



The Spire

The Newsletter of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Smyrna, Delaware



"A Community of Faith Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing"

July 2019

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Rector's Reflections...

The sharing of the Peace of Christ in the eucharistic liturgy goes back to the early church. At that time the baptized and the unbaptized would gather together with the opening greeting of "The Lord be with you." Everyone was present for the lessons, sermon, and prayers. At the end of the liturgy of the Word, all unbaptized persons left.

No one either observed or participated in the Lord's Supper until they were baptized. A person's first time occurred during the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) after a three-year preparation period.

Therefore, at the start of the eucharist, baptized Christians were separated from the world and were gathered alone with the Risen Lord. Just as the first disciples were separated from the world when they were gathered together and the Risen Lord appeared to them. This part of the service began with the celebrant saying "Peace be unto you" in memory of the intimate first words the Risen Lord spoke to the first gathered disciples (Jn. 20:19).

Originally, in the Middle East the peace was a kiss on the lips, as was the custom way of greeting in that culture. Before we get too excited, we need to remember that men and women were separated. So men greeted men, women greeted women, and probably the bishop greeted clergy (who were all men at this point). The equivalent of a kiss in the Middle East would be a handshake in our culture.

Dom Gregory Dix states by the fourth century the opening greeting was expanded to the celebrant saying "The peace of the Lord be always with you" and the people responding "And with thy spirit." The desires of both these statements could be fulfilled since the holy church was still separated out of the world (only the baptized). The peace being shared is not a peace the world can give. It is the peace that passes all understanding that can only come from God.

Since everyone present were faithful followers of Jesus, everyone was consciously seeking to live in God's Peace and could say these words with genuineness. Within this action, the persecuted church experienced God's peace within itself by following the example given by Jesus.

Historian Justin Martyr writes during the second century the peace immediately preceded the collection of alms. This was taking seriously Jesus teaching in Matthew 5:23-24 if you are offering a gift and remember a member has something against you, first be reconciled to your brother/sister then offer your gift.

In the fifth century the peace was moved to the end of the eucharistic prayer and was exchanged right before the breaking of the bread for communion. This was to ensure that the people who are the Body of Christ were at peace with one another before they received within themselves the Body of Christ of the Risen Lord. The passing of the peace continues to be in this place in the Roman Catholic Church.

In the Anglican Church, when the first Book of Common Prayer (BCP) was printed in 1549 the passing of the peace occurred in the same place as the Roman Church. The 1549 prayer book was liturgically very catholic. The next BCP printed in 1552 was liturgically more protestant and the peace was completely deleted. The passing of the peace remained absent, including from the first American BCP, until the late twentieth century. In the United States, it was restored in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer to the end of the liturgy of the Word and before the collection of alms.

In the late Middle Ages (approximately 1300-1500AD) there was such concern regarding the abuse of the passing of the peace getting out of control that a Pax Board, or *Osculatorium*, was created so the peace could be passed without direct contact. It was a board or plate that usually had a crucifix on it with a handle. The celebrant would first kiss the board and then it was passed around to the other ministers and members of the congregation. Fortunately, this custom became obsolete.

The ritual of the Peace is a reminder that true peace on earth needs to come from God and not from power, prestige, materialism, status, or any other human construct. God's Peace, which passes understanding and which the world cannot give, is felt on earth when Christians embody it through their words and actions. This is an important way in which Christians are sacraments—are holy—are set apart.



Our Thanks this month go to...

Wayne Burris, Tammy Devall, Rob Miles, and David Womelsdorf for taking down our 81 flags at the cemetery and bringing them back to the church.

Wayne Burris for verifying the connector assembly on each of our 81 flags.

Paul Buckley for hanging our Directory Signs inside and outside.

Missy Vaughn for attending the Preschool Open House on June 4.

Pat Womelsdorf for being the Lay Reader at the funeral for Bette "Pat" Lamb.

Shirley Biddle for planning the Eating-Out-Event at Hardees' on June 12 and for the wonderful raffle basket.

Dorris Wheeler for planning the Ladies Lunch Out at Lemon Leaf on June 13 and the Ladies Night Out at Boondocks on June 20.

Mary Sanders for coordinating the breakfast on Father's Day and **Everyone** who brought a dish to share.

Paul Buckley, Rob Miles and David Womelsdorf for installing the Ring Doorbell at the Office front door.

Danny Andrew, Paul Buckley, and Larry Thornton for trimming the bushes, raking the leaves, pulling the weeds, and beautifying our grounds.

Danny Andrew for mowing the back and side yards and moving the playground equipment to the ivy area for the summer.

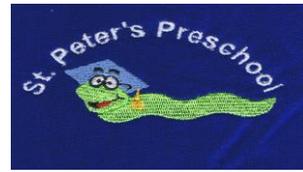
Dorris Wheeler and Dawn Edwards for coordinating our annual Block Party on our Patron Feast Day.



St. Peter's Feast BBQ - Thank You

Just want to put a BIG Thank You out there to everyone that helped set up, serve, clean up or brought donations of food or drinks to our St. Peter's Feast BBQ. BIG thanks to Dawn for managing the food donations and Kelvin for managing that HOT BBQ grill!!!

Thanks all; Dorris Wheeler,
Evangelism Ministry



Patter from Preschool

Allow me to introduce myself, I am Tina Morris and I would like to start by thanking St. Peter's Episcopal Church for the opportunity to be the new preschool Director/Teacher. I have had the pleasure of working with Beth Wessell for a number of years. I started with Beth back in 2001-2003. I was lucky enough to have returned in 2012-2018. I have been married to my husband Donald for 26 years and we have two beautiful daughters. I am proud to be called Nana by my 4 year old grandson. I have been a member of the Smyrna-Clayton community for 25 years.

Along with Karen Sawyer, my Teacher-Assistant, I am very excited for our new beginning. We have a lot of changes coming to our program, from a new curriculum, to our breakfast club and lunch bunch to name just a few. I hope as the year draws closer you will see some of the changes and be able to follow our classes throughout the year.

We are currently on schedule to have two full classes. I hope that we will be able to continue to serve the community.

Tina Morris
Director/Teacher



Important/Fun Dates for July:

- 7/4 Independence Day
- 7/6 National Fried Chicken Day
- 7/7 Chocolate Day
- 7/13 Barbershop Music Appreciation Day
- 7/15 Cow Appreciation Day
- 7/18 Delaware State Fair Starts – 100th Anniversary!
- 7/20 National Lollipop Day
- 7/24 Amelia Earhart Day



This is the 100th Year of the Delaware State Fair!!





Outreach for 2019

Thank you for supporting our monthly Outreach Projects in 2018. We had a busy year and it is our hope that we have made a difference in our community. Our monthly schedule for 2019 will be the same as in 2018 and we will continue our on-going Outreach projects as well. The project for each month is listed below. If you have suggestions for Outreach projects, please contact me.

May we all have a giving heart in 2019!

Mary Sanders (302)-659-1466

Matthew 25:35-45

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- January – P.I.C. (Personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell~St. Paul's Church, Clayton
- February – "Souper Bowl of Caring" (funds collected), Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium
- March – Food of the Month - Food Pantry at Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna
- April – PIC (personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell St. Paul's, Clayton ERD Episcopal Relief and Development -ERD (funds collected) Lent Project
- May – Food of the Month - Food Pantry at Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna
- June – Home of the Brave Veterans Home, Milford (wish list items)
- July – Food of the Month - Food Pantry @ Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna Alex's Lemonade Stand at the 4th of July Event, funds for Children's Cancer Research**
- August – Back Pack Project for North Smyrna Elementary School
- September – Kent County Animal Shelter, Camden (wish list items)
- October – Thanksgiving Dinner, Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium (funds & breakfast food items)
- November – DHCI Christmas for Residents, Smyrna (wish list items)
- December – Veterans United Outreach of Delaware (Gift Cards)



Harvest Sharing – July

Food of the Month –

Food Pantry @ Asbury U.M. Church, Smyrna Alex's Lemonade Stand at the 4th of July Event to Help Children's Cancer Research

Our Annual Alex's Lemonade Stand was set up at the Park in Smyrna on the 4th of July, following the Parade that went through the town of Clayton this year. The Alex's Lemonade Stand chairperson is Mary Sanders. Watch for follow-up information in next month's Spire.



Harvest Sharing – June

Home of the Brave

See next month's Spire for Follow-up.



Make Your Summer Memorable at Memorial House! Dates Still Available

Nestled among the pines, just two blocks from the Atlantic Ocean and backing on to Lake Gerar, Memorial House is sheltered from the hustle and bustle of the busy resort town of Rehoboth Beach. Its spacious rooms beckon you to stay. Breakfast and dinner are served daily. Guests appreciate the private chapel where they can enjoy quiet moments alone or join in group worship. We still have rooms available for the following dates; July 5-12, July 12-19, August 9-16, August 23-30, Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 2, September 2-9.

Please visit memorialhouse.church for more information or call Dina Hollingsworth at 302.567.2808

