideal place for babies. The current upstairs storage room was previously used as the Nursery and the idea of making it a Nursery Room again was met with enthusiasm. An enclosure built and situated by the current double doors could be used for storing tables and chairs. This will allow the current storage room to be used for Nursery care. Brian/Varsie to explore bids for the renovation to be completed by St. Nicholas Day.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm with a blessing from Fr. Mark.

Respectfully submitted:
Anita Biletzky
Interim Vestry Clerk

St. Peter's Pumpkin Festival Booth



Pumpkin Festival 2023

The first day of fall brings excitement for cooler temperatures, the colors of the leaves, and for the upcoming Pumpkin Festival. St. Peter's Church also looks forward to Pumpkin Fest since it allows us an opportunity to raise money to help fund projects within the church and helps keep our name of St. Peter's out in the community. It is also a fun time of building community within our parish, I enjoyed meeting new parishioners and their families as we all worked together.

This will be my second year chairing this event and I am hoping that every parishioner will find some way in which they can be of assistance. Volunteers are needed to set-up and to take-down, to bake pumpkin squares, to serve, to run food back and forth from the kitchen to the front patio, and to serve as cashiers. There are numerous jobs that must be done in order to make this effort a success for St. Peter's. Primarily, the jobs to be done are on Sunday, but there are also a number that must be done on Saturday or even earlier.

Is there a place for you at the Pumpkin Fest event? Indeed, there is. I can't think of a better way to have fun as we work together for the benefit of St. Peter's. Obviously, the more people who help, the lighter the load for everyone.

Those who are unable to work at Pumpkin Fest may elect to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of supplies.

Ten percent of the profits from Pumpkin Fest are returned to the Sycamore organizing committee and ten percent is given to our Outreach Committee for distribution in the community.

Sign-up sheets are in Waterman Hall. Please find a place where you can help! Questions may be directed to Stefanie Hill.



October Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Jacquie Drake |
| 4 | Nancy Castle |
| 5 | Barbara Hulseberg |
| 7 | Joseph Mwela |
| 14 | Larry Dirst |
| 21 | Henry Burgweger III |
| 21 | Philip Montgomery |
| 23 | Cindy Vain |
| 23 | Hannah Hill |
| 26 | John Hulseberg |
| 27 | Jerry Dettloff |
| 27 | John Vain II |
| 28 | Bob Drake |
| 29 | Tamara Newquist |
| 30 | Bill Nicklas |



Service Times for Summer:

Sunday **10:15 am** In-Person Rite II
10:15 Sunday School

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

October Anniversaries

3 Mark & Sarah Mendenhall
 6 David & Anne Ovitz Ayres
 6 Howard & Tamara Newquist
 9 Al & Anneliese Masco
 11 Dan & Jenny Sidmore
 11 Shannon & Mitch Egler
 16 Chris and Denielle Noe
 19 Frank & Barb Beasley

Parish Clergy and Staff

Assisting Priest: Fr. Mark Geisler
 815-766-0694
 Deacon: Desiree Goodale
 Sarah Mendenhall: Music Director

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

October 2023 Calendar of Events at St. Peter's

Sunday, October 1	Fr. Mark celebrating Deacon Dee preaching Healing Service
Tuesday, October 3	7:00pm – Episode 4 of <i>The Chosen</i> – Waterman Hall
Sunday, October 8	10:15am service in the church 12:15pm Blessing of the animals in backyard of the rectory Fr. Mark celebrating and preaching
Tuesday, October 10	7:00pm – Episode 5 of <i>The Chosen</i> – Waterman Hall
Wednesday, October 11	6:00pm – Ladies Night Out – Waterman Hall Tastefully Simply Party Proceeds will be donated to Voluntary Action Center (VAC) RSVP to Anita Biletzky busia.ab5@gmail.com 815-793-5500
Thursday, October 12	6:00pm - Parish Potluck – Waterman Hall
Saturday, October 14	6:00 am Painting of Parish Hallway begins
Sunday, October 15	The Reverend Barbara Wilson - celebrating and preaching
Tuesday, October 17	7:00pm – Episode 6 of <i>The Chosen</i> – Waterman Hall
Thursday, October 19	7:00pm - Vestry – Waterman Hall
Sunday, October 22	The Reverend Marcus Johnson, PhD – celebrating and preaching Shoeboxes will be filled during coffee hour 3:00pm – Organ Recital – St. Paul's DeKalb 45 minutes – 3 organists
Tuesday, October 24	7:00pm – Episode 7 of <i>The Chosen</i> – Waterman Hall
Sunday, October 29	9:00am service – no music, no sermon Fr. Mark presiding Pumpkin Festival We need lots of volunteers. Sign-up sheets in Waterman Hall

"...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 28, Issue 10 – October, 2023

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