



The Spire

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



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

February 2020

Volume 39, No. 2

Rector's Reflections – Annual Address

I want to begin by saying I continue to feel very blessed to be living the wonderful privilege of being your Rector. On March 31 of this year, I will complete my eighth year and begin my ninth. In reflecting over my time, one experience I have never had at St. Peter's as your Rector is boredom.

We have ministries to a variety of people overlapping and going on all the time, for which I applaud you. Church is not just about sitting in a building for an hour and going home for another week. Church is about improving spiritual and emotional lives—starting with our own.

Church is about engaging in relationships on an honest and real level, so we risk our hearts and minds being changed as a result. When we open our hearts and beliefs to the touch of God, then the effects of God as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier can be seen and felt.

God is pure LOVE without any self-centered motivations. God is pure TRUTH that cuts loose our baggage and shame. God is pure COMMUNITY where each Person is fully responsible to the community and fully accepting of every Person in the community. God is pure PEACE where time seems to stand still and there are no worries or burdens. God is pure JOY where we know our life matters and has purpose just by being the unique person God created us to be.

There is literally no place else on earth where this type of Love, Truth, Community, Peace, and Joy can be lived in, except in Church. In God's infinite Wisdom, God gave a community of people, who are called the Body of Christ, a gift that cannot be replicated by the world.

Unfortunately, the Church—as an institution made up of human beings—can fall prey to the same powers and principalities that draw individual people away from God—most notably the misuse of power, money, and control. When that happens, hopefully very rarely, innocent people have been hurt.

Then people give up on the Church, which is exactly what the Enemy of Human Nature—who is the personification of the misuse of Powers and Principalities in this world—wants people to do.

Because then people stay out IN the world and miss experiencing the pure Love, Truth, Community, Peace, and Joy in community that God has for them as a gift to the Church. There needs to be transformed communities in order to transform societies.

You see the Enemy of Human Nature knows and exploits God's *perceived* weakness. God has a weakness? Yes, a *perceived* one from our limited perspective. That is that God continues to rely on and work through fallible, self-centered human beings.

The Christian Church believes in angels, which are different created beings. People become saints in the Communion of Saints after death—not angels. It is significant that when God decided God needed to spend quality time visibly on earth to show us the Way of Love, God did not choose to be an angel. A creature created to be messengers. God deliberately chose to be a human being. A creature created in the Image of God. It might be helpful if we could ponder this in our hearts!

God also chose to live in a materially poor, yet spiritually rich, family. And God entered that family in a way that caused scandal because Mary and Joseph weren't married. Finally, God entered this world visibly as a newborn infant in an ethnic group living under imposed dictatorship with an ethnic leader who was narcissistic and fearful.

We tell this story every single year at Christmas time. When Christians fully understand God's message to humankind in this story about money, control and power—the very energies that corrupt and misuse the Powers and Principalities in this world—then the Kingdom of God will grow on earth like wildfire and societies will need to build more churches.

The Good News is God continues to wait and work through willing people. Even more amazing to me, God continues to have faith in Humankind. So as a new decade of 2020 begins, I ask why St. Peter's can't grow more and more into the Church community God created the Church to be. A church where God's Love, Truth, Community, Peace, and Joy are palpable, contagious, and growing. We already understand that to be our Mission—*A Faith Community offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing*. I believe we can—if the majority of us want to.

The primary key is focusing on enriching and growing relationships. And the secondary key is trusting God for abundant resources, especially of money and workers dedicated for building relationships rich in Love, Truth, Community, Peace and Joy.

For St. Peter's Church to be successful—with God's help, of course—we each individually need to do our part. We each need to answer the question, *what gifts, abilities, resources has God given me to help with St. Peter's mission and ministry?*

Several things come to my mind to focus on in 2020 in answering this question for myself, as your Rector. First, it continues to be on my heart to create workshops or teachings on the spiritual life and spiritual practices that strengthen living the spiritual life. Secondly, it also remains on my heart to pursue offering spiritual healing in some way at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center, which came up again this year during my visit.

Third, I still believe in connecting parishioners by hobbies and interests, so I am going to try this again. I learned the error of my ways of the first time by listing all the possible hobbies and interests. It was impossible to create a database to actually connect groups of like-minded people together. In focusing on relationships, what we need to name are the organizations we currently volunteer in and the hobbies we do. On the sheet that goes to new people, we can list hobbies we ourselves would like to learn that newcomers can check as ones they do. In this way we can learn and grow from each other and the database will be more manageable. Finally, there are ways our website can be enhanced to help strengthen and deepen relationships that I will pursue if I can first get some help in managing what we currently have.

What is God calling you to focus on in building relationships by sharing your talents and gifts where God's Love, Truth, Community, Peace, and Joy is palpable in 2020?

Smyrna continues to be a growing area. The raw material we need to focus on relationships is people. They will be supplied in this area in abundance in 2020. That means it will be a year of great possibilities, challenges to turn into opportunities, and blessings for participating in growing relationships spiritually through the faithfulness of the people of St. Peter's.

I consider it a privilege to be part of this community and I pray you feel the same. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Highlights from 1/19/2020 Vestry Meeting

This is always a brief meeting that follows the Annual Parish meeting with the primary goal of electing officers and delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention.

- Welcomed new Vestry members: Carol Binns and Dawn Watson to their first term as well as returning Vestry member Ray DePhillis for his first full term.
- Elected Jim Vaughn as Senior Warden.
- Elected Paul Buckley as Junior Warden.
- Elected Bob Merrill as Treasurer.
- Elected Lisa Embert as Vestry Secretary.
- Elected for November 2020 Diocesan Convention: Dawn Arnold and Shirley Biddle as Delegates; Elizabeth Edwards as Youth Delegate; and Kelvin Arnold and Bill Walker as Alternates.
- Passed a motion to authorize a structural engineer to examine the steeple and identify areas needing repairs. This step is required before any construction can begin.
- Provided list of ministry teams needing Vestry leadership. Will discuss at the February meeting.
- Next meeting is Sunday, February 16, following the 10:00 AM service and coffee hour.

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Vestry Members

January 2021	January 2022	January 2023
Elvis Belle	Terri Anderson	Carol Binns
Paul Buckley	Dawn Arnold	Ray DePhillis
Jim Vaughn	Mary Sanders	Dawn Watson

2020 Officers:

Jim Vaughn, Sr. Warden Paul Buckley, Jr. Warden
 Bob Merrill, Treasurer Lisa Embert, Secretary

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Mark your Calendars:

- 2/2 "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday
- 2/11 Preschool Birthday Blessings with the 4's (St. Stephen's Chapel)
- 2/13 Preschool Birthday Blessings with the 3's (St. Stephen's Chapel)
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/15 Parish Potluck Dinner, 5:00pm
- 2/16 Vestry Meeting, 11:30am (Commons Room)
- 2/18 Godly Play with the Preschool 4's
 Diocesan Meeting, 4:30pm (Common Room)
- 2/20 Diocesan Meetings, 1:30pm & 4pm (Com Rm)
- 2/25 St. Peter's Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 4-7pm
- 2/26 Ash Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes @ 10:30am and 7:00pm Services

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Our Thanks this month go to...

Kathy Steele for all her work in compiling the Annual Report for our parish meeting.

Carol Binns and **Dawn Watson** for agreeing to serve on Vestry and **Ray DePhillis** for agreeing to continue serving in his first full term.

Jim Vaughn, Sr. Warden; **Paul Buckley, Jr.** Warden; **Bob Merrill**, Treasurer; and **Lisa Embert**, Vestry Secretary for agreeing to serve as Officers in 2020.

Dawn Arnold and **Family** who set up the tables and chairs for our luncheon after the Annual Meeting and for then cleaning up.

Everyone who brought a dish to share for our Potluck Luncheon after our Annual Meeting.

For those who represented St. Peter's at Diocesan Convention on January 24 and 25: Delegates **Dawn Arnold**, **Bill Walker**, and **Elisabeth Edwards**; and Alternate **Kelvin Arnold**.

Alison Embert for being a Preschool Volunteer helping in the three-year-old class on January 23 while Karen Sawyer was enjoying vacation.

Paul Buckley for working with the electricians from Masten's Electric in fixing items needing addressed from the Fire Marshall so the Preschool can get a successful Electrical Inspection.



February 14th!



Follow-up:

Bus trip to American Music Theater in January

On Saturday, January 18th a group of 49 boarded a bus and left St. Peter's Church at 8am to head for Shady Maple for a delicious meal and then to a show at the American Music Theater. On the way up around 9:20am we started seeing snowflakes, but thanks to our awesome bus driver Jerry, he got us up there and back safe and sound.

We arrived for the 2pm show at the American Music Theater to watch the "Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show". What a magnificent show it was!! We arrived back home safely around 6:30pm. Thank you to again to Mo. Donna Jean for putting together another great trip, with snacks 😊

Watch and listen 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



“Souper Bowl of Caring”

Sunday, Feb. 2nd is “Souper Bowl of Caring” **Sunday**. We are asking for a donation of \$2.00 (or more) to be given to the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium to help the less fortunate in our area towards housing, utilities and etc. We appreciate your generosity. Checks can be made out to “Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium”.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER**

February 25, 2020

4:30 – 7:00 PM



ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES!

**MENU ALSO INCLUDES:
SCRAPPLE, SAUSAGE,
DESSERT & BEVERAGES
COME AND ENJOY THE FOOD
AND FELLOWSHIP!**

ADMISSION:

Adults - \$6.00

Children – 3 thru 12 yrs. - \$3.00

Under 3 yrs. - FREE

For Tickets call Kathy @ 653-9691

Or Dorris Wheeler @ 423-5047



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

February

- 2/7 Marge Lamb
- 2/9 Stacy McNatt
- 2/10 Muff Meyers
- 2/11 Terry Merrill
- 2/12 Lisa Embert, Carol Binns
- 2/14 Larry Thornton
- 2/15 Scott Murray
- 2/16 Wayne Burris, Michael Statham
- 2/19 Marsyl DePhillis
- 2/20 Tanya Wheeler
- 2/22 Dotty Savastani
- 2/23 Dennis Costello, Steve Putman, Joel Margavage

Anniversaries

- 2/3 Dennis & Jane Quein, Ernie & Jane Skaggs
- 2/4 Harold & Denise Warnett
- 2/14 Danny & Dorothy Andrew
- 2/18 John & Lisa Embert
- 2/22 Bill & Kathy Spanarelli
- 2/23 Abraham & Nancy Saamoi



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 – February

2nd Melody Richards

9th

16th Shirley Biddle

23rd Lavoura Cahall

AUMBRY CANDLE – February

No One

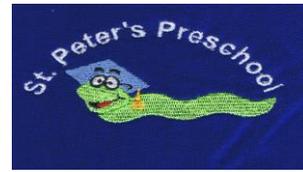
February Parish Cycle of Prayer:

2nd Tom Campbell & Sue Poteau
Georgia & Temple Carter

9th Suzanne & Tom Chafin
Lee, Jean & Lois Clampffer

16th Jim & Becky Correll
Ken Correll

23rd Dennis & Charlotte Costello
Ronnie Coverdale



Patter from Preschool

February brings us to the half way point in our school year, with that we will be celebrating 100 days of school!

The children will continue with our Clothes Unit, discovering teeth, celebrating Valentine's Day, President Day, and Community Helpers.

February is Bucket Filling month for us. The children will be baking cookies for our First Responders. The four year olds will be delivering their cookies to the Smyrna Police Department. The three year olds will be delivering their cookies to the Citizens Hose Fire Company. We will be filling Blessing Bags for Fresh Start Resource Center.

Has anyone found our Groundhog's shadow? The children have been searching the room for the Groundhog's shadow. Looking to see if we have six more weeks of winter or will spring come early.

Tina Morris, Director/Teacher

&

Karen Sawyer, Teacher



Important/Fun Dates for February:

Black History Month

- 2/2 Ground Hog Day, Super Bowl Sunday (53)
- 2/9 National Pizza Day
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/17 President's Day
- 2/25 St. Peter's Annual Pancake Supper
- 2/26 Ash Wednesday
- 2/28 National Chili Day



January 28th – “Super Hero Dad Day!”

