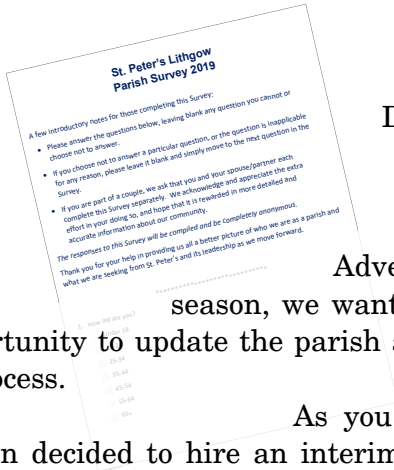


KEYNOTES

December 2019

The Quarterly Newsletter of St. Peter's Church, Lithgow

Parish Survey



Dear Parishioners,

Given that we are about to embark on the busy Advent and Christmas season, we wanted to take this opportunity to update the parish as to the transition process.

As you are aware, it has been decided to hire an interim Vicar to guide us through the transition process. The vestry identified an excellent candidate over the summer, and it was hoped that he would start with us this fall. This was delayed due to circumstances outside of our control. However, we are now increasingly confident that this candidate will be able to join as of the beginning of January.

In the meantime, the Vestry held a retreat on November 2nd, including the Search Committee co-chairs (Jim Florack and Leslie Heaney). At this meeting it was decided that, first and foremost, our focus should be to find the "right" person to become our next permanent Vicar, regardless of categorization of the role as full time, part time, active or retired. This approach will enable us to cast our net far and wide and attract as many applicants as possible. Once we have identified the right individual, we think that the categorization of their role will be of lesser importance and can be negotiated to our mutual benefit.

Additionally, we have launched a parish survey, which will assist in the process of writing a Mission Statement for St Peters, and updating the Parish profile, which will be of significant importance in attracting applicants. We request that all parishioners take the time to complete this survey. This is your opportunity to tell us your views, what is of most importance to you in our search for our next Vicar, and how you would like to see our church evolve.

Our aim is to complete this survey in early December, so that we are organized for the arrival of our interim Vicar at the beginning of the new year. At that stage, and in keeping with Diocesan process, the Search Committee co-chairs, in consultation with the interim Vicar, will then be in a position to appoint the members of the search committee. The search process can then begin in earnest.

All the while, our regular parish business continues unabated. The vestry held a budget conference call on November 10 to discuss and approve the draft budget for 2020, and on Sunday, November 15 we conducted our regular fourth-quarter vestry meeting. As was announced in church on November 17 by Andrew Garcia, we have now launched our "2020 Every Member Canvass," in connection with which you will all be receiving a letter and request to participate. This pledge campaign to fund the annual operating costs of St. Peters is as important as ever during this period of transition. It is specifically designed as an "every member" canvass, as our objective is that all parishioners contribute in both thought and monetary commitment, to the best of their ability

We are aware that this period of transition naturally brings with it some uncertainty. We want to thank you, our parishioners, and our parish staff for your continued loyalty and support of our church. Our commitment to you, as vestry and wardens, is to continue to move this process forward in a timely manner, to take your views and concerns into consideration, and to conduct the prerequisite due diligence in finding the "right" individual to become our next permanent Vicar.

Yours sincerely,

Will Morlock
Julie Turino
Wardens

Annunciations as an Industry [or Industrial Annunciations]

We often travel in Italy. Last summer, over my strenuous objections, we spent a few days in Florence, a charming city, but for me a place to avoid because of its teeming population of tourists that crowd the streets and jam the galleries. Defying Bindy's invitation to share her exploration of Medici villas far from the madding crowd, I spent one morning in the Uffizi with two art-loving friends, starting with an early opening at the stroke of 9.

Given the number of annunciations we saw at the Uffizi and elsewhere this summer, there may be some truth to Houellebecq's observation in *The Map and the Territory* that the Industrial Revolution really began in the Renaissance, when the more successful studios employed scores of artists turning out pictures for the rich and the nobility. It does seem as if they turned out a large number of annunciations, many attributed to names like Simone Martini, Lorenzo di Credi, Leonardo da Vinci, Verrochio, Botticelli, Perugino, Alesio Baldovinetti, and Rafael. Indeed, except for Martini, the others were roughly contemporaries, and several worked in the workshop of Verrochio, which was passed on to Lorenzo di Credi. There students like Leonardo and Rafael and Perugino learned from the masters and from each other. They were mostly content to work off each other's style and composition, so most of the annunciations are stiff, the figures frozen in time and space, with the angel Gabriele to one side and the Virgin backing away as she gestures, as if saying, "Oh no, I couldn't be pregnant... we aren't even married yet."

Botticelli was the first to invest this scene with a more dynamic composition. The Virgin is backing right out of the picture, her face shows real emotion, and the forms of the figures take on a liveliness absent

in his contemporary's work. There is also a lightness more in keeping with rendering a story and not a real event. It is that quality, I think, that endeared me to this version of the oft-told story. His version alone escapes what seems like a factory of annunciations.

Many Renaissance pictures were commissioned by the wealthy for hanging in particular churches. There they hung for many years until they were gathered into collections and then museums. The journey each of these paintings took before entering a museum collection was often a story of love, war, pride, bankruptcy, death, obscurity, and finally rediscovery—followed by contentious disputations about the artists' identities, a contentiousness that sometimes continues in the present. The rather too beautiful annunciation attributed to Leonardo is, at least one scholar believes, mostly by Lorenzo di Credi, with Leonardo adding those touches that make it spectacular.

What makes these paintings so loved and admired is their power; they stand as icons of an age; they resonate through the centuries. Intended to evoke divine inspiration, they still do. Not that their creators were monks; far from it. They were artists desperate to achieve fame and some fortune, to have a place to sleep and food to eat. Those who actually obtained commissions were the fortunate.

Few artists had agents or advisors; they usually charged too little and had to continue painting to keep bread on the table. But they were touched with genius, the gift of artistry. They were caught up in an age when their work was in great demand. Their inspirations have survived the centuries. Even the crowds could not diminish the magical effect these paintings have on us.

Stephen Kaye



Sandro Botticelli's Annunciation

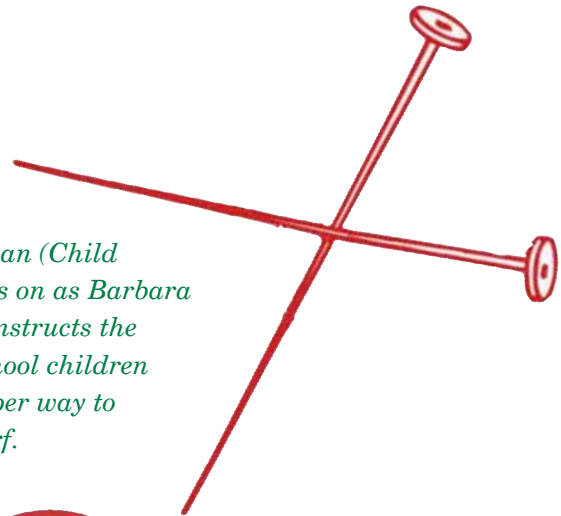
Christmas-at-Sea 2019

During the 9:30 service on Sunday, November 24, some 50 knitted articles, destined for the Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas-at-Sea program, were presented at the altar. Hand-knit caps and scarves, made by nearly 20 St. Peter's parishioners, Sunday School children, and other friends, will provide warmth for merchant mariners as they sail the seas worldwide. For the second year, the Church School students were involved, with several "knit-ins" held during class time. This is a year-long project. Instructions, wool and needles are available in the parish hall. Chair Barbara Lindsley stands ready to help! (Barbara has been knitting for the Christmas-at-Sea program since she was 14!)



Amy Duncan (Child Care) looks on as Barbara Lindsley instructs the church school children in the proper way to knit a scarf.

Juliet Heyer



You Had to Have Been There...

Knitting for Seamen has been my passion,
The latest for seafarers, now in fashion.
Invited to join in a session of stitching,
Enlivened by talk of topics enriching,
My hostess asked how I liked the new look
Of her living room. A while it took
To see everywhere, created with care,
Scarves, caps and helmets, not a surface was bare!
"It seems knit together, don't you agree?"
Lampshades festooned for us all to see!
The seamen will wear the garments on ships
In warmth and with thanks to all on their lips.
Rejoicing in cleverness, their work now displayed,
And I can laugh at their joke so well played.

In appreciation for the creative fun, Barbara N. Lindsley, knitting chair for the Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas at Sea program.



Lillian Corbin

From left: T. Nolan, Rose Morlock, Mimi Babcock, Lynn Nolan, & Betsy Shequine watch as Knitting Chair Barbara Lindsley exhibits the 2019 knitted goods to be donated to the Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas-at-Sea program. The items were then blessed by guest preacher Molly Frank.

*Feast of St. Francis,
Blessing of the Animals & Family Barbecue
October 6*

On October 6 our animals joined us to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis. Our preacher was Joseph Rose, executive director of programming at Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, CT, an Episcopal mission of Trinity Church Wall Street. Trinity Retreat Center is also the home of a well known donkey sanctuary and Joe Rose brought two Jerusalem donkeys, known for the natural cross that appears on their back (see below).



The cross that appears on the back of every Jerusalem donkey



Gladys Bucove with Percy



Joe Rose blesses Melo Hitchcock while Will looks on.

*photos by Phil Balshi,
Lois Mander
& Anne Gillis*



Lorelei Kuit put a coat on



Stephen Kaye brought his own Jerusalem donkey.



Randy Orndorf & Paul Tsigrikes with Hudson & Bailey



Katherine Florack, having a tête à tête with Blue



Evelyn Licis & Annie Nilson



Casey Vanderlee & Abigail Nathan



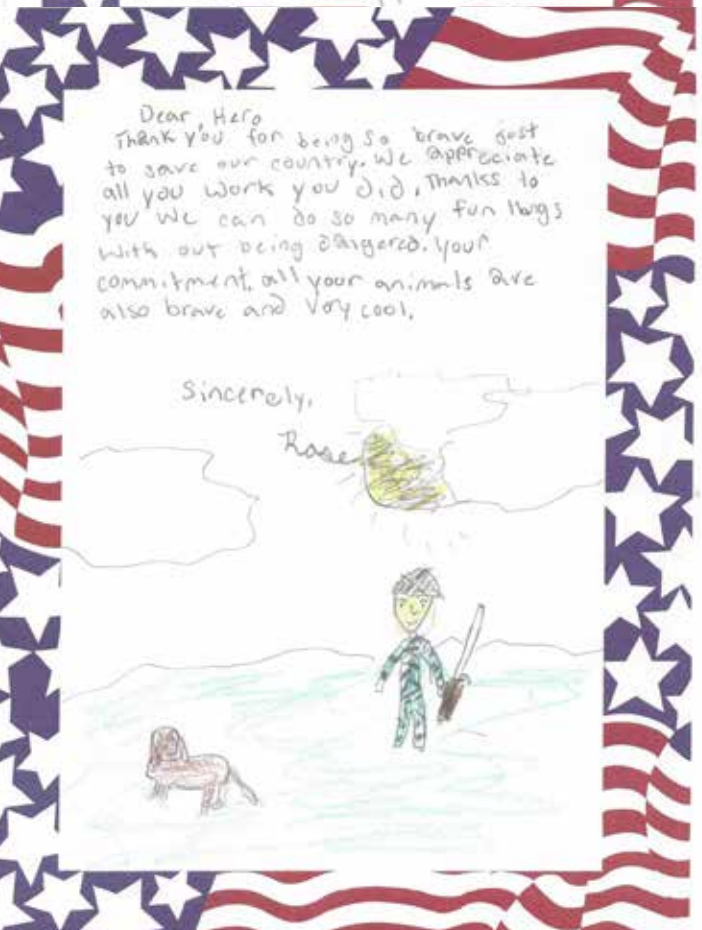
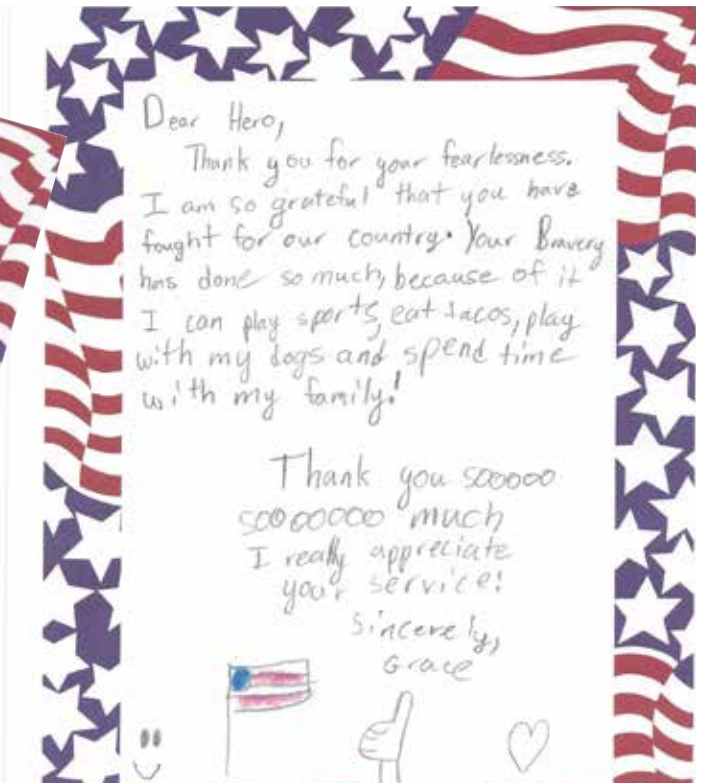
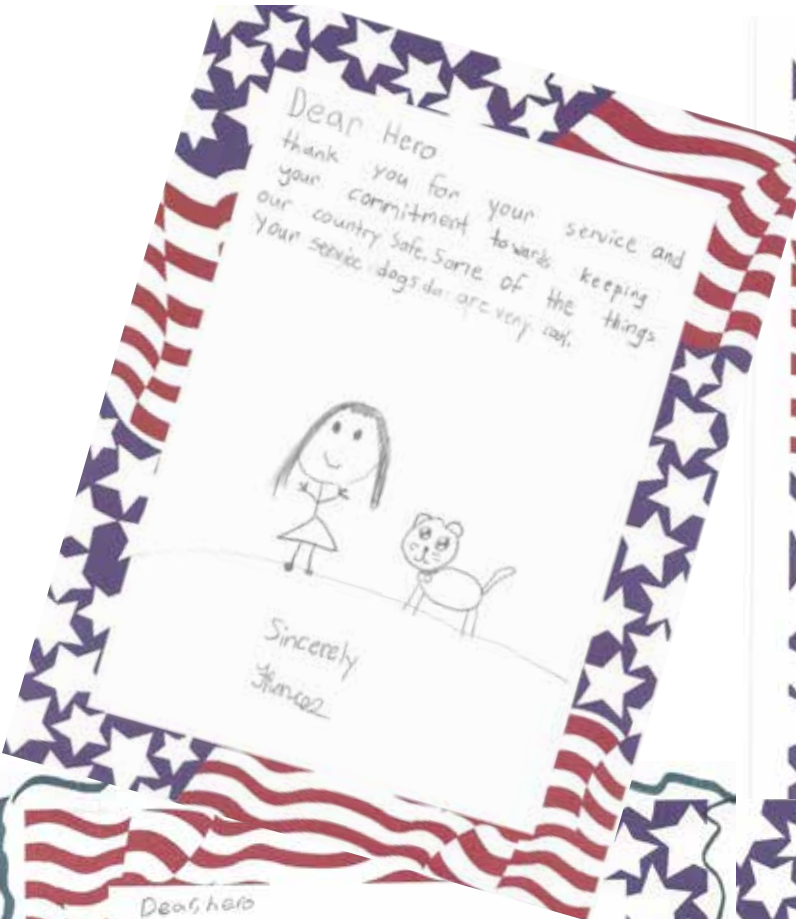
Joe Rose closely studies Boo Gillis



Four men in need of an iron

Operation Gratitude

On Sunday, November 17 and 24, Elizabeth Bellin invited St. Peter's children and youth to join her in the parish hall to write letters of appreciation to Deployed Troops, Wounded Heroes and Veterans. Here are a few of the letters.



The St. Thomas Amenia Food Pantry



Juliet Heyer and Claire Reid have been volunteering on Friday afternoons for years at the St. Thomas Food Pantry, Amenia, which St. Peter's supports through Outreach. They are pictured here with Dennis Freeman, Supervisor Extraordinaire, who efficiently manages food donations, below-cost purchasing (eg; pork chops at .05/lb!), and cheerful volunteers. More than half the food comes from regional food banks and local donations. In the summer months the big Amenia garden and friendly farms supply as much fresh produce as Dennis and his team can give out. "Fresh" is a big part of this inspiring chain of collaborative good work.

For Thanksgiving this year, over 2,000 lbs of food, as well as 75 Turkeys and apple pies, will be distributed—maybe more if the Dover Plains Food Pantry closes. The need is great. Please be aware that your support of our Outreach Program is essential.

Lois Mander



On November 9 Barbara & Jim Peelor, Juliet Heyer, Anne Gillis, Dave Schmidt, & Ed Johnston met in Tarrytown to help celebrate the birthday of Joann Schmidt & Sally Johnston.

Remembering Edie

At the age of 82, and after a short illness, Edie Kean passed away on October 25, 2019. We, her friends all knew Edie as a powerhouse, always living her personal and professional life to the fullest. Following her graduation from Abbot Academy and Vassar College, she used a small monetary gift from her grandmother to travel the world solo. On her return, she married James Bacon, moved to New York, and raised three children. During this time, she worked as a fundraiser for such non-profits as the New York Public Library and the Environmental Defense Fund. Later, after obtaining her landscape certificate, she began designing community gardens in all five Burroughs of New York. It was at about this time that she arrived in Millbrook

I met Edie in the late 1980s, when she became engaged to Ham Kean, who had just built a house on a rather large parcel of land on North Tower Hill Road. We took an instant liking to one another and over the next 28 years were friends and neighbors. She and I, together with our husbands, travelled to China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Moscow, Prague and Berlin. In those travels the breadth and depth of Edie's passions and commitments became apparent. She was an avid environmentalist, as well as landscape designer, who sat on the board of The New York Botanical Gardens, a "get-your-hands-dirty" gardener who sat on the New York State Board of the Garden Conservancy. Some time ago,



Ham & Edie Kean, ca 2010

when St Peter's Church enlarged its parking lot and built the new Parish hall, Edie, John Whitworth, Jimmy Crisp and Helen Meserve collaborated to implement the beautiful new landscape design, which was the crowning touch to visually pull the project together.

Politically, Edie was outspokenly liberal. She once missed one of my dinner parties as she was in Pennsylvania ringing doorbells for

Barack Obama and said she could not possibly get home in time to attend. If she were alive today, the Trump and Netanyahu investigations would have had her sitting on the edge of her seat!

Edie had many friends from all walks of life. Above all she loved and was loving to Ham, her husband of 28 years, her three children, and her three wonderful grandchildren. She was a fabulous traveling companion: generous, enthusiastic, mentally active and fun to be with. She was adventurous—always up for trying something new and, in general, just nice.

Edie died in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where she had recently moved to be near her daughter Charlotte and her family. A memorial Service will be held on Friday, December 20th at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 316 East 88th Street, New York, NY at 2:00pm, with a reception to follow.

All of us who knew and respected her will miss her greatly. She was a good and loyal friend.

Gladys Bucove

My father was one of ten children and the following is the Grace that was traditionally said by the youngest person sitting at the dining table. As Christmas approaches, it seems an appropriate time to print it.

Karin Shrubsole

**As a child here I stand
Heaving up my either hand
Cold as paddocks* though they be
Here I lift them up to thee
As a benison to fall
On our meat, and on us all.
Amen.**

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

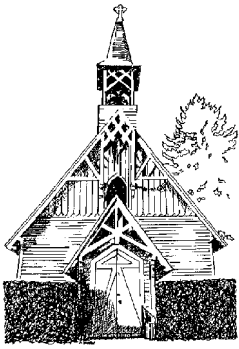
***A paddock was a frog! (not a place for the pony).**

*The Church School Christmas Pageant
as seen through the camera of Lillian Corbin*

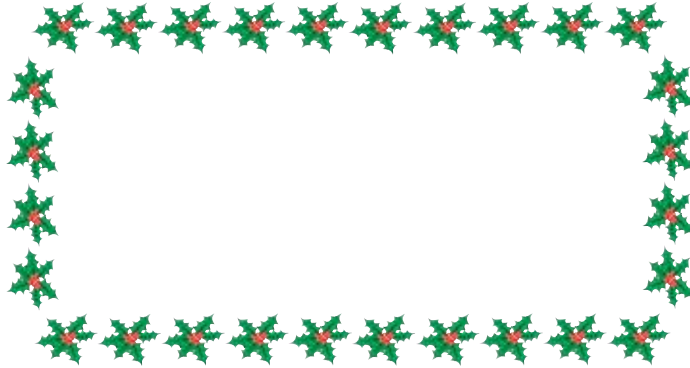


Photo Book Reminder

The updated Photo Book will be an invaluable aid to our Interim Vicar (coming in January) and, eventually, to our new Vicar. Please send your photo to stpeterschurch@optonline.net (high resolution, i.e., large); we'd like to publish the book as soon as possible. If you don't have a photo to send, please ask Lillian Corbin, Lois Mander, or Anne Gillis to take one at coffee hour any Sunday.



St. Peter's Church, Lithgow
PO Box 1502
Millbrook, NY 12545
(845) 677-9286



Advent & Christmas Services



Sunday, December 1 — First Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 9:30 am *Holy Eucharist & Sermon*

Sunday, December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist & Sermon*

9:30 am *Morning Prayer & Sermon*

Sunday, December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist & sermon*

9:30 am **Festival of Lessons & Carols** *for Christmas*

Sunday, December 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist & Sermon*

9:30 am *Morning Prayer & Sermon*

Tuesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

5:00 pm **Sunday School Pageant**

10:00 pm **Candlelight Holy Eucharist**, *with choir*

Wednesday, December 25 — Christmas Day

9:30 am *Holy Eucharist, with carols*



