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

The Messenger

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

JUNE 2026

FROM THE RECTOR

A Marathon of A Growing Season

Dear St. Peter's Family,

MY OLDEST SON does track and field as a spring recreational activity. His team is currently at the end of the season, which means he's doing a lot of track meets. Earlier this week, he made the decision to compete in every event to the point he was exhausted. Realizing this, he's limiting himself to just a few events for the finals this weekend. One of them is the relay, where he will run a race in a team with each member running part of it passing a baton along the way. The relay is one of his favorites because he's an extrovert and loves collaborating in a group.

Last Sunday was Pentecost. This day marks a major transition point in the liturgical year. Right before this, of course, was Easter, the fifty-day season in which we recall the resurrection of Jesus Christ, an event that destroyed death once and for all. Pentecost Day marks the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. From this point on, we shift to the Season After Pentecost which lasts all the way to Advent, which is begins in late November or early December. To put this into perspective, we spend roughly half the year in After Pentecost.

This is no accident. As many of us know, each season of the Church calendar is marked by a color. Lent is purple. Easter is white. And After Pentecost is green. This is deliberate as well. After Pentecost is green time because green symbolizes growth. In other words, our task over the next six months is to think about growth and the changes this incites, both in our individual spiritual lives and our shared communal life. And this is a long process. In fact, it lasts our whole lives.

One of my favorite pastimes is running. Therefore, it should not surprise you that one of my favorite bible verses is Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." For the author of this letter, our spiritual journey in this life is a race, which means we will need tenacity, courage, and stamina. But an argument can be made, and I am making this argument, that this isn't just a racing metaphor, it's a marathon metaphor. Marathons are long. In fact, if we want to say some activity is long, we refer to them as "marathons." Life is long. Our spiritual growth is lifelong. So, we should spend a great deal of time reflecting on this reality.

Two things are important to note here. The first is the most obvious: we need to pace ourselves. If we try to do too much spiritual development, church activities, or outreach, we are going to get tired and we won't be able to finish. The second most

important word to learn in ministry is "no." (The most important is "yes," but we'll save this truth for another time.) This keeps us at a good spiritual running speed.

The second is less obvious, but no less important. The marathon we find ourselves in isn't a contest. It's a relay. We each have our part in this pilgrimage passing the baton to one another. Even though our tasks are separate, we share a common goal: caring for each other and those within our reach with love, compassion, and empathy. And if we focus on this holy work, God will take us to the finish line.

Yours in Christ,
Nate

From Our Deacon

Pastoral Care

Since May 3, 2025, I have had the pleasure of observing and getting to know the dedicated parishioners of St. Peter's. For the past five months, Father Nate and I have been consistently conducting pastoral care visits to parishioners that have requested visitations. Our combined effort has given parishioners an opportunity to meet me as well as a chance for me to get to know them.

They are always so pleased to have a visit, receive prayer and communion and most of all hear what is happening at St. Peter's. You can see a heavenly glow radiating from them as they pray and receive prayers from the clergy.

They are eager to hear from their St. Peter's family. If you are aware of a parishioner now homebound or in a medical facility, a simple telephone call to reach out to say hello, you are missed and loved makes a world of difference to someone on the mend.

St. Peter's is a close-knit family and looking out for each other, sharing the love for Christ and each other is so important and certainly the Christian thing to do.

Atlantic Health Services has reached out to St. Peter's to assist some of their clients in need of clothing and household items in the vicinity of the church. I have been able to assist with community resources along with the generosity of the St. Peter's family.

We are to love one another as Christ loves us and the people of St. Peter's certainly share their love. Several people we have visited miss the fellowship at coffee hour in the Upper Room.

I hosted coffee hour on Palm Sunday and Mr. Mark Trautmann assisted with Easter Sunday. I may have gone overboard since I am so used to supplying food for those in need. In a few churches I have served, Coffee Hour offers a meal in which to some was a way of feeding their young children on a Sunday and even being able to take home extra plates. Cookies and juice was just not enough for them

The St. Peter's parishioners are so blessed that they are not in that position however the food drives and pantry donations show that they give so generously to those in need.

Thank you all for all that you do to help families in need in the various West Essex communities. May God continue to bless the people of St. Peter's
Deacon Ginny Jenkins-Whatley

A Note From the Vestry

Summer and Coming Up

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Peter's
We wanted to give you an update on the transition process that we are about to begin. As you know, Father Nate's last day at St. Peter's will be June 30. We will have a send-off at Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 28.

The calendar going forward will be as follows:

- *July 5:* 10 am, Morning Prayer
- *July 12:* 10 am, Eucharist, The Rev. Canon Andrew Wright, Preacher and Presider
- *July 19:* 8 am and 10 am Eucharist, The Rev. Anne Thatcher, Preacher and Presider
- *July 26:* 8 am and 10 am Eucharist, The Rev. Anne Thatcher, Preacher and Presider
- *Services* at 8 am will be held in the Chapel, and those at 10 am will take place in the Church Nave.

We hope to have a terrific interim priest in place by August 1. (We will keep you updated on that.) In the meantime, the Vestry will be forming a well-rounded search committee and sending out a new survey, which will focus on your hopes and vision for the future of our wonderful church. This will help us formulate our Parish Profile to aid our search for a new full-time Rector over the next several months.

Thank you.

Jim Irwin, Barbara Gargiulo, Wardens; Christine Albano, Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Karen Mosher

SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST: ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, June 7 is first in a long series of "Sundays after Pentecost." These Sundays are often referred to as "Ordinary Time" or "Green Sundays" because of the continuous use of green hangings and vestments. Older versions of the Prayer Book called these weeks "Sundays after Trinity" following the medieval practice in England and Germany prior to the Protestant Reformation.

This time is not really a season in the sense that Advent, Lent, and Easter are. Rather, this is a period in which many themes are used with no particular unifying emphasis. Our Lectionary (the plan for readings throughout the year) rotates on a three-year cycle, with Year "A" beginning in Advent in a year evenly divisible by three. Year "A " features readings from the Gospel according to Matthew; "B" from Mark; and "C" from Luke; with John interspersed throughout, especially during the Easter season. This year we are using the second track of the Revised Common Lectionary, beginning with Proper 5, Year A (https://www.lectionarypage.net).

Throughout the summer we are reminded of the beauty and wonder of God's creation, and the joy of being together with family and friends at home or on vacation. As liturgist and scholar H. Boone Porter has written, "Enjoying life on the Lord's Day, we know that earthly existence is not meaningless or futile—neither is it final or ultimate. God has prepared something better for those who love him." —*Mark Trautman*

AROUND THE DIOCESE OF NEWARK

Pride Mass, Saturday, June 6

On Sunday, June 6, at 5 pm, the Episcopal Diocese of Newark LGBTQ+ Action Group / Taskforce invites members of the LGBTQ+ Community and allies throughout the diocese to a special service of Holy Eucharist with reception and fellowship to follow. This year the service and reception will be held at Grace Church, 200 Highfield Lane, Nutley.

Diocesan Juneteenth Celebration, Sunday, June 14

Bishop Hughes invites you to join her for a diocesan celebration of Juneteenth at St. Luke's, 73 South Fullerton Avenue, Montclair.

Traditionally observed with community gatherings, music, food, education, and reflection on African American history and Civil Rights, our diocesan celebration will include remarks from the Bishop and other speakers, a moderated group conversation, and Evensong followed by a reception. More information to follow!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

Sunday School News

Dear Families,

I can hardly believe how quickly this academic year is winding down! It has been such a joy watching our children grow in faith and fellowship throughout the year and I look forward to our last few weeks in the classroom together. This week we will celebrate Family Eucharist, and our final Family Eucharist of the academic year will be held on June 14. Family Eucharist is a wonderful opportunity for our students and families to celebrate, worship, and reflect on the blessings of this past year as a church community. If your child would like to volunteer for our June Family Eucharist, please reach out!— *Lindsay Thompson*

First Communion Celebration

Congratulations to Noah, Ella, and Luca on completing the Communion Recognition Class and First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3. St. Peter's has offered Holy Communion to all baptized Christians since 1904; however, many parishes also offer Communion instruction to young children as desired. The children met with Father Nate and baked the bread used for Holy Communion as well.

Vacation Bible School 2026

Save the date: We are excited to announce that registration for VBS 2026 is now open! The dates this year are August 3-7. You can register using the QR code here. Children in Pre-K (at least age 3 and fully potty-trained) through 5th grade are welcome to join us as campers, and anyone entering 6th grade or older can serve as a volunteer. If you register your camper before June 30, the cost is $75. After that date, the price goes up to $90 per camper. Please register as soon as possible, since space is limited. Registration will close on July 20. Please note: There is no cost for volunteers. Contact Sarah, Jack, and Luke Latson for more information; email us at spefvbs@gmail.com.

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. All are welcome to attend Coffee Hour. 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! As the host, you will provide sweet and savory goodies (store bought or homemade, whatever is most convenient for you). There are serving platters, paper goods and utensils available for use in the kitchen. Directions are provided. Use the QR code here.

Street Fair, June 5

Our beloved Street Fair is Friday, June 5 from 4-10 pm. For decades the Street Fair has provided an old-fashioned carnival experience, bringing the community together for a fun filled evening.

The Fair offers something for all ages, so be sure to stop by and enjoy live music, games, an obstacle course and bouncy house as well as our famous BBQ chicken dinner. Also, take a look at the many fabulous items in our Tricky Tray baskets. Most of all, be sure to bring a friend and introduce them to the wonderful fun and fellowship of our St. Peter's family.

WELCOME BISHOP HUGHES

Welcome to the Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, Eleventh Bishop of Newark, our Presider and Preacher on Trinity Sunday, May 31. A life-long Episcopalian, Bishop Hughes was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. She earned a BA in Drama from the University of Texas in Austin, and for 20 years she made her home in New York City, while pursuing a career in Human Resources as a corporate trainer, mostly in the hotel industry.

While in New York City, she discerned a call to the priesthood and attended Virginia Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity in 2005. After a Lilly Fellowship at St. James' Church in New York City, she was called to serve as rector first at St. Peter's Church, Peekskill, New York; and more recently at Trinity Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

On May 19, 2018, the Rev. Carlye J. Hughes was elected as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Newark on the first ballot. Upon her consecration on September 22, 2018 at NJPAC, she became the first woman and African American to serve as bishop of this diocese. As our Bishop, she serves as the chief pastor: preaching, celebrating, and pastoring the people of our diocese.

Bishop Hughes has been active on the Board of Trustees of The Virginia Theological Seminary; as a member of the Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Convention Chaplain in the Diocese of New York, and in the former Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth as a member of the Standing Committee and as a General Convention Deputy. At the churchwide level, she has served the General Convention on the Task Force on the Study of Marriage and the Racial Justice & Reconciliation. ***Be sure and come to Coffee Hour after the 10 am service to meet and greet our Bishop!***

AROUND THE PARISH

Sunday School Project

We're excited to share that we packed and distributed our lunches for the Caldwell Food Pantry! We deliverd 45 lunches and donated three boxes of assorted food items as well. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to this meaningful project.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michelle Lynne Foster and Matthew Peter Thornton Adams who were joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Peter's on Saturday, May 2.

Requiescat in pace

A Requiem Eucharist for Joseph D. "Duffy" Bell was celebrated on Saturday, May 9 at 2 pm in the Nave. Duffy was a life-long member of St. Peter's and the St. Peter's Parish Choir. Members of our Parish Choir gathered to sing at the service and at the interment ceremony in the garth as a fitting tribute to a fellow choir member who served so well and so long.

Altar Guild Luncheon

Members of the Altar Guild, Mark Trautman, and Father Nate and sons gathered together for the annual Altar Guild Luncheon on May 17. Many thanks to our amazing Altar Guild: Annetta Benedict, Candace Carr, Debra Chance, Nancy Connor, Eloise Monzillo Hiris, Karen Mosher, Alice Samuels, Sheila Valenti, Diane Waitts, Carolyn Wescott, and Elaine Biamonte (substitute). Co-directors are Candace, Karen, and Alice. *Thank you for your hard work and dedication!*

Altar Flowers

Flowers were given in May loving memory of Peg and Adrian Aery, Bunny Dockrell, Bill Dickerson, and Patsy Coward Kolbe. Consider giving Altar Flowers in memory or thanksgiving. Contact Carolyn Wescott (cwescott1028@gmail.com) for more information.

CELEBRATION OF OUR RECTOR
SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Join us for Coffee Hour after the 10 am service on Sunday, June 28 as we celebrate Father Nate and his family and their ministry among us.

More information coming soon!

JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 **Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (tr)** St. Paul's Men's Shelter	2	3 *Parish Staff Meeting, 1 pm* *Handbell Choir, 7 pm*	4 *OpShop, 11 am-2 pm* *Parish Choir, 7:30 pm*	5	6 *Altar Guild, 10 am* *OpShop, 10 am-2 pm*
7 **Pentecost 2, Proper 5A** *HE, 8 am, Chapel* *10 am, Church* *SPY*	8 *AA, 7 pm* *St. Paul's Men's Shelter*	9	10 *Parish Staff Meeting, 1 pm* *Handbell Choir, 7 pm*	11 **St. Barnabas, Apostle** *OpShop, 11 am-2 pm*	12	13 *Altar Guild, 10 am* *OpShop, 10 am-2 pm* *McBrair Internment, 1 pm*
14 **Pentecost 3, Proper 6A** *HE, 8 am, Chapel* *10 am, Church* *Recognition Sunday*	15 *AA, 7 pm*	16	17	18 *OpShop, 11 am-2 pm*	19	20 *Altar Guild, 10 am* *OpShop, 10 am-2 pm*
21 **Pentecost 4, Proper 7A** *HE, 8 am, Chapel* *10 am, Church*	22 *AA, 7 pm* *NS Summer Camp*	23	24 **Nativity of St. John Baptist** *Handbell Choir, 7 pm*	25 *OpShop, 11 am-2 pm* *Last Parish Choir, 7:30 pm*	26	27 *Altar Guild, 10 am* *OpShop, 10 am-2 pm*
28 **Pentecost 5, Proper 8A** *HE, 8 am, Chapel* *10 am, Church*	29 **St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles** *AA, 7 pm* *NS Summer Camp*	30				

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 June 29. Please feel free to email news and events to info@stpetersef.org

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Nathaniel Darville, *Rector*, darville@stpetersef.org
The Rev. Virginia Jenkins Whatley, *Deacon,* whatley@stpetersef.org
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*