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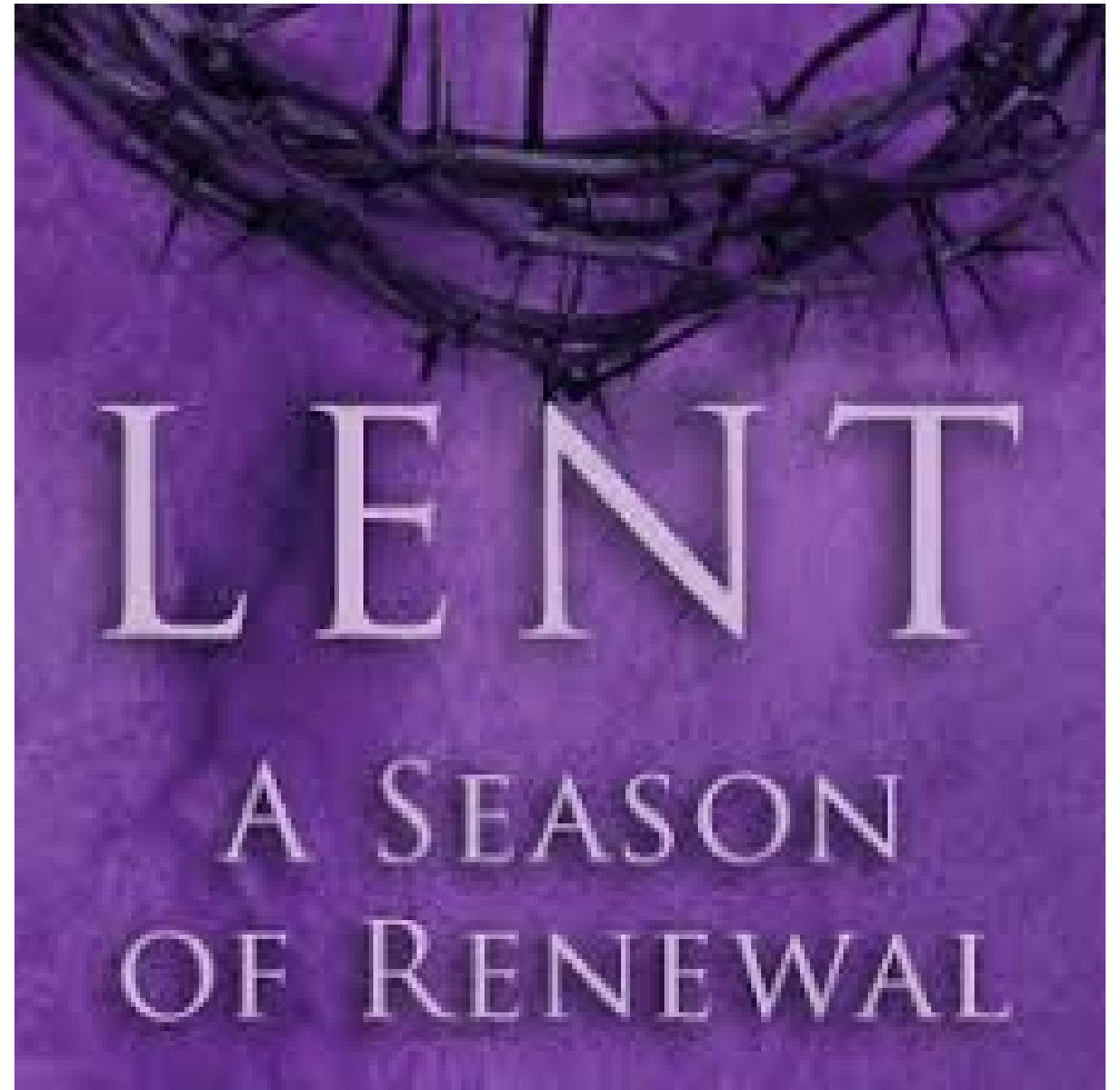
### Dates to Remember

March 1, 15, 22 & 29	Sunday School
March 7	Littlest Parishioners Playgroup
March 8	Family Church
March 13	Men's Night Out
April 25	Christine's Kitchen
June 5 & 6	St. Peter's Street Fair

# Onward

A newsletter for and  
about the people of  
St. Peter's Church

MARCH 2020



## **A Word from Fr. Morris: Lent is a Season for *Practicing***

I am writing to urge you to *choose* something to *practice* during Lent, the time of year when we are called upon to assess how we are practicing the Good in our lives, and what may hinder that. In the Middle Ages, the weeks before Easter got stuck in a penitential mood of intense focus on one's personal faults, begging for mercy, and sacrificing whatever people enjoyed in order to "suffer" with Christ. But in the early Church, it was a time of freshening up our practice of the Christian life, from how and when we pray, to what destructive habits need to be reigned in, to ways we might improve some virtue within us: generosity, forgiveness, patience, kindness, trusting God more deeply, giving service to a worthy cause—all faces of *agape*, Christian charity and love for the wellbeing of others, the world, and ourselves.

If your appetite for too much chocolate, or any powerful craving, needs to be reigned in, by all means do it! But consider how the pennies (and dollars) saved might go to a worthy cause. If your anger management needs honing, work on restraining your tongue and inner reactivity. If there is an opportunity to serve some good that you know is nudging you, takes steps to do so. Lenten "sacrifices," at their best are not meant to be about giving up something just to go back to it, but dedicating ourselves to grow toward greater ability to live, love, and serve with renewed skill and wisdom.

### **Lenten Sundays In the Chapel at 9 a.m.**

First and Third Sundays: Wee Believers

March 1: Jesus Wrestles with Satan

March 15: Jesus Forgives People

Second and Fourth Sundays: Lenten Adult Education

March 8: Practicing Compassion Toward Yourself and Others

March 22: The Practice of the Presence of God

### **"Safe Church" Plans**

"Be prepared" is the better part of wisdom. Our new Bishop has called on every parish to have a thought-out plan for the unlikely event of a disaster on Sunday mornings: a fire, a sudden medical emergency, and the newer threat of some gun violence. After consulting with the police, The Property Committee has made recommendations to the Vestry for a long-range plan which is under consideration. But there are steps we can make now on Sunday mornings. Our Church School does have "in case of fire" plans; our Nursery School has an extensive security plan. Beginning this month, please enter the church by the doors on Roseland Avenue and the courtyard. The rear door on the parking lot will be locked at 9:50 a.m. A protocol for ushers is being prepared. Church needs to be one of the safest places of your week!

*The Rev. Robert Morris, D.D.*

[angelhold@earthlink.net](mailto:angelhold@earthlink.net)

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## **David St. George Outreach Endowment**

The David St. George Outreach Endowment Committee was begun by former rector David St. George as a way to distribute interest from a fund set up for the purpose of helping others. In recent years we not only have the 4.75% of the year end value of the fund to distribute, but the OpShop has made sizable donations as well. St. Peter's receives grant requests and it is the duty of the committee to read, investigate, discuss and make recommendations on each of these requests. We do this with the following in mind: *The David St. George Outreach Endowment Committee is an outreach committee of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Essex Fells, NJ. Its purpose is to distribute funds to organizations or groups, within the communities of Saint Peter's and the Diocese of Newark, who seek to assist struggling individuals with food, shelter, education and/or support in hopes that they may one day be able to support and care for themselves. The distributed funds will be given in response to grant requests, submitted by these organizations, after prayerful consideration, discussion and investigation by the committee members. The aim of the committee is to not only assist individuals in need, but to focus on smaller organizations or projects for whom our limited resources would have the most impact.*

This year we were able to distribute \$35,616! Almost \$10,000 more than last year! We had \$20,616 available from the fund itself and an additional \$15,000 donated from the OpShop!!!

Organizations supported by the 2019 funding were: The Apostles' House, The Bridge, Caldwell Dept. of Human Services, Christine's Kitchen, First Friends of NJ & NY, Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity, Newark School of Theology, North Porch, St. Peter's Haven, Senior Resource Center, Toni's Kitchen and Wynona's House. We were also able to make contributions to both the Rector's Discretionary Fund and the SPY Mission Trip.

A huge thank you for time spent investigating the organizations, and the thoughtful, caring and honest exchanges of all committee members: Nat Bernardo, Elaine Biamonte, Tamara Bross, Stephanie Cutting (OpShop), Margot Dockrell, Erika Grothues (co-chair), Kevin Hersh, Evan McLaughlin (vestry), Joe Simko, Carl Sturcke and Anna Torok (SPY)!

ALSO, an extra thank you to the OpShop! \$15,000 is an AMAZING donation!! David St. George is a way in which St. Peter's can reach out and touch our greater community, hopefully with an eye towards a "hand up" more than a "hand out." We could not do nearly as much if it wasn't for the dedicated volunteers in the OpShop. PLEASE give your "good stuff" to the OpShop, shop for bargains at the OpShop, **and most importantly, if you have TIME give the OpShop an hour or two.** \$15,000 is a LOT of \$2 shirts and \$5 jackets to hang and tag! The David St. George Committee is encouraging ALL of you to help the OpShop in any way you can because they are making a real difference in what St. Peter's can do to help our community!

With Faith and Love,

*Dana Leach*



The Street Fair is coming! We have a couple of changes this year to make it even better. It will still be the first weekend in June: Friday, June 5th from 5:30 pm-9:30 pm **but** the Saturday June 6th time is now 3:30 pm-7:30 pm. In addition, Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter will be bringing animals and having a booth both days (perhaps there will even be some adoptions). A beer garden will be a new activity for Saturday in hopes of providing a little fun for adults.

We are looking for a few good men, women and youth to help make this event a success. There are many different types of opportunities available whether it be helping out at game and food booths, donating strawberries, shortcakes or tricky tray items or being involved in the set-up and take-down. [Please check out this link to see available volunteer opportunities and sign up now to get your preferred spot. \(Make sure you check out all tabs on the bottom of the document for different dates and setup/takedown information\).](#)

The Street Fair is a spiritually uplifting time of bonding for us as a parish. It is also a time when we really shine out for the entire community to see!! The only way it succeeds is with help from ALL. PLEASE reach out to us!! The Street Fair is a lot of work and we will be calling you for help, but it would make it SO MUCH EASIER if you would reach out to us instead :)

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Doyle at [doyle531@hotmail.com](mailto:doyle531@hotmail.com) or 301.802.7878.

## Christine's Kitchen

Thank you to everyone who supported Christine's Kitchens on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Over 80 men, women, and children enjoyed a hot meal including shepherds pie, salad, rolls, bananas and cupcakes and cookies.

These meals would not be possible without your kind and generous support. Whether it was cooking a shepherds pie, shopping for salad dressing, dropping off a dessert or an enormous donation to the food pantry, each and every donation made a difference. Thank you!

[SAVE THE DATE FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 25th](#), our next visit to Christine's Kitchen.

If you'd like more information about volunteering or donating, please contact Jennifer Vonderahe at [jcvonderahe@gmail.com](mailto:jcvonderahe@gmail.com).



Spring is in the air and you know what that means....time to Spring into Savings at the Op Shop. We will be turning over our inventory early March to make room for brighter colors, lighter fabrics and cooler styles. This means that there will be tremendous saving opportunities on all our winter clothing and apparel, so please make sure to stop in and stock up. Winter isn't quite done with us yet so there's still time for you to enjoy wearing your new fashion finds. We are also featuring sales on select home goods and furniture to help clear the floor for more treasures. And speaking of treasures, we are in need of good quality home goods. Maybe consider doing your spring cleaning a little early this year. Open those cabinets, draws and closets and if something hasn't been used or is collecting dust, you probably don't need it.... but we want it!

We've been very fortunate this season to have extra help each week, especially from the high school students who are earning service hours for school. We've even been blessed to have some teens who are volunteering just for the sheer fun of it. Imagine that!! Their energy and enthusiasm is refreshing and a pleasure to be around.

Please keep your eyes and ears open in the next few weeks as we may be in need of additional help from the parishioners to get the Shop glammed-up for Spring. Our volunteers will get the job done of course, but it is always a little less burdensome if we have the help of our St. Peters friends and family.

Thank you for your continued support, *Stephanie & Dawn*

## ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

A BIG thank you to all of our soup and chili makers, as well as our customers. We are able to send \$216.00 to North Porch, where they can purchase diapers, baby food and formula for little babies.

*Thank You For Your Help,  
Sue Mazur & Jen Jackson*



A Men's Night Out is being planned for Friday March 13, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. Menu is Pot luck and BYOB and some to share.

We hope you will come so please respond to [johnpivarnik@optonline.net](mailto:johnpivarnik@optonline.net) or [frbutter18@gmail.com](mailto:frbutter18@gmail.com) if planning to attend so a head count can be made.

## Sunday School

We are headed toward Lent in March and that means more stories about Jesus for the PreK - 3rd graders! The 4th-6th class grade uses a curriculum called Living the Good News which examines the gospel each week. A lot going on with Jesus for them too! Although many give things up for Lent I think ADDING something has real value too. It is a great time (and fitting) to add regular church attendance to your schedule both for your own benefit as well as for your children!

**Note: The 4th-6th grade class has changed its location.** The 4th-6th grade class now meets in the hall where the Foosball table is. This way Toby doesn't have to set it up each week and the teacher and children don't have to put it all away. We'll see how it goes :)

Also, a reminder, we are down 2 teachers this year with Mary Beth Weber's retirement and Liz Muller moving on with Fr. Mike. I will have sign-up sheets with me each week with dates to fill in the last few months of the year. No need to have experience to teach, I will train you, and greeters are always needed and welcome! Unit 3 dates are: March 15th, 22nd & 29th, April 5th & 26th, May 10th, 17th & 31st and June 7th.

With Faith & Love,  
*Dana Leach*  
973-364-7544, [scottdanaL@aol.com](mailto:scottdanaL@aol.com)

## Family Church

As predicted, February's Family Church was AWESOME!! Thank you to all the children who participated!! The readers, who read so beautifully were, Colin Carr, Stephanie Cutting, Kayla Felix and Amanda Luke. Our very helpful ushers were Charlie Cutting, Alexis Felix and Koen Vonderahe. And the elements were delivered with care by Charlotte Copeland and Emery Vonderahe. What a special group!

Let me know if your children would like to help on March 8th. I can always use readers and ushers and often an element bearer or two :)

With Peace & Love,  
*Dana Leach*  
973-364-7544, [scottdanaL@aol.com](mailto:scottdanaL@aol.com)

### March Dates

March 1st, 15th, 22nd & 29th  
Sunday School

March 8th - Family Church

## Littlest Parishioners' Playgroup

Saturday, March 7th, 10-11:30

The weather is cold so time to get the wiggles out at playgroup!! The Littlest Parishioners' Playgroup is for parishioners with children age 3ish and younger. It is a lovely group of young families sharing similar milestones and struggles. Please join us the first Saturday of each month from 10-11:30. We will be in the upper room (unless the weather magically gets warm and snow melts, then we will be on the playground). Older siblings are also welcome! Our April date is April 4th so mark your calendars now. Maybe we can actually get back to the playground!!

Any questions contact either Dana Leach at 973-364-7544, [scottdanaL@aol.com](mailto:scottdanaL@aol.com) or Nat Bernardo, [nathaliabernardo23@gmail.com](mailto:nathaliabernardo23@gmail.com).



## Sunday School Service Project

Many thanks to all those who participated in the Sunday School's collection of toiletries for the Caldwell Food Pantry!! Did you know St. Peter's has a basket in the back of the church (the narthex) where we collect food and toiletries every week for the Caldwell Food Pantry?



## Vacation Bible School

At the time of this submission we haven't had our Feb 23rd meeting, but we are thinking positively!! Mark your calendars for August 3rd-7th. The young people of our church (age 3 - entering 5th grade) LOVE attending VBS and the teens LOVE running it! It is a time of growth for all and touches many outside of our parish as well! As you make your summer vacation plans don't forget to leave that week free!

Also, there are lots of jobs, both big and small which need to come together for this fun filled week. PLEASE search your heart for the time to lend to this important ministry. You do NOT need to attend VBS to be a big help! Can you plan the crafts (easy to do on weekends or evenings and you have FIVE months to get it done), can you purchase t-shirts and iron on decals (usually done a few weeks before), can you make MS Excel spreadsheets, are you creative and could come up with group names & logos then make name tags, can you create a flyer or two....? Everything is on Google Docs so we don't have to recreate anything just edit :)

The theme this year is VERY fun! Please reach out to help or with questions. We hope to begin registration at Easter!