



The Spire

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



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

August 2019

Volume 38, No. 8

Rector's Reflections...

Last month I reflected on the history and meaning of sharing the Peace of Christ during the liturgy. This month we'll reflect on the meaning and message of how we share the Peace of Christ at St. Peter's.

The Vestry met with the Bishop during his visit to talk about what St. Peter's is doing to invite, welcome, and connect new people and families into our congregation so we will grow. A Vestry member shared about us being very "welcoming" in our sharing of the Peace.

The Bishop did not respond in agreement. Instead, he wondered if there were first-time visitors put off by the way we share the Peace? The answer is "yes" there are; as there are also some parishioners—especially during flu season.

The Bishop then explained to be "welcoming" means we think from the perspective of a new person walking into this congregation without knowing anyone. Then, identify all those moments during a person's first visit with strangers and how we function as a community where a new person might feel awkward, out-of-place, or uncomfortable.

Finally, we make sure our actions in those moments *take onto ourselves those awkward feelings*, so the new person doesn't experience them. Then, later when the new person reflects over their total experience to decide whether they want to return to St. Peter's, their emotional reflection will be all positive.

This is actually a new way churches need to think in today's culture. The church does not hold the position today that it held in society when we were children. Going to church on Sundays in society is an exception rather than the norm.

The question for us is what does it look like and feel like to first time guests when 25 to 50 people all scramble into the aisle bumping into one another to hug and greet every single person—and in many instances striking up personal conversations?

I, as an introvert, know it can feel overwhelming and awkward. Since the new person does not know us, they do not have the same emotional affection towards us that we have toward one another. Their personal space is important to them. In addition, theological, we are actually taking this moment from God to make it about us rather than being messengers for God.

There is a fine line between sharing the Peace and having an intermission. The Peace is a ritual sharing of God's Presence that signifies our unity in Christ prior to our receiving Communion—which accomplishes that unity. Intermission is talking to one another—especially those we know.

If in Christ we are truly *one body*, then Christ's Peace shared by those around us is also a sharing of the Peace by the whole community. From Christ's perspective, the sharing is in the Body of Christ rather than literally on an individual basis.

There are some of us who believe that when most parishioners greet a guest during the Peace, then we have shown that we are a welcoming church. In today's culture, that is not true.

Whether we are a welcoming church is determined by a new person in the first ten minutes after the service ends. It is in these moments that we are not following the script of the liturgy, so our true selves become visible by our actions. Do we immediately move to welcome our guests and introduce ourselves or do we look for those with whom we feel comfortable?

Rising to the challenge of changing our behavior and actions so our guests do not experience any awkwardness of being here for the first time is being a truly welcoming church in the 21st century.

I wonder what guests' sense would be if we cut back on the congestion created during the Peace by letting God truly have that moment and move all the personal social greeting to either before or after the service and going into the coffee hour?

It might help us to take time to build personal relationships one-on-one as well as making our love more visible by choice rather than written script. It might also give us a reason to go and greet our guests after the service during that period when first-time folks decide whether a congregation is welcoming or not.

What do you think?

In Christ's Love and Service, *DJ+*

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No Vestry Meeting in July or August

- Our next meeting is Sunday, **September 15th**, following the 10:00 AM service and brief coffee hour appearance.

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Vestry Members

January 2020	January 2021	January 2022
Shirley Biddle	Elvis Belle	Terri Anderson
Ray DePhillis	Paul Buckley	Dawn Edwards
Dorris Wheeler	Jim Vaughn	Mary Sanders
2019 Officers:		
Jim Vaughn, Sr. Warden	Paul Buckley, Jr. Warden	
Bob Merrill, Treasurer	Lisa Embert, Secretary	



Mark your Calendars:

- 8/18 Honoring Senior Citizens
- 8/20 Diocesan Meeting 4:30-6pm (Common Room)
- 8/21 Centering Prayer only 10am, No Healing Service or Bible Study
- 8/23 Scrapbooking 5-10pm (Parish Hall)
- 8/24 Scrapbooking 9am – 11pm (Parish Hall)
- 8/28 Centering Prayer only 10am, No Healing Service or Bible Study
- 8/28 Preschool “Meet Your Teacher” - 10am (4’s), 11am (3’s)
- 8/29 Preschool “Parent Night” – 6pm (4’s), 7pm (3’s)



Inviting Possibilities

Mark your calendars for our future events:



September 21st- Yard Sale at the church, 8am-2pm (Clean out those basements and garages!!)



October 12th - The Witches’ Tea, an event to usher in autumn
 Blessings to all, Have a wonderful summer!!!
 Shirley Biddle



Calling All Senior Citizens!

Come Worship with Us on

**National Senior Citizen’s Day (55+)
 Sunday, August 18, 2019**

**Join us for Sunday Services at 8am or 10am
 Followed by Coffee Hour, Fellowship & Church Tour**

Celebrate the Gift of Life, and share stories!

For questions call the Church office at 653-9691



Our Thanks this month go to...

Danny Andrew for taking pictures of our candidates for confirmation and reception during the Bishop’s visit on June 30.

Paul Buckley for posting our sign by the Ring doorbell instructing people that the door is locked and to ring the bell during business hours or if they have a meeting.

Mary Sanders for coordinating our Alex’s Lemonade Stand outreach on July 4.

Danny & Dorothy Andrew, Shirley Biddle, and Mary Sanders for working at the Alex Lemonade Stand booth at the Smyrna park on July 4.

Ronny Coverdale for helping set up the tent and tables on July 4 at the park.

Bob Merrill for coordinating with Moore Seal, Inc. to seal and stripe our parking lot across the street.

Danny Andrew for mowing our side and back yards during the summer.

Larry Thornton for mowing the front yard and curb and for keeping our brick walk free of weeds during the summer.





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 – Mid Year Update

Over the past 6 months we have collected food items, personal care items, goods for our veterans and money to support various organizations through our Harvest Sharing Projects. We have had a very successful half year! Just to update you on the work done through your generous donations, I wanted to share some totals on our harvest sharing. Your giving exceeds \$1800.00!

- Food Items collected for Asbury Food Pantry - \$289.61
- Personal/household items collected for Ewell's St. Paul's PIC - \$343.72
- Souper-bowl-of-Caring for Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium - \$200.00
- Gifts for Life (ERD) funds collected to purchase livestock - \$582.49
- Home of the Brave, items for Veterans home - \$459.71

During the next 6 months we have additional food items being collected in July along with funds donated for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. August will be our month to collect backpacks for students in Smyrna. September we will collect items for Kent County Animal Shelter. During October we will collect funds for Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium to help with the annual Thanksgiving Community dinner and we will collect breakfast items to be given out at the event. In November we will collect items for the residents at DHCI to be used to make up Christmas and Birthday gift bags. To close out 2019, we will collect gift cards for Veterans United Outreach of Delaware. These gift cards are used to pay for gas, travel expenses and meals for veterans having a difficult time here in Delaware.

God has blessed us and we are blessed to share these blessings with others.

Thank you for Sharing!
Mary Sanders

*"Happiness doesn't result from what we get,
but what we give."
~Ben Carson*





Harvest Sharing – June Follow-up
Home of the Brave

I want to thank the generosity of all who contributed to this year’s drive for Home Of The Brave. Talk about consistency, last year we donated \$455.00 worth of supplies and miscellaneous items, for 2019 the total was \$459.00!!!.

We had everything from bed sheet sets to toilet tissue to tree seedlings, and one 4 ft. tall swamp maple tree. We had a check, a gift card, and stamps as well.

I want to thank Ray DePhillis for helping me load up at St. Peters and unload my van at HOTB and also thanks to Mary Sanders for tallying up all the items that was collected.

Thank you all for another successful drive.
Jim Sbarra, Chairman

♥THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS! ♥



Letter from Home of the Brave

Dear St. Peter's Episcopal Church,

This letter is to show our appreciation for your monetary donation of \$25.00, the \$25.00 Walmart Gift card, paper products, cleaning supplies, postage stamps, toiletries, linens, cereal, coffee and seedling trees to the Home of the Brave. No goods or services were received on the part of this donation. Home of the Brave relies greatly on supporters such as you, to continue to provide services to homeless veterans in our community. Our goal is to provide case management for each veteran to transition to their next step within 6-9 months after coming to live at Home of the Brave. Providing this transformation assistance to our nation’s veterans is truly a lifesaving gift. Thank you so much for your commitment to our nation’s veterans.

With deep appreciation,
RJ Popio, Operations Supervisor



Harvest Sharing – August
“Back to School – Backpack Project”

Dear St. Peter’s Family,

Once again St. Peter’s will be participating in the “Back to School-Backpack Project.” The recipients of the backpacks will be students in need at North Smyrna Elementary. Included is a general list of supplies needed from second grade teachers. If you would like to be a part of this very worthwhile cause, please purchase a backpack and fill it with the items listed and bring it to Church no later than **Sunday, August 25th**.

Last year we filled 51 backpacks and got the eager little students off to a great start.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 653-6809. Thank you again for your kindness and support, past and present.

Terry Merrill, Chairperson



Back to School Supply list:

- 1 – Backpack (no wheels)
- 1 – Package Wide-ruled paper
- 1 – Zipper Pouch Pencil Case
- 2 – Black & White Marble Composition books
- 1 – Ruler with Centimeters & inches
- 1 – Pair Children’s Scissors
- 2 – Pkgs. #2 pencils
- 1 – Pkg. Pink Erasers
- 2 – Box of 24 Crayons
- 5 – Glue Sticks
- 2 – 2 pocket folders

For Classroom use

- 2 – Boxes of Tissues
- 1 – Bottle of Hand Sanitizer OR Clorox Wipes
- 1 -- Box Ziploc Gallon OR
Ziploc Sandwich Plastic Bags



**“WHAT’S HAPPENING”
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

August

- 8/2 Herbert Morris, Emma Statham
- 8/3 George Adams
- 8/4 Madelyn Margavage
- 8/5 Jim Vaughn
- 8/7 Denise Warnett
- 8/13 Jay Vaughn, Alan Robinson
- 8/15 Elisabeth Edwards, Christa Porter
- 8/17 Ray Lampe
- 8/18 Tom DiCuirci
- 8/21 Chris Merrill
- 8/24 Gid Honsinger
- 8/25 Shirley Biddle
- 8/26 Brandon Jones
- 8/31 Chase Correll

Anniversaries

- 8/1 Sandy & Alan Robinson
- 8/5 Erin & Patrick Cronin
- 8/8 Tammy & Bruce Devall
- 8/16 Kelli-Ann & Charlie Jones
- 8/17 Mary & Herbert Morris
- 8/19 Kathy & Duane Young
- 8/21 Joan & Michael McGrath
- 8/24 Kitty & Dave Holtz



If anyone would like to brag about a milestone birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement, birth of a child or grandchild or any major event in your lives, this is the place to do it!!! Call the office and we'll make sure to get it into the Spire so we can all enjoy your news!!

If you would like to have the Altar flowers put in Church In Memory of or in Thanksgiving for someone, please sign your name next to the date on the charts in the Parish Hall (next to the kitchen). **The florist will bill you** (Note: the price for both vases is \$40.00) or if you would like to have the Aumbry Candle (\$20.00 a month) please sign up.

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ALTAR FLOWERS – August

- 4th Cheryl Thornton
- 11th Neda Biggs
- 18th Lavoura Cahall
- 25th Catherine Huidekoper/Georgia Carter

AUMBRY CANDLE – August

Jim & Becky

August Parish Cycle of Prayer:

- 4th Christa Porter
Rex Price
- 11th Steve & Mary Putman
Beverly Ratty
- 18th William Raynor
Melody Richards
- 25th Alan & Sandy Robinson
Juan, Leslie, Antonio & Clara Rodriguez



Patter from Preschool

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer, it will be over before we know it. I have been coming in a couple days a week over the summer preparing for an exciting new year with Preschool.

We will be kicking off at the end of August with “Preschool Meet Your Teacher” on Wednesday the 28th at 10am with the Adventurers (4’s) and 11am with the Explorers (3’s). Then on Thursday the 29th, we will have “Parent Night for Preschool”, 6pm for the Adventurers (4’s) and 7pm for the Explorers (3’s). We are hoping for a good turnout for both as the classes are just about completely full! School will be starting before we know it, September 3rd for the 4 year olds and September 5th for the 3 year olds.

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer, and try to stay cool.

Tina Morris
Director/Teacher



Important/Fun Dates for August:

- 8/2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day
- 8/3 National Watermelon Day
- 8/4 U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- 8/10 National S’mores Day
- 8/13 International Left Handers Day
- 8/19 National Aviation Day & National Potato Day
- 8/20 World Mosquito Day
- 8/27 Just Because Day
- 8/31 International Bacon Day



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; August 9-16, August 23-30, Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 2, Sept. 2-9.

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

