



The Spire

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



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

January 2020

Volume 39, No. 1

Rector's Reflections...

As a new year begins we reflect on the experiences we enjoyed and the things we accomplished in 2019. It's also a time we reflect on what we would like or need to accomplish in 2020. One item that has a tendency to be put off is the making our Will or updating our Will.

Having a Will is an act of stewardship as our *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) points out on page 445:

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

A Will is our final words we will say in this world to those who remain here. The Church encourages Christians to have these words include a statement of our faith and hope in two ways.

First, as a profession of our belief and hope in eternal life with God. An example of this language might be: *"I believe in our Lord, Jesus Christ, and am secure in God's love for me and the resurrection of life promised through the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I leave those who survive me the comfort of knowing that I have died in this faith and now am with my Lord in eternal glory."*

Second, as an act of financial stewardship in this world to continue proclaiming God's presence and love. An example of this language might be: *"As a final act of faith and thanksgiving for all the blessings of my life, I direct that (insert percentage or dollar amount) of my estate be given to (insert name of parish, diocese, or Christian institution) to continue God's work in the world."*

If we already have a Will and don't wish to write an entirely new Will, it is possible to add an addendum to our Will, called a *codicil*, to include our profession of faith.

God's wisdom created our cycle of life in such a way that we leave this world as we entered it—without possessions. When we live healthy stewardship, we transfer title of our tangible assets to those important to us. For those of us who say God and the Church are important in our life, will we remember God and the Church in this process?

This naming isn't limited to Wills. We can also provide for the stewardship of God's work through including the Church as a beneficiary on a financial account, retirement plan, or life insurance policy as well as transferring any physical asset, stocks or mutual funds directly to the Church.

I have named St. Peter's as a primary beneficiary on a retirement account. St. Peter's will always hold a special place in my heart as my first rectorship and I want to participate in building its future as I am participating in building our present.

St. Peter's Church would be significantly less than it is, if it would be here at all, without the generosity of many parishioners throughout its history remembering and saying how important St. Peter's was to their lives through including St. Peter's in the final distribution of their earthly assets.

Thank you for all you have done to make our 2019 ministry and mission for God fruitful and productive in the "Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement" (phrase from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry). I look forward to continued fruitful mission work and sharing hospitality, hope and healing in 2020.

I know God will richly bless you in 2020. May you know how deeply God loves and cares for you! I send you much love and prayers for your well-being.

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



Our Thanks this month go to...

Mary Sanders and her faithful Altar Guild Team for their help and dedication all year long.

Bill Walker (Santa), **Sue Flores** (Mrs. Claus #1) and **Grace DiCuirci** (#2) for taking time from their busy schedule to visit our Preschool classes on the 4th and 5th as well as Dinner with Santa and Mrs. Claus on the 6th.

Shirley Biddle for coordinating our Eating- Out-Event at Hardee's on December 11 as well as the beautiful Reindeer with gift cards raffle.

The Merrill's for placing Christmas wreaths on our cemetery fence.

Mary Sanders, Shirley Biddle, Paula Buckley, Larry & Betty Decker, Jill Hanford, Wendy Lampe, and Patty Murray who came in Saturday, December 21 to green the Church.

Shirley Biddle for organizing our Christmas Eve pageant, *The Donkey's Christmas*.

Dedicated efforts of **Larry Thornton** and **Bob Merrill** which resulted in St. Peter's receiving a grant from Crystal Trust for needed repairs to our steeple.

Dedication and service of our officers: **Jim Vaughn**, Senior Warden; **Paul Buckley**, Junior Warden; **Bob Merrill**, Treasurer; **Lisa Embert**, Secretary; **Becky Cronin**, Bookkeeper (to May), **Dorothy Andrew** (May to October), and **Kathy Steele** (November onward).

Shirley Biddle, Ray DePhillis, and Dorris Wheeler for their three years of service on the Vestry.



♥ Thank You ♥

I would like to thank the Vestry, Mo. Donna Jean, Tina & Karen (Preschool) and the rest of my "St. Peter's Family" for the gracious Christmas gifts and cards. Your thoughtfulness and love you show to both Smoke and I goes above and beyond♥!

We both wish you each and every one a Very Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Blessed New Year!!

In Christian Love,

Kathy & Smoke Steele ♥

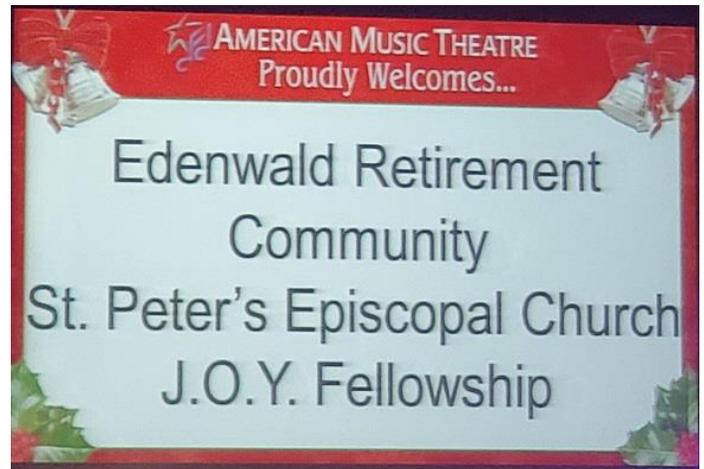


Happy 2020!



Follow-up:

Bus trip to American Music Theater in December



On Wednesday, December 18th a group of 54 boarded a bus and left St. Peter's Church at 8am to head for Lancaster, PA. We arrived for the 10:30am show at the American Music Theater to watch their 2019 "Joy to the World" Christmas Show and then to Shady Maple for a delicious meal. We arrived back home around 6:30pm. A good time was had by all!!

We enjoyed ourselves so much so that, will be heading back on Sat. January 18th, with only 51 this time, to see the "Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show" after filling our bellies with more delicious food from Shady Maple.

Watch for any other upcoming trips!!





Outreach for 2020

Harvest Sharing for 2020

Thank you for supporting our monthly Harvest Sharing Projects in 2019. Each July will become a medical awareness month and in 2020 we have selected Delaware Ovarian Cancer Foundation. It is my hope that each project we work on makes a difference in our community. 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 2020!

Mary Sanders
302-659-1466

January – PIC (Personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell St. Paul’s, Clayton

February – “Souper Bowl of Caring” (funds collected) Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium

March – Food of the Month (food items) Asbury Methodist Church Food Pantry, Smyrna

April – PIC (personal care/household cleaning items) Ewell St. Paul’s, Clayton
ERD -Episcopal Relief and Development (funds collected) Lent Project

May – Food of the Month (food items) Asbury UM Church Food Pantry, Smyrna

June – Home of the Brave (wish list items) Veterans Home, Milford

July – Medical Awareness Month – Delaware Ovarian Cancer Foundation

August – Back Pack Project for North Smyrna Elementary School

September – Kent County Animal Shelter (wish list items) Camden

October – Thanksgiving Dinner (funds and breakfast food items) Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium

November – DHCI Christmas for Residents (Wish list items) Smyrna

December – Veterans United Outreach of Delaware (Gift Cards) Smyrna



Harvest Sharing – December

Veterans United Outreach of Delaware

♥ Thank You ♥

On behalf of Veterans United Outreach, I would like to thank those that donated the **\$180.00** worth of gift cards from Wawa and Royal Farms!! Your generosity is heartwarming. These cards will be handed out to local veterans in need of gas to get to a doctor’s appointments, interviews, or just a cup of coffee and/or something to eat.

Thank you all again and if you have any question about our organization please feel free to ask me.

Kathy Steele, Treasurer of VUO of DE



2019 Inviting Possibilities Closeout

This has been another great year for our Inviting Possibilities Team. We want to thank everyone in our congregation for supporting of all of our activities throughout the year. I especially thank the Team for all of their hard work and efforts.

Just in follow-up of our last few activities and the income from each:

- Pat’s Pizza Eating Out Event	\$271
- Christmas Flea Market	\$233
- Reindeer Raffle	\$344
- Dinner with Santa Donations	\$127
- Miscellaneous Donations	\$ 75

We had a wonderful turnout for Pat’s Pizza; filled up the restaurant! The winner of the Reindeer Raffle was Dawn Arnold; congratulations Dawn! Of course Santa always leaves gifts behind, so we thank all of those who made a donation.

Looking forward to next year; **SAVE THESE DATES:**

- Pancake Supper: February 25th
- Quarter Auction: March 27th
- Spring Tea: May 2nd
- Witches Tea: October 10th

We won’t have any eating out events until spring, dates to be determined.

Again, thank you everyone!! We could not do the work of our Team without your support. What a blessing all of you are. I wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year and New Decade, 2020!!



Please try to attend:

Annual Parish Meeting

January 19, 2020

1 Service @ 9:00am

Meeting @ 10:00am

11:00am Brief Vestry Meeting

Followed by a Potluck Lunch





“WHAT’S HAPPENING”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January

- 1/2 Chelsey Jones
- 1/3 Kay Wood-Bailey
- 1/6 Elvis Belle, Phyllis Moses, Beverly Ratty
- 1/9 Robb Davies, Tom Chafin
- 1/19 Paula Buckley, Temple Carter
- 1/21 Neda Biggs
- 1/27 Missy Vaughn, Bruce Devall
- 1/29 Mary Morris
- 1/31 Rhys Wisher

Anniversaries

None



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 door). **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.



ALTAR FLOWERS – January

5th Christmas Flowers

12th

19th

26th Melody Richards

AUMBRY CANDLE – January

Mo. Donna Jean

January Parish Cycle of Prayer:

5th Leroy Brown & Stan McIntyre
Etta Brownell

12th Paul & Paula Buckley
Wayne & Susan Burris

19th Outgoing Vestry: Shirley Biddle,
Ray DePhillis, Dorris Wheeler

26th 2020 Officers & Vestry Members



Patter from Preschool

After a very long and much needed break, we are back to school. In January we will be celebrating winter, MLK Day, and Dad's with our “Super Hero Dad Day”. The children will invite their father's in for some fun and food. Dad's get to wear their super Hero gear and showed off their super hero powers. We start the New Year off with a new unit to explore. Our new unit is Exploring Clothes. How we take care of them, how we make them, and where we buy them.

Tina Morris
Director/Teacher
&
Karen Sawyer
Teacher



Important/Fun Dates for January:

- 1/1 Happy New Year! Welcome 2020!
- 1/4 National Spaghetti Day
- 1/6 Epiphany
- 1/13 National Rubber Ducky Day
- 1/19 National Pop Corn Day
- 1/20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1/21 National Hugging Day
- 1/25 Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)
- 1/29 National Puzzle Day



St. Peter's Preschool Wish List

Toy Bin Organizer - 1



Book Shelf - 1

