



The Spire

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



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

November 2019

Volume 38, No. 11

Rector's Reflections...

St. Peter's has a Deacon! Allow me to virtually introduce the Rev. Deacon Laurence "Larry" Norfleet and his wife Sue:



Deacons are the first of three ordained ministries in the Episcopal Church, with priests and bishops being the other two. Deacons can be either transitional or vocational. Transitional deacons go on to be ordained priests. Vocational deacons are permanently deacons. I was a transitional deacon. Dn. Larry is a vocational deacon.

The ministry of a deacon is one of service and, in particular caring for those in need, following in the footsteps of the first deacons in the early Church (see Acts 6:1-6). Deacons do not receive a salary from the church as they offer their time and talent to God and the Church in gratitude and service. Dn. Larry is retired from a long and fruitful career as a process engineer.

What do deacons do? Their primary role is bringing awareness of those in need before the Church. Next, they assist in all Sunday and major services. In the Holy Eucharist, the deacon proclaims the Gospel, participates in preaching, may lead the Prayers of the people, calls the people to confession, prepares and clears the Holy Table, assists in distribution of communion, and gives the dismissal. Deacons also visit the

sick and homebound with the Holy Eucharist as well as support Lay Eucharistic Visitors in their ministry. In this Diocese, deacons also focus on Evangelism—telling the Good News of our Risen Lord out in the world.

We will all be living into our new Deacon's ministry at St. Peter's together, since this is the first time in its history that St. Peter's will have a deacon. This does mean change, which as we really know happens all the time, even though we may not always like to admit it. Change in this instance means excitement, joy, and doing greater works for God.

Welcome, Dn. Larry and Sue! We are blessed by your presence and pray to be a blessing to you.

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



Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Smyrna Citizens Hose Company
Sunday, November 24, 2019
2:00pm – 5:00pm

No Cost to those that dine!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Monetary Donations can be made out & mailed to:
The Smyrna Clayton Ministerium
118 W. Commerce St.
Smyrna, DE 19977
(Please put – "Thanksgiving Dinner" in the Memo)



Highlights from 10/20/2019 Vestry Meeting

The main highlights from the meeting were:

- Met with Deacon Larry Norfleet. Then after a brief discussion voted to accept the Bishop’s invitation to have a diaconal ministry at St. Peter’s with Dn. Larry.
- Voted to create a paid Bookkeeper position and voted to accept Kathy Steele doing these duties as well so she is now the Parish Administrator and Bookkeeper.
- Heard that a grant application for steeple repairs has been submitted to a trust in Wilmington who will meet near the end of November and notify us by mid-December of their decision.
- Learned the Diocese is hosting a second annual *Invite – Welcome – Connect* seminar on Saturday, November 23 and the Bishop is requesting three people attend from each parish. Terri Anderson, Dawn Arnold, and Shirley Biddle volunteered to attend. Announcements will be made at services to invite parishioners. The Vestry voted for St. Peter’s to pay the nominal registration fees since parishioners are donating 6 hours on a Saturday.
- Approved the September 2019 Minutes.
- Learned one Alternate Delegate is not available to attend Diocesan Convention in January. Since we have two Alternates who are available and we have not needed an Alternate to step in, this position will not be filled.
- Also learned that Diocesan Convention is changing from being held the last Friday and Saturday in January to the Friday and Saturday before Thanksgiving. In the transition year of 2020 there will be a one-day convention on Saturday, November 21 at St. Andrew’s School. Beginning in 2021 Convention will return to Friday and Saturday.
- Discussed the need to take some precautionary security measures on Sunday mornings and agreed to keep the Office Wing door locked and lock the Parish Hall door when the service starts and unlock it when the service ends. Persons can still enter during services through the handicap ramp door or the sanctuary church doors.
- Learned the Witches Tea netted around \$3,300.
- Connecting team reported they will be setting up tables and chairs in the Parish Hall for Consecration Sunday the day before.
- Learned a Radon test kit has been procured to test the Parish Hall as required for the Preschool. The kit will be put in the crawl space under the Parish Hall for several days and then mailed in for analysis. This is a new requirement from the department that licenses our preschool. [Editor’s note: The Radon test passed ☺!]

- Learned there is a Delaware Cemetery Board meeting on the 23rd that Ray, Paul and Bob will be attending. One of the topics will be illegible tombstones.
- Inviting Possibilities team reported that an Eating-Out fundraiser has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at Pat’s Pizza from 11AM – 8PM. The church will receive 20% of proceeds for all orders with a coupon received during this date and time. We will again have the Christmas flea market during our Dinner with Santa event on December 6. An Eating-Out fundraiser at Hardees is also being planned for December and will have a raffle basket similar to last year.
- Reviewed the financial reports ending September 30.
- The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, November 17 after the 10AM service & coffee hour.

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Vestry Members

| January 2020 | January 2021 | January 2022 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Shirley Biddle | Elvis Belle | Terri Anderson |
| Ray DePhillis | Paul Buckley | Dawn Arnold |
| 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:

- 11/10 Honoring Veterans – Both Services
- 11/11 Veteran’s Day
- 11/12 Eating-Out Event – Pat’s in Smyrna 11am – 8pm
You will need a Coupon,
- 11/17 Vestry Meeting, 11:30am, Common Room
- 11/24 Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium Thanksgiving Dinner, 2-5pm, Smyrna Firehouse
- 11/25 Preschool Closed for Thanksgiving – Reopens Dec. 2nd
- 11/27 Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7pm @ the 1st Presbyterian Church
- 11/28 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

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Veterans Day – November 11th

To All Veterans



Whether At Home Or Abroad
 Active Duty ~ Reserves ~ Retired

All Americans Say:

THANK YOU!

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Outreach for 2019

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? ³⁹When 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 – November Spire

The items collected in September for Kent County Animal Shelter in Camden have been delivered. Thank you to Shirley Biddle and Ronnie Coverdale for delivering our donated items to the center following the Blessing of the Pets on October 3, 2019. Once again this generous Parish came through with a little over \$300.00 worth of products to donate, Great Job!! ☺

In October we collected funds to be sent to the Smyrna Clayton Ministerium. The funds will be used to purchase food items and pay other expenses incurred for the annual Thanksgiving dinner held at Smyrna Fire Company. We also asked for breakfast food item donations to be turned in to the fire company to make up breakfast meal bags for folks attending the Thanksgiving dinner. I will have more information on this Harvest Sharing event next month.

For the month of November, we are collecting items to be used for Christmas Gift bags for the residents at DHCI (Delaware Hospital for the Chronically ILL). We collect the items in November so they can be delivered to DHCI in early December. This gives the staff at DHCI plenty of time to make up the gift bags. A copy of the donation list is available in the Spire and in the weekly bulletins.

As the calendar year for 2019 draws to a close, we have one more Harvest Sharing event scheduled for the month of December. We will collect gift cards from WaWa and Royal Farms for Veterans United Outreach of Delaware. This organization, which was started in 2001 provides much needed services for our veterans across the state of Delaware. The gift cards can provide a meal or put gas in a vehicle for a veteran's trip to the VA Hospital or a doctor appointment. This is another way we at St. Peter's remember our veterans and thank them for their service to us and our country. If you would like more information about Veterans United Outreach you can contact our Secretary Kathy Steele, she is part of this organization.

As always, thank you for Sharing!
Mary Sanders
"Giving to others is the greatest gift you can give yourself."
~Darren Hardy



**October Harvest Sharing – Follow-up
Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
(Funds \$ & Breakfast Food Items)**

We collected \$140.00 in monetary donations and many breakfast food items. Thank you each and every one for your generous donations.



**September Harvest Sharing- Follow-up
First State Animal Center and SPCA**



Some of the items donated and taken to the Kent County Animal Shelter in Camden.



Inviting Possibilities and Updates:

On October 12th we brewed up another wonderful “Witches’ Tea”. We had 88 guests and 7 volunteer helpers to make for a delightful and fun afternoon. Many thanks go out to our “Queen of Teas”, Dorris Wheeler, for her organization and planning of the event and to the many people who donated food items, auction items, and their time to make the event so successful. We send our thanks out to our “Tea Ladies”, Lavoura Cahall, Diane Sterling, and Ruthann Cahall, who kept the kitchen running smoothly. Our volunteers, Monica, Danny, and Ally Holmes and Ally’s friend Peyton were our servers and kept our teapots warm and full – many thanks!! Special thanks go out to Neda Biggs for her donation of a weekend trip to Williamsburg as a special auction item and to Grace and Tom DiCuirci’s team of crafters who made our table favors, many of our door prizes and over 25 of our auction items. How can an event go wrong with all of these wonderful helpers?! We were able to bring in \$3345 to support the many ministries of St. Peter’s. We are truly blessed! ☺

Upcoming – Mark your calendars:

Tuesday November 12th: Eating Out Event at Pat’s Pizza from 11AM-8PM. You will need a coupon for us to get credit for your meal, they are available at the church or on our Facebook page. Any questions, please give me a call at 653-6958. Last time we filled the place up, let’s have a repeat!!

Friday, December 6th: The Christmas Flea will return as part of our Dinner with Santa night.

As you go thru your Christmas decorations please see if you would like to donate any of them to this little flea market. Its fun, we usually have great decoration and gift items and best of all, very reasonably priced. More to come on this event.

Thank you to all of our parish members for your support and prayers for our work.

Blessings, Shirley



Our Thanks this month go to...

Danny Andrew for continuing to mow the back and side yards.

Larry Thornton for continuing to mow the grass along the front of our building, curb, and brick sidewalks of our property and for securing the boards on the handicap ramp.

Dorris Wheeler and **Shirley Biddle** for a great job with the Witches Tea on October 12.

Kelvin Arnold, Jo Beck, and **Bill Walker** for joining our Choir this year.

Shirley Biddle, Becky Cronin, and **Jim Vaughn** for sharing their stewardship message as part of our *Consecration Sunday* program.

Al Moses and **Sandy Margist** for donating their time and talent as our catered chefs for our *Consecration Sunday* celebration meals.

Members and Friends of St. Peter’s who completed an *Estimate of Giving Card* for 2020 in gratitude to God for their many blessings and in support of St. Peter’s mission and ministry.

Everyone who shared their presence, prayers, hope, and support with Paula Buckley during her extended hospital stay after surgery.



**When Autumn leaves are falling and
Thanksgiving time is near
It warms the heart to think of those who
mean so much all year.**



