THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S IN ESSEX FELLS

The Messenger

271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021 • 973.226.6500 • stpetersef.org

SUMMER 2026

FROM THE WARDENS

Announcing our Interim Rector

Dear St. Peter's Family,
We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder will join us as Interim Rector beginning August 1. Father Tim will preach and preside at his first service, Sunday, August 2 at 10 am (only one service that day).

Father Tim comes highly recommended; he has most recently served as Rector of Christ Church, Short Hills, Interim Rector of St. Anne's, Annapolis, MD, and Priest-in-Residence at St. Peter's, Morristown.

Please know that your wardens and vestry are working closely with the Rev. Dr. Andrew Wright, Canon to the Ordinary of our Diocese and the Rev. Margo Peckham Clark, Canon for Congregational Life, as we begin this period of transition. Both Canons will be with us on Sunday, July 12.

We, the wardens, are always here for you during this transition period. Feel free to contact us at any time with your questions and concerns.
Faithfully,
Jim Irwin and Barbara Gargiulo

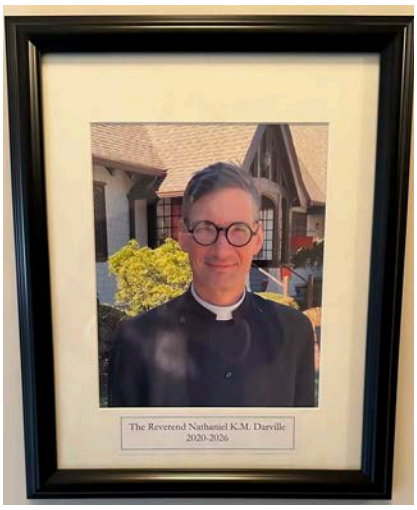
The Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder

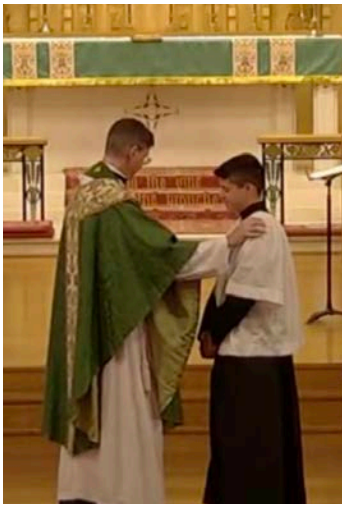
The Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder will serve as Interim Rector of St. Peter's, Essex Fells beginning August 1. Most recently, Father Tim served as rector of Christ Church in Short Hills. During his time there, Christ Church played an instrumental role in the founding of Newark Shared Ministries (NSM), partnering with other parishes and the Rutgers Medical School to establish health care for Apostles' House residents. NSM also helped establish "All the Way Up," an adult learning center providing GED and English classes as well as career counseling.

In addition to his service in many parish communities, much of Father Tim's pastoral career involved educating people for ministry. For 20 years, he served as Associate Professor of Worship, Preaching and Arts and as Director of the Chapel at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He also taught at the General Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary. He served as the Executive Director of the Episcopal Preaching Foundation and assisted in the formation of the Iona Collaboration (25 Episcopal dioceses), developing a non-residential program for training preachers for the Church.

Father Tim continues to assist the Bishop of Newark as needed in churches throughout the state. He loves cooking for friends and playing golf with his wife, Linda.

Farewell, Father Nate and Deacon Ginny





Parish Choir

Thanks to the Parish Choir for a great year! Our final Sunday was June 28. This was a great year—in addition to Sundays, we also sang Lessons and Carols, The *Requiem* of Gabriel Fauré, Tenebrae in Holy Week, and a Lenten Vespers presentation. We will sing an Evensong in commemoration of All Souls on Sunday, November 1 and will once again be joined by the Choir of Holy Innocents, West Orange. We are grateful for choir members—Joan Loiacano, Diane Kazimir, Michael Barretti, Giulia Utz, Carl Sturcke, Kevin Johnson, Taryn Spoto, and Elizabeth Glynn! We sing a variety of literature, from chant, Renaissance and Baroque, traditional Anglican anthems, and newly composed works, as well as a number of languages. Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 10.

Thanks also to our Handbell Choir: Karen Mosher, Margot Dockrell, Pam Garvey, Liz Irwin, and Candace Carr. They will play periodically this summer. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7 in the south transept of the church (the side where the free-standing altar is usually stored). We will resume regular rehearsals in September.

Membership in choir is open to all—you don't need to be a member of the parish to join. Parish Choir rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:30, and Sunday mornings at 9:30. Four professional section leaders provide musical and vocal leadership for each voice part. You don't need to have any prior experience in choral singing—just a love of music, and a willingness to commit to our regular schedule of rehearsals and services. Come find out why choir is good for you! We are a wonderful, mutually supportive community, and we have great fun singing together every week *—Mark Trautman*

Children and Music

In the Episcopal Church, we have a rich history of children (largely just boys in the past, but girls as well now) singing with adults on their level. Children like a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves and connecting them to that history helps them feel part of something important.

Children's choirs have been part of St. Peter's for most of its history. The first choir of men and boys was formed in 1904 by Samuel and May Mountenay, and a choir of men and boys sang for services well into the late 1960s. More recently, children from St. Peter's have attended Royal School of Church Music courses and members of our Youth Choir sang for Bishop Hughes' consecration at NJPAC in 2018.

Studies have shown that children who participate actively in the arts do better in school, especially with math and science-related studies. Studies have also shown that singing is an important part of Christian formation—we tend to remember what we sing. And Christianity ***sings***: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Colossians 3:16)."

For these reasons, I would like to explore the opportunity for our children to participate in choir this coming academic year. Ideally, the children would join their peers in helping us worship at our Family Eucharist every Sunday. They would also have the opportunity to sing with other chorister programs in our Diocese, including the Grace Church, Newark and St. Paul's, Englewood children's choir programs. There is also an opportunity to join choristers throughout the area for the annual Choir Festival at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City this coming January.

I welcome your feedback and ideas on how we might make this opportunity happen for our children. Singers do not need to be members of St. Peter's; rather, they only need to commit to a rehearsal schedule and singing in church once a month during the academic year. This is a wonderful opportunity for Christian formation, community building, and tuition-free musical instruction. I ask your prayers and support, your ideas, and your dreams for a new youth music program. Thank you—*Mark Trautman*

Pictured above:
Choristers at NJPAC, 2018;
Men and Boys Choir, 1905;
Youth Choir, undated.

Coffee Hour—A special time for fellowship!

Every Sunday after the 10 am service, we gather in Upper Room to meet and greet fellow parishioners. This ministry depends on volunteers to provide light refreshments and to help with set up. Please consider being a part of this fellowship by signing up for a Sunday to host! Use the QR code here.

A Morning Examen

In God's presence, think through the day ahead:

1. The work you will do.
2. The people you will encounter.
3. The dangers or uncertainties you face.
4. The possibilities for joy and acts of kindness.
5. Any particular resolutions you need to renew.
6. Consider what might draw you from the love of God and neighbor.
7. The opportunities you will have to know and serve God and to grow in virtue.
8. Remember those closest to you and all for whom you have agreed to pray.

Ask God's blessings, guidance and strength in all that lies before you.

—Adapted from St. Ignatius Examen, www.IgnatianSpirituality.com

Street Fair 2026

Episcopal Visitation, Trinity Sunday

Town Hall, July 12

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Wright, Canon to the Ordinary of our Diocese and the Rev. Margo Peckham Clark, Canon for Congregational Life, will be with us on Sunday, July 12. The Canons will lead a "town hall" after the service in the Upper Room. Be sure to come and bring your questions about the upcoming interim period and transition time.

August is Make A Will Month

The Book of Common Prayer includes a specific direction to reflect and act upon: "The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provisions for the well-being of their families, and for 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." (BCP, page 445)

An abundance of people serve St. Peter's with deep love and devotion, and we are blessed by their dedication and commitment. We strive to serve everyone with the sincerity and grace God has given us; ultimately, of course, the church is a community, not a building. We seek to minister to the church, the Diocese and in the world. It is that ongoing community of faith that is supported by our financial estate planning and by our financial giving. To find out more, speak to the members of the Vestry.

Welcome Back Sunday

Welcome Back Sunday will be September 13. There will be blessing of backpacks, students, and educators. The Parish Choir will return, Sunday School and SPY registration will follow the 10 am Mass, and we will celebrate the many ministries of our parish community. Be sure to mark your calendar and invite a friend to come and see the many great things that are happening at St. Peter's.

St. Peter's in Essex Fells—Tentative Calendar, 2026-27

September

10 First Parish Choir Rehearsal
13 Family Eucharist, Fall Picnic, Ministries Fair, Nursery Care begins

October

4 Family Eucharist, Blessing of the Animals

November

1 All Saints', Baptism/Eucharist, 10 am; Evensong, 4 pm
15 Family Eucharist
22 Christ the King
24 Interfaith Thanksgiving (St. Aloyius, Caldwell), 7 pm
26 Thanksgiving Day
29 Advent 1

December

13 Family Eucharist
13 Lessons and Carols, 4 pm
19 Nativity Pageant Rehearsal (Saturday), 9-noon
24 Christmas Eve, 4 and 10 pm
25 Christmas Day, 10 am

January

10 Epiphany 1, Baptism, Family Eucharist
17 Martin Luther King Sunday
24 Annual Parish Meeting

February

9 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
10 Ash Wednesday, 7 am, 4 pm, 7 pm
14 Lent 1, Great Litany and Holy Eucharist
21 Family Eucharist

March

21 Palm Sunday/Family Eucharist
24 Wednesday in Holy Week, Tenebrae
25 Maundy Thursday, 7 pm
26 Good Friday, Stations, noon; 7 pm
27 Holy Saturday, Great Vigil, 7 pm
28 Easter Day, 9 and 11

April

18 Good Shepherd Sunday, Family Eucharist

May

16 Pentecost, Family Eucharist, Baptism

June

4 Street Fair (Friday)
6 Family Eucharist, Recognition Sunday

How to Make Your Pledge Commitment Online for 2026

- Go to the https://stpetersef.org/donate/pledge-form/
- Donate > Pledge Form
- Complete the form
- Click 'Pledge' button

STAY CONNECTED!

Webpage: www.stpetersef.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/St.PetersEssexFells
OpShop Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheOpShop
OpShop Instagram: @opshopstpeters

The next deadline for the monthly *Messenger* will be August 24. Please feel free to email news and events to info@stpetersef.org

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, *Interim Rector*, *beginning August 1*
Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music and Administrator,* trautman@stpetersef.org
Lindsay Thompson, *Sunday School Director,* thompson@stpetersef.org
DJ Elmore, *Bookkeeper,* bookkeeper.stpeters@gmail.com
Chris Shearin, *Sexton,* shearin@stpetersef.org

THE VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Jim Irwin and Barbara Gargiulo, *Wardens*
Christine Albano, Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Karen Mosher, *Vestry Members*

LITURGY & FORMATION LEADERS

Altar Guild: Candace Carr, cancarr13@gmail.com, Alice Samuels, inkyretired@aol.com, Karen Mosher, looker-mosher@msn.com
Acolytes: Parish Office, info@stpetersef.org
Eucharistic Ministers/Chalicists: Father Nate Darville, darville@stpetersef.org
Lectors: Kathleen McLaughlin, kathleenmcl27@gmail.com
Music Program: Mark A. Trautman, trautman@stpetersef.org
Ushers: Wayne Copeland, waynecopeland@keyconsult.com
St. Peter's Youth (SPY): Father Nate Darville, darville@stpetersef.org
Sunday School: Lindsay Thompson, thompson@stpetersef.org

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

St. Peter's Opportunity Shop: Stephanie Kent and Dawn Ruggiero, 973-226-0337
David St. George Outreach Fund: Erika Grothues, davidstgeorge.committee@gmail.com
St. Paul's Shelter: Liz Irwin, lizcirwin@verizon.net
Christine's Kitchen: Jennifer and Kurt Vonderahe, jcvonderahe@gmail.com
Vacation Bible School: Luke and Sarah Latson, spefvbs@gmail.com
St. Peter's Nursery School: Jacqueline Albietz, stpetersessexfellsns@gmail.com.

EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, *XXVIII Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church*
The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes, *XI Bishop of Newark*