

January Morning Star



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk St.

Sycamore, IL 60178

815-895-2227

Website:

www.sycamorestpeters.org

From the Senior Warden

Christmas Eve services are always beautiful and meaningful; however, our service this year went above and beyond the usual. The church was magnificently decorated with the greens, the candles, and the garland. The poinsettias were abundant and were a stunning backdrop. The music, well, what can I say about the music? Once again, Sarah Mendenhall and the choir gifted us in spectacular fashion with their voices and beautiful music. The reading of the Story of the Nativity by Anita Biletsky set the stage for what was to come. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making the service special for all of us.

It's now time to look ahead to January and the coming new year. Our Annual Meeting will be after the service on the 28th. The service will be at 9:30am followed by a vestry-provided brunch. The meeting will follow. Committee/Organization reports need to be submitted to the office by the 21st. The 2024 budget and the vestry clerk will be presented to the congregation. We will elect new vestry members to serve three-year terms. To date, one person has expressed interest in serving on the vestry. That short biography and the reason for them wanting to serve on the vestry is elsewhere in the newsletter. We welcome and encourage more new vestry members. If you would like to serve on the vestry, please submit a brief biography and your reasons for wanting to serve on the vestry (a picture also is encouraged) to the office and we will send out a special communication with the slate of candidates prior to the meeting. Serving on the vestry is an important way to take part in the leadership of our parish and to help guide our future. Please consider becoming a new or returning vestry member.

I continue to work on securing supply clergy for the coming months. When names and dates have been finalized, a schedule will be sent out. Fr. Mark will continue to be the celebrant and preacher on the second Sunday of the month and one other Sunday. Deacon Dee will continue to preach, as will Deacon Brad Osborn, as their schedules allow. We are fortunate to have all three of them with us. We are hoping to have Reverend Sierra Reyes with us on Saturday, March 2nd for a meeting to get an update on what is happening on her end in securing candidates for us to interview as either an interim or a priest-in-charge. More details about that meeting will be forthcoming as I get them. It also will be a time for our questions to be asked and answered. Stay tuned .

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Happy New Year,
Varsie

Janette Scheer-Vestry Bio

Hi, my name is Janette Scheer. I have been a resident of Sycamore IL for almost two years. I have two children and five grandchildren. I taught for 33 years at Lyons Township High School, in the Special Education Program. I was Inclusion Facilitator for 10 of those years, developing curriculum, and managing a myriad of itinerant teachers so that students with challenges could succeed.

What brought me to St. Peter's Episcopal Church were the values it purports. It's acceptance of ALL people, where discrimination is not allowed. Where the Vestry, oversees the governing of the church, in partnership with the rector. Where it's tradition of living out our faith daily is empowering us, as individuals, to treat all as equals. St. Peter's legacy of Inclusion and granting refuge to those of all backgrounds, I treasure.

In the short time I have attended St Peter's, I organized, with help, a garage sale that brought in funds for the ECW. Helped one year with Pumpkin Fest, where my grandsons volunteered, and I have done some volunteering in the Sunday School Program. I hope that I will be able to contribute with "new ideas" and implement strategies that will improve St Peter's.

Thank-you for your consideration

Janette Scheer

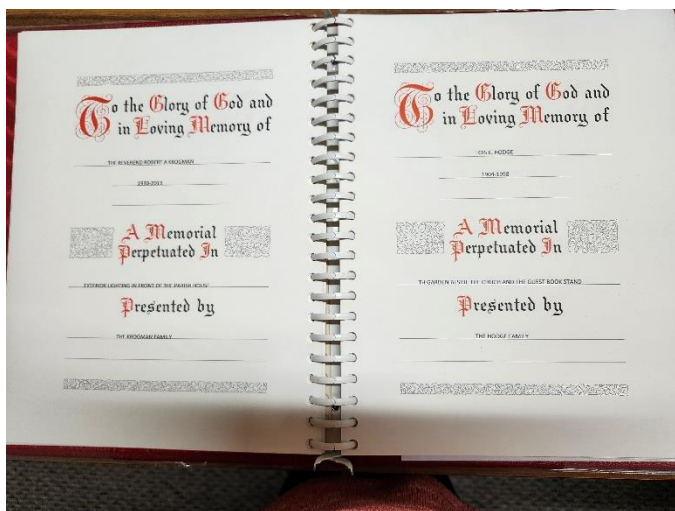
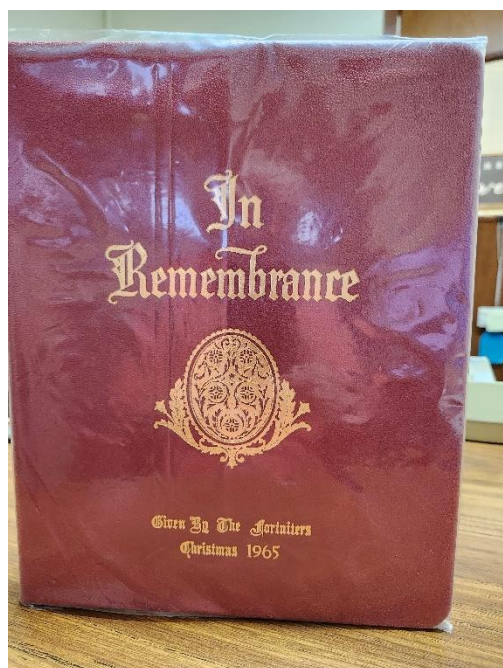
Christmas Eve Pictures



Remembrance Book

Thanks to our trusted librarian, Larry Dirst, the Remembrance Book that was given to St. Peter's in 1965 by the Fortnitters is now complete. This is a detailed history of the items that were given to the church as memorials of loved ones. Larry spent many hours researching and detailing the many memorials that have been donated going back in some cases to the 1800's. This is just another example of the dedication of Larry and his commitment to provide an accurate and complete history of St. Peter's.

The book will be on display in Waterman Hall for anyone to look at.



PATIENCE

YOUR MOST ATTRACTIVE QUALITY

"PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE"

As a child in a worship service said, "Patience means you have to wait a lot" Yet somehow God assures us that patience is a fruit of His Spirit. He intends for patience to grow within us as the Holy Spirit shapes our hearts. God is patient and he desires for His children to be patient too.

The scriptures define three kinds of patience: end-time patience, social patience, and personal patience (or endurance).

END-TIME PATIENCE. Believers wait for the Lord. We wait for the coming of the Lord. We wait for the return of Jesus. We wait for our souls to be reunited with Jesus forever. We wait for justice to be brought upon the evils of this world. We wait. This is end-time patience.

Life with God is eternal. Knowing that fact makes patience much easier to grasp and possess. We do not lose heart when things do not work out as we hoped, because we know there is coming a day when the purpose of God will prevail. Right will be made right and evil will be no more. This is worth waiting for.

SOCIAL PATIENCE means patience with other people, with the very real people in our life, right here and right now. *"Clothe yourselves with..patience. Bear with one another"*. Just as God is patient with us and our failures, so too does He desire that we will be patient with our difficult neighbors, our rebellious child, or our opinionated coworkers, in our struggle to live and be together. Bearing with one another when shortcomings and failures are apparent – *that* is social justice.

PERSONAL PATIENCE. The toughest part of patience, but also the most rewarding part.

The work of the Spirit makes Himself known to us as we learn to experience the hand of God in our suffering rather than despite our suffering. God can and does grow our patience by using the suffering in our life to draw us closer to Him. God does not cause us suffering, but He can use it to grow us. When we can endure personal suffering and still look God in the eye with a heart full of thanksgiving and joy, that is personal endurance and patience generated only by the Holy Spirit.

In the end, the Spirit draws us closer to God. The further we walk with God, the more we learn to stay the course and trust Him to provide. The more we grow in the spirit, the more patience we have, for we slowly grow to understand that God really is in control.

God is patient. And God will grow patience in us.

Edited from "Nine Words". Allen R. Hunt

JANUARY 2024 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. Christmas Greeting were sent to all on our "Thinking of You" list, and small poinsettia plants to our members in health care facilities. 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

Thank you to all parishioners who prepared or donated food for the December 27 Hope Haven meal. Sign-up sheets for future monthly 2024 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" had names of three Hope Haven families in need of Christmas gifts. Thank you to all who purchased gifts or gift cards.

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. A check for \$550, \$50 from parishioners and \$450 from the Outreach Committee, was sent in December. For Sycamore Food Pantry 2024 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 December to help supply the needs of Sycamore School Families. A parishioner also donates feminine hygiene products monthly after a special request was received. 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!

VAC

The Outreach Committee matched a \$300 check from St Peter's "Tastefully Simple" Party. VAC received a check for \$600 from our parish in December. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraising opportunity.

**ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST
JANUARY 2024**

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

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
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
November 16, 2023
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by the Senior Warden.

The vestry and clergy read the opening prayer.

Present: Varsie Geisler, John Vain, Stefanie Hill, Lynne Roberts, Jenny Sidmore, Cindy Vain, Brian Duffy,

Fr Mark Geisler, Pat Klein

Approval of Agenda: Approved with 3 additions: Bylaws update, convention, and committee reports

Approval of October Minutes: Approved with the spelling correction to Varsie Geisler's name.

Treasurer's Report: Pledges down for October \$5231. YTD pledges are over \$11,000. Com Ed expenses are over

budget, NICOR expenses are under budget.

John Vain gave a detailed report on the finance committee meeting with a review of trust funds.

Motion made and approved to withdraw 5% from Trust funds for 2024 and utilize 4% for budget needs. 1% then returned to trust funds.

Senior Warden's Report: Supply priests were used for two Sunday services. The remaining 2023 Sunday Services were reviewed. Eucharist will be in Waterman Hall before St. Nicholas dinner on December 8.

ECW lunch with the DeKalb ECW group was delightful. More gatherings were suggested. We are doing a good job keeping projects moving.

Junior Warden's Report: Gripper strips have been purchased and will be put on all the wooden steps.

Sacristy steps are on the schedule for repair/replacement next spring. Security cameras will

be installed in the next 2 weeks. A concern with a lack of attention to locked doors was discussed as the Waterman Hall doors were both found to be unlocked on Monday morning.

Committee Reports:

Outreach: 26 shoe boxes are on their way to end recipients. After the holidays a video will be available to see just how the boxes are put together using a child's wish list.

Angel gift tree tags: Salvation Army is not sending information. Alternative: Hope Haven asking for family help. 2 families using Outreach funds. We will continue to give gifts from St. Nicholas dinner to the Salvation Army.

Hope Haven: dinner is the day before Thanksgiving. Rosati's will cater much of the meal and deliver it to Hope Haven.

We will send fruit and pie earlier that day.

Outreach will cover the cost of the meal.

Caregivers: A meeting will be held to review the current list of shut-ins.

Old Business

"All Are Welcome Here" discussion. 2 schools of thought: we are already a welcoming church. A small sign noting that would be ok. A rainbow could cause trouble for people who are opposed

to displays of LGBTQ support. Church members could be hurt. We are children of God and live a Christian faith.

Our Mission statement says that we are inclusive. Suggestion: wording added to our new church sign:

ALL are welcome. Vestry approved and Anita will work with Banner Up.

- Clean-up and minor repairs/upkeep rectory. No report.

- Storage closet for Waterman Hall: \$4000 estimate with end-of-January completion

- Talk with Pam Brown (permanent custodian position) Varsie will meet with her.

- Special Events list for newcomers: vestry members are to put together lists to share at the Dec. mtg.

New Business

- Ideas for new vestry members and new vestry clerk are needed in January 2024. The December Morningstar will ask for names and the January Morningstar will list candidates.

- Kitchen electrical wiring. A new breaker is needed. Finney's will be contacted.

- Bylaws update. John will send the bylaws file to Varsie and Stefanie for updating.

- Sign for Hallway approved to hang above the service window.

- Convention: have resolutions been reviewed? Support of Palestine is on the resolution.

Adjournment: Motion made by Stefanie Hill with a second from Jenny Sidmore. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer – Vestry and Clergy

Blessing – Fr. Mark

Respectfully submitted by

Anita Biletzky

Interim Clerk



January Birthdays

1	Aubrey Hulseberg
1	Brooke Duffy
2	Janette Scheer
3	Laura Hulseberg
3	Natalie Egler
4	Abbie L. Waterman
9	Wright B. George
12	Josh Boies
13	Henry Vincent
14	Anita Biletzky
20	Pat Burgweger
21	Liane O'Keefe
23	Evyn Carrier
23	Cecelia Fredin
27	Debra Sipp
27	Lamont Mommer
31	Varsie Geisler



January Anniversaries

25	Bob & Jacquie Drake
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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
www.sycamorestpeters.org

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

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Volume 29, Issue 1 –January, 2024



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