

December Morning Star



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk St.

Sycamore, IL 60178

815-895-2227

Website:

www.sycamorestpeters.org

From the Senior Warden

I'm finding it a little hard to believe that this article is for the December issue of the newsletter. This year, especially since July, has gone by at an unusually fast pace. One of the reasons is the added responsibilities of being the senior warden. As crazy and hectic as my life has been with my full-time job and my added responsibilities at church, I'm grateful to have the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the day-to-day life of a parish and know that I'm contributing. As a congregation, we've stepped up to make sure things get done; not always when they probably should have been done but, nevertheless, they get done.

I forgot to make announcements that pledge cards would be blessed at the service on November 26th, so they will be blessed at the service on December 3rd. If you haven't already returned a pledge card for 2024, there's still time. You can bring them to church and place them in the offering plate, you can drop them off in the office during office hours, and you can mail them. Pledge cards are accepted all year, but they're helpful when budget planning begins in December.

December is also the time when the call goes out for new vestry members. Becoming a vestry member is a good way to become involved in the life of St. Peter's and to help shape the future of the parish. There is room for at least four new members for three-year terms beginning at the Annual Meeting in January 2024, until the Annual Meeting in January 2027. If you're interested and/or have questions about becoming a vestry member, please talk with one of the wardens or a current vestry member. We all are happy to talk with interested parishioners. If you decide you would like to be on the vestry, we ask that you put together a brief biography and your reasons for wanting to be on the vestry and submit it by the end of December to be included in the January 2024 issue of the Morning Star. Including a photo of yourself also is helpful. New vestry members will be elected at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024. More to follow about the Annual Meeting in the January issue of the Morning Star.

We also need a vestry clerk. Anita Biletzky agreed to be the interim clerk early in 2023 but would now like to give someone else the opportunity to serve. If you would like to learn more about what being the vestry clerk entails, Anita will be happy to talk with you. If you decide that you'd like to be the vestry clerk, please talk with me and we'll go from there. It is not a position elected by the congregation but rather by the vestry.

Finally, below is a recap of what's happening during December.

Friday, December 8, St. Nicholas Day. 6:00pm short service in Waterman Hall followed by the potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to pass and an unwrapped toy which will be donated to the Salvation Army for distribution to children. You may bring your own adult beverages. St. Nicholas will make an appearance.

Sunday, December 10, Advent II. Fr. Mark, celebrant and preacher.

Sunday, December 17, Advent III. Fr. Mark, celebrant and Dn. Brad Osborn, preacher.

Sunday, December 24, Advent IV. The 10:15am service will be Lessons and Carols. Fr. Mark, celebrant. No sermon.

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve. 4:15pm Choir pre-service music.

Sunday, December 24, Feast of the Nativity. 4:30pm. Fr. Mark, celebrant. No sermon: instead, there will be the Children's Pageant.

Sunday, December 31, Christmas I. Fr. Mark, celebrant and preacher.

Wishing all of us a blessed and peaceful Advent and a blessed and joyful Christmas.

November Parish Supper

What a wonderful turnout for the November Parish Supper! A big thank you to Dan & Jenny Sidmore who provided ham, turkey and potato dishes for the meal. Along with the dishes provided by others it was quite the feast!

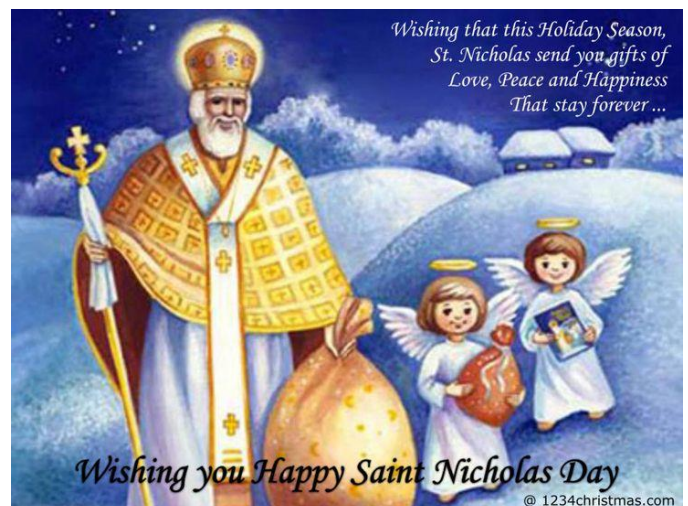


St. Nicholas Dinner

Mark your calendars for December 8th when we will have our annual St. Nicholas dinner. Please bring a dish to pass and an unwrapped toy to be placed under the tree and donated to the Salvation Army.

There will be a short service beginning at 6:00pm in the parish hall with dinner immediately following.

St. Nicholas himself will be making an appearance.



PEACE

YOUR MOST ATTRACTIVE QUALITY “PEACE ON EARTH”

Pause for a moment. Breathe peace in.
Where do you need peace?

Lots of people talk about desiring world peace. But when you think about it, very few of us have peace even in our families or our homes, or perhaps even in our souls.

God cares about your relationship with Him as well as with your neighbors. When you live in the Spirit of God, you will soon discover peace sprouting up in your relationships. Anger and quarrels will begin to fade, and peace will begin to grow in their place. Jesus leads to peace.

These are important words to hear. They are life-giving words. Hear them again: Jesus leads to peace.

He leads nowhere else.

Clearly, the first priority in your life is to find peace with God. Without that peace first, you will have no other peace. Remember that peace is spiritual. It is not something you can create for yourself or from within yourself. Peace comes from above; it comes from God. A divine peace that not only lives in you; it protects you.

With the peace of God, you will begin to see the fruit of peace growing in your life

Peace with self means knowing who you are: a child of God. Your value is not determined by the size of your savings account. You are not merely your job or what you do. You are more than your father's son or daughter. You

belong to Jesus. He guides your life. You are at peace with yourself.

Peace with God + Peace with self = Peace with others. What does that look like? The Bible makes it plain:

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be

wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought of what is noble in the sight of all.

Peace with God. Peace with self. Peace with others. It is a divine gift. Peace is the fruit of the spirit.

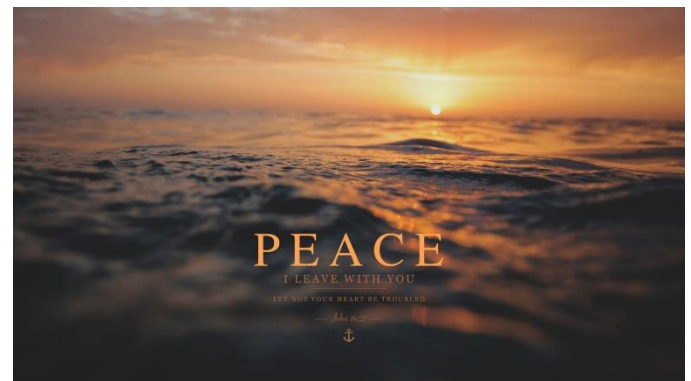
Jesus breathes it. We live in it.

The peace that surpasses all understanding.

Luke 2:14

Romans 12:14-18

Edited from “Nine Words”. Allen R. Hunt



DECEMBER 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, especially during the holiday season.

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

The November Hope Haven meal was catered by Rosati's and consisted of Alfredo Pasta with and without chicken, Italian salad and dressing, and breadsticks. Oranges, apple pies, whipped cream and leftover Halloween candy was also provided by the Outreach Committee. 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.

This year our Christmas "Angel Tag Tree" will have names of three Hope Haven families in need of Christmas gifts. Their specific wishes for gifts and gift cards will be available in late

November in Waterman Hall. All Unwrapped gifts will be due back to Waterman Hall by Sunday, December 10. Please help fulfill their wishes and make Christmas a special day in their difficult year of homelessness.

Toys donated at our St. Nicholas Fest in December will once again be taken to Salvation Army for a parent "shopping" experience for young children.

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 November to help supply the needs of Sycamore School Families. A parishioner also donated feminine hygiene products during October after a special request was received. Our monthly donations are in response to the local growing need for diapers, and are 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

On Sunday, October 22, Jacob Noe led the Church School staff to fill 26 shoeboxes to complete St. Peter's donation to Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry. In early November the

Outreach Committee took the shoe boxes to a regional center in Marengo, IL where they will begin the journey to children in a third world country. We are tracking the boxes and will learn the destination of our gifts in early 2024.

Thank you to all parishioners making donations throughout 2023 to help make this world-wide effort successful.



**ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST
DECEMBER 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

Tom Klein
Lincolnshire Place of Sycamore
710 Villagio Drive
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 #584
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
October 19, 2023

Approved 11/16/2023

The meeting was called to order at 7pm with an opening prayer read by the vestry.

Present: Varsie Geisler, Cindy Vain, Stefanie Hill, Jenny Sidmore, John Vain, Lynne Roberts, Fr. Mark Geisler, Pat Klein

Absent: Brian Duffy

Agenda: Approved with the addition of hiring a custodian and repair of the sacristy steps.

Minutes of the September Vestry

meeting: Approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report: Income for September was down \$6,447.72. YTD income is \$15,000 over budget. A finance committee meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12 after the 10:15am service. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion from Stefanie Hill and a second from Jenny Sidmore.

SR Warden report: Larry Buttimer suffered a fall and is now hospitalized. His dementia is progressing rapidly.

Jenny Sidmore and Stefanie Hill will be certified for the convention to be held Nov 17-18, 2023.

A review of upcoming services for the remaining year was given:

Saturday, December 2: Greening the church and putting up the Christmas Tree in Waterman Hall. Time TBD

Sunday, December 3: Decorate Waterman Hall after the 10:15am service.

Friday, December 8: St. Nicholas dinner. Short eucharist in Waterman Hall at 6pm followed by dinner and a visit from St. Nicholas.

Sunday, December 24: Advent IV – 10:15am service will be Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve - 4:15pm Choir Pre-service Music

Feast of the Nativity and
Children's Pageant - 4:30pm

JR Warden report: No report

B&G report: The decision was made not to reinstall the doors separating the entry hallway from Waterman Hall. We will consider using them for the new storage closet.

Committee reports: Pumpkin fest workers needed!

Old Business

"All Are Welcome Here" discussion: deferred to November or later meeting.

Grounds Clean-up: Bill Schofield will do the cleanup of the grounds.

Email situation update: for now, limit the number of emails to mailing lists each day. Livestream services: deferred to the November meeting.

Parish directory: Pat is working on an update and will be done with it by year's end.

Audit: Fr. Mark will ask Bill Cummings if he will do the audit.

Brian Duffy (Junior Warden) To-do List:

Clean-up and minor repairs/upkeep; get security cameras installed; get stair gripper strips 3 sets of stairs.

Storage closet: ???

New Business:

*Extended term for senior warden: all members will be asked to stay on until the interim arrives.

*Motion to extend the tenure of the Sr Warden and any vestry member for 1 year from Feb 2024 to Feb 2025 was made by John Vain and seconded by Jenny Sidmore. All approved.

*Custodian: consider Pam Brown as a replacement for Tom Klein. If agreed, she will need a background check.

*Stewardship: Stefanie Hill and Varsie Geisler will create the letter to go to the congregation.

* Senior Warden remarks: consider putting together a special events (traditional) list for newcomers.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm with prayer and a blessing from Fr. Mark.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Biletzky,
Interim Vestry Clerk



December Birthdays

- 6 Tyler Drake
- 6 Jerry Lane
- 10 Dallas Duffy
- 13 Bryant Mommer
- 17 Desiree Goodale
- 23 Bronwyn Burgweger
- 23 Linda Saxer
- 26 Neve Crittenden
- 28 Jane Ovitz
- 28 Colby Newquist
- 30 Beth Krogman
- 30 Beata Boies



October Anniversaries

- 9 Bud & Melissa Friden

Service Times:

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
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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

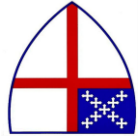
"...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" 2 Peter 1:19

*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 newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
The Parish Vision Statement:*



The Morning Star



Volume 28, Issue 11 – December, 2023

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