

# The Outlook



Saint Asaph's Episcopal Church  
[www.saintasaphs.org](http://www.saintasaphs.org)

2023 Spring Edition



## A Letter from Fr. Andrew Kellner

It was truly a joy to celebrate our first Advent and Christmas with you all this year. The many community events and times of fellowship brought the season alive in meaningful ways for our family, and it is my hope that your family may have been equally as touched. A special thank you to all who assisted in the decorating of the parish and its cleanup, with a shout out to the flower guild for leading our efforts and creating a beautiful atmosphere for our worship and fellowship. Once again, our choir provided us with superb music enriching our worship, and we give thanks for their sharing of their gifts.

As we are in the Season after Epiphany, we find lessons on Sunday focused on the themes of Epiphany: discovery, learning, wonder and awe. We hear Gospel lessons that invite us to ask ourselves just who this Jesus we heralded in Christmas is and what does his life and teaching invite us to think and do. We hear these in our Sunday lessons, but we also are exploring them in greater detail in our discipleship offerings. These conversational times of learning and fellowship, serve to deepen not only our understandings about our faith, but offer a chance to strengthen the ties that bind us together as a community. Each of us hold within ourselves gifts from God and our own experience, which enliven our community's worship, prayer and actions in the world.

Following the Season after Epiphany we will enter Lent with Ash Wednesday falling on February 22. The Holy Season of Lent is once more an invitation to open ourselves to God's invitation to be the Body of Christ in our world. Christ's forty days in the wilderness, which Lent invites us to emulate, is a time for us to look inward. This is not mere navel gazing, but an opportunity to question the patterns and routines which are active in our ways of thinking and doing. It is an opportunity to alter these, by purposefully practicing something different. The invitation of Lent is to live a life patterned on sharing, worship, prayer and acts of selfless love for others.

*(Continued on next page)*

As we prepare for this season, I would invite you to begin to put a plan together now. Tradition invites us to put together a Lenten practice that incorporates Fasting, Prayer and Alms Giving. In today's parlance we might say, Letting Go, Opening Up and Sharing. The practice of fasting or letting go, invites us to take a break from things that may be taking more of our time or attention than what is healthy for our body, mind and spirit. This need not be food, and does not mean that you must stop something all at once. It may mean that you monitor your relationship with some activity or thing, allowing yourself to develop a deeper understanding of your relationship with it and how this relationship impacts other relationships in your life. Prayer or opening up is not just resisting a set pattern or prayer, although I do believe that this is most profitable especially when attempting to establish new patterns of prayer. It also means seeing your life as one ceaseless prayer. We are encouraged in scripture to "pray without ceasing." How then do you open yourself up to God as you move through your daily living? Alms giving or sharing is both an act of community and an act of establishing new patterns of relating to all that God has entrusted to us. How can we share all that we have and are with others so that those in need may receive what they need?

Throughout Lent we will have opportunities for reflection, prayer, worship and service. It is my hope that you and your family may join these, and together as a community we may deepen our commitment to live the teachings and way of Jesus.

Blessings on you all,  
Andrew

**Save the Date: The Church of St. Asaph's Annual Meeting & Parish Brunch** will take place following the 10am service on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

For the brunch, a sign-up sheet be available outside the sacristy area.



# *Lent at St. Asaph's*

## **Mardi Gras Sunday – Pancakes from Around the World!**

Join us at a special coffee hour on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, for a joyful community celebration as we prepare to begin our Lenten journey together. Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday is an Anglican tradition, when sugar, butter and other rich foods would be used up in the preparation of pancakes before Lent. This year we will be sampling pancakes from around the world. If you have a special pancake you love, bring in a tray and share with our community.

## **The Ministry of Reconciliation – A ministry we all share**

In 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, St. Paul shares that the ministry of reconciliation is one that God entrusts to those who follow in Christ's teachings and way. This is not a ministry for clergy in a confessional, but for each one of us to help our world to be reconciled with itself and with God. Join us as we explore what it means to be a reconciler in our world **Wednesdays at Noon & 6pm**. The discussions will move through a resource from The Rose Castle Foundation building up the work of Canon Sarah Snyder the Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Advisor for Reconciliation and a theologian specializing in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations.

## **Altar Guild**

**Easter Cleanup Day** - On Saturday, April 1st from 10:00am - noon, we will have a cleanup/prep for Holy Week. It will be the usual dusting, polishing, black drapes prep., etc. Coffee/donuts for sustenance will be provided. Contact Bob Ranando [rjranando@aol.com](mailto:rjranando@aol.com) if you have interest in joining.

**Easter Candy Donations Needed** – Easter is quickly approaching so let's get ready for the kids. We are asking for donations of Easter candy (nut free please), Easter eggs, baskets, and people to volunteer to help fill the eggs in time for Easter. We will gather on \*\*\* from 10 till noon to dye real eggs and stuff plastic ones for the egg hunt, ending with a pizza lunch. If you are available, or need further details, please contact Steve Sheeran at [pjssjs@aol.com](mailto:pjssjs@aol.com)

## **Flower Guild**

**Easter Memorial Lilies** – Prepare to order your memorial lilies that will decorate the church at Easter. Please look for envelopes on the piano to record the names of your loved ones and to insert your donation. The memorial lilies are \$10. Any donations for flowers for the Easter Season would be greatly appreciated. In order to memorialize names in the Easter Sunday bulletin, we would like to receive your envelopes by Monday, April 3rd. The completed envelopes can be placed in the alms basin.



# *Worship and Services*

## **Fall Worship Schedule**

**Worship - Sunday, 8 and 10 am.** The 10:00 am liturgy will be on Facebook live and can be later viewed as a recording to watch at your convenience. If you are in person, **please remain masked through worship.**

**Sunday, 9:45am - Children's Christian Formation** for children Pre-School through 3rd Grade. Please meet us in the parlor of the Parish Hall at 9:45 (every Sunday except the last Sunday in the month.) We will start with lighting candles and prayer, will hear a story and have a light snack. After the story we will have time to reflect on the story through art or play. Children will join their parents in church in time to take part in the Eucharist. We are looking forward to seeing you.

## **Compline - Night Prayer**

Tuesdays and Thursdays (Weekly) at 9pm

The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote:

*"I lie down in peace and take my rest, for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid."*



Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centered spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God. Know all are welcome.

## **Weekly Prayer and Study:**

**Tuesdays, 9pm – Compline** – In person (in the chancel) and on Zoom. Join us for a time to check in with one another and to join in the tradition of night prayers.

## **Wednesday Evening Study Group – 6pm @ the Rectory**

A major theme of the Season after Epiphany is discovering anew who Jesus is. Christology is the area of theological study that focuses on Jesus, and invites us to consider who he was, is and will be. Join us as we explore how Christians throughout the centuries have understood Jesus's life, teaching and action.

## **Sunday Forums – After Coffee Hour (11:30am) in the Conference Room**

*Living into Our Faith* (February 12, 18)

The Episcopal Identity series entitled, "Living into Our Faith," is for those who wish to learn more about, have a refresher, or reaffirm their faith as Episcopalians; who are not confirmed Episcopalians; or who wish to be received into the Episcopal Church from another Christian tradition.

Week 4 (2/12) – Faith & Prayer

Week 5 (2/18) – Ministry: Participating in the Mission of God

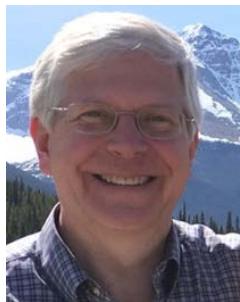
# From The Vestry

## Our New Vestry Candidates

Our New Vestry Candidates that will be presented for election on February 5th, (*pictured l-r*) are Mary Anne Caporaletti and Paul Vilter. Voting will occur prior to the Annual Meeting.



Mary Anne grew up in Southwest Philadelphia where she attended Catholic diocesan schools for 12 years. At the University of Pennsylvania her strong interests in the humanities led to a doctorate in English literature with a strong focus on interdisciplinary studies. An advocate of public education, Mary Anne retired after 38 years in the Radnor School District where she served as classroom teacher, gifted support teacher, department chair, and curriculum coordinator. She continues to work for fair distribution of educational resources and serves as Educational Support Chair for her local Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. Mary Anne lives with her daughter Marielena in Penn Valley. Life with “Mare” and work with organizations like Best Buddies International has sparked an interest in increased inclusion of disabled young adults in more areas of society, especially religious communities. She credits St. Asaph’s with both fostering this interest and reassuring her that it is a worthy goal.



Paul Vilter, 61, was born near Chicago, Illinois; raised in Rochester, Minnesota; received his bachelors degree in business from Michigan State University; and received his MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Paul’s career included management roles at several railroads, starting in 1984 at the former Chessie System and then CSX in Baltimore, Maryland, then at Conrail and Amtrak in Philadelphia. After more than 22 years at Amtrak, Paul retired last year from leading the company’s nationwide planning department. Paul’s wife Mary also retired last year. Paul and Mary first lived in Narberth after their marriage in 1989 but raised their children, Pete, 30, and Carolyn, 27, in Paoli before moving back to Narberth in 2017. Paul and Mary joined St. Asaph’s in 2018; Paul previously served on the Vestry during the 2019-2021 term. Paul enjoys attending Philadelphia Orchestra concerts and dining in Center City, as well as various volunteer activities plus travel with Mary to see friends and family.



## And Many Thanks to Our Retiring Vestry...

We would also like to give a special thanks to our retiring Vestry member, Frank Schmieder whom we thank for his 3 year term of dedicated service.

# Children, Youth & Family Ministry Update

## Volunteers Needed & Wonderful News

Submitted by: Kath Hubbard



We have a terrific group of young people attending the Children's formation on Sundays. Our curriculum is loosely based on the tenets of Godly Play, but we also use Spark Story Bible and other texts to investigate all the ways in which God is in our lives. A HUGE thank you to the readers who have volunteered their time to read to our students! Our guest storytellers have done a terrific job engaging the children each week, and the children have enjoyed getting to know people in the parish they wouldn't otherwise spend time with. This has been an important part of making children central to our ministry – and as such, **we are looking for more volunteers.** I hope you will consider joining us as a one-timer or as part of our volunteer rotation.

## Wonderful News

Megan Young, who has been teaching with Kath Hubbard since October, is now our new Children's Christian Formation Coordinator! Megan has excellent credentials (see her introduction below), but equally important, Megan is a crafter who creates imaginative and intuitive ways for the children to respond to the week's lesson. Megan says she, "tries to engage the children where they are that day." Sometimes this means providing a variety of things for them to choose to do and sometimes this means a guided activity. As it gets warmer, Megan hopes to take Sunday School outside more, including story-time walks around St. Asaph's campus where children find things in nature to help them investigate the lesson.

Not only is Megan our new Christian Formation Coordinator, she and her partner Ryan Peiffer, are in the process of moving into the apartment attached to the Rectory and will be a helpful presence around campus. Take a moment to read their bios below, and please do introduce yourself to them both when you see them future Sundays. We are thrilled to have them both as part of our community!

### Megan Young

Hi! I currently work in the Graduate Support department at St. James School as the college advisor for the 12th graders and college freshman. I have a background in social work and spent 6



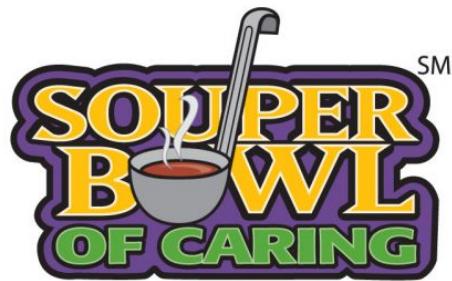
years working in the PA child welfare system in various capacities. I hold degrees in Theology, Social Work, Social Policy from Lancaster Bible College and the University of Pennsylvania, and I am currently working on a certificate in Nonprofit Management from La Salle University. I love learning and education and consider myself a life-long learner! I enjoy spending time with my partner, Ryan, and our two cats Mojo and Maple. We are very excited to be living at St. Asaph's and contributing to the community here.

### **Ryan Peiffer**

Hi! I am excited to be a part of St. Asaph's! I work as a pharmacy technician and supervisor at CVS and own my own record label that caters towards artists just starting their careers. I am passionate about making music and helping others learn new things about the industry. I consider myself an amateur graphic designer and I am learning how to use my artistic skills in a new way. I have a degree in Business Administration from Bucks County Community College and use that to teach others about how to best utilize their finances. In my free time I am often playing guitar or spending the day by the pool in the summer.

### **Youth Formation**

**Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 12<sup>th</sup>, Saint Asaph's Youth Formation Groups are participating in the 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring to help fight hunger. The youth will be collecting cans of soup (or monetary donations for cans of soup) for ElderNet of Lower Merion- Narberth, through Souper Bowl Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.



## *News From Our Members*

*Within a parish, no matter how many times we see one another, there is always something new and interesting to learn about a person that you never realized. What are their outside interests, hobbies, career, travel, etc.? If you have some news you'd like to share about yourself please email to: [office@saintasaphs.org](mailto:office@saintasaphs.org) (no later March 31, 2023) to be included in the next quarterly newsletter.*

# Property News

## Property Updates

*Submitted by Lynda Staton*

A lot has been going on in the areas of restoration, cleaning up and clearing out around St. Asaph's. We began in the summer with removal of the platform to level the floor of the Chancel, then had the floor sanded and refinished, which was long over due after the removal of the organ console in that area.



Many of you have saw the industrial size dumpster parked on campus several months ago, that was rented for the lower level basement and barn area clean out. A huge thank you to the many volunteers that showed up that day to help haul out the many unused items collected over the years. A huge thank you to our members (noted below) and the wonderful students from St. James School who came out to help that day! The basement facelift is an enormous improvement from all of their efforts!



*Pictured: Clean out of the basement*



*Pictured: Clean out of the Choir room*

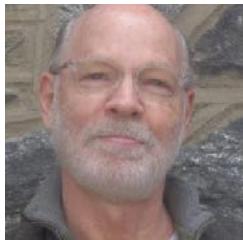


*Pictured: Susan C., Connie S., Steve S., Audrey D., Mary Anne C., David N., Roy H., Bob P., Volunteers from St. James School and Fr. Kellner (he missed the photo op)*



*Pictured: Virginia & Meghan cleaning out the Sunday School room*

# Music & Fine Arts



Submitted by Roy Harker

## Children Choir Practice

Children's Choir Practice meets on Thursdays at 4:30pm. If you would like more information about Children's Choir or how you can help, please contact Roy Harker via email to



## Gallery at St. Asaph's 2023 Schedule



Pandemic Pan de mo ni um  
*Painted, Stitched, Collaged*  
Artist: Linda Lou Horn  
February 17 to March 12, 2023

**Opening Reception:**  
Friday, February 17, 2023,  
6:00pm to 7:30pm



Artist: Jacque Ferretti  
March 17 to April 2, 2023

**Opening Reception:**  
Friday, March 17, 2023,  
6:00pm to 7:30pm



Artist: Juli Snyder  
April 14 to May 7, 2023

**Opening Reception:**  
Friday, April 14, 2023,  
6:00pm to 7:30pm



Artist: Laura Barton  
May 12 to June 4, 2023

**Opening Reception:**  
Friday, May 12, 2023,  
6:00pm to 7:30pm



Artists: Tony Rocco Students –  
*Photography Without Borders*

Since 2009 Photography Without Borders has been teaching youth how to tell their powerful, personal stories using traditional and digital photographic techniques. June 9 to June 25, 2023

**Opening Reception:**  
Friday, June 9, 2023, 6:00pm to 7:30pm

## *News From The Peace Room*

### **A Parent's Response to Virginia Powell's Peace Classes**

I've been working with a little girl from the Ukraine. She comes twice a week for peace talks and lessons. I asked her mother why she liked the peace classes. This was her reply. "I like very much what the peace lessons have given to my daughter. It's a kind of relaxation for her. She thinks the lessons are interesting. From the lessons she has become more aware of relationships between people, how to make friends and how to care for friendships."



Her mother likes the tone of the lessons: respectful, empowering, gentle and calm. She said she noticed that her daughter was 'in the moment' when in the peace room. "It has helped to calm her. She has learned to listen to people. The peace lessons are important because of the world vision they create. She has also strengthened a positive vocabulary." Her daughter, Yeva, will talk about the lessons she has had two to three weeks after she's had them. This is typical of a five year old.

Her mother asked if I could continue giving peace lessons also during the summer. How could I say no?

I thought this was interesting. Last year I had a boy from India, a boy from Ethiopia, a girl from China, a boy from Cuba, a girl from the Ukraine and a little girl whose religion is Muslim. These children came every week. There were five from the United States. We must not take peace for granted. The appreciation of peace is something that should be developed within the character of the person. The character is developed in early childhood and sharpened during the elementary years. Maria Montessori agreed with Gandhi, peace will come only through the children. It is our responsibility to provide the opportunity for children to practice the many virtues of peace.

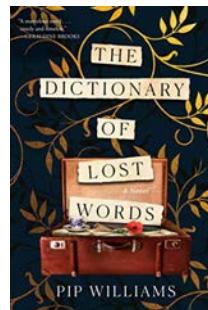
### **Peace Classes to Resume Soon**

Virginia Powell has been seen coming in regularly, cleaning the room, working on curriculum and organizing the many interesting "gift boxes of lessons" in her Peace Room. Please watch for future announcements for the official start date for classes to resume.

# Upcoming Meetings

## Book Groups

Next Book Group meeting will meet on **Monday, February 6th** at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Please join us to discuss the book, "The Dictionary of Lost Words: A Novel" by Pip Williams. The Book Club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month. All are welcome.



### Here's a list of the upcoming books for this Spring:

Monday, March 6th "Jayber Crow" by Wallace Berry

Monday, April 3rd "Proud Cuckoo Land" by Anthony Doerr

Monday, May 1st "Lady Clementine" by Marie Benedict (she wrote "The Personal Librarian")

Monday, June 5th "Exit West" by Mohsin Hamid

Monday July 3rd or 10th "Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel" by Bonnie Garmus

## Outreach Opportunities



### Souper Bowl Sunday

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, Saint Asaph's Youth Formation Groups are participating in the 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring to help fight hunger. The youth will be collecting cans of soup (or monetary donations for cans of soup) for ElderNet of Lower Merion- Narberth, through Souper Bowl Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Food Pantry Donations for Eldernet & St. James School in West Alleghany

We always welcome food pantry donations of protein (tuna, peanut butter) and other non-perishable food items. Please be sure and check the expiration date on any items you donate. The collection of breakfast bars and snacks for Philadelphia Public Schools helps hungry kids to learn. Thanks!



### Hospitality

Coffee hour is an enjoyable time to catch up with friends and to meet potential new members. Please help out by picking a Sunday when you can bring refreshments and stay to clean up. It's easy to team up with someone else and share the shopping. You don't have to have everything homemade, but it is good to have sweet and savory, and some iced tea or juices. The sign-up sheet can be found on the table outside the Sacristy.

# Event News from DIOPA of Pennsylvania

## 2023: Celebrating the Life and Ministry of Blessed Absalom Jones

Saturday, February 11th, 2023

9:00 am - 11:30 am

The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral  
19 S. 38th street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Registration is FREE: Go to The DIOPA website or click the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-the-life-and-ministry-of-blessed-absalom-jones-tickets-477270568117>



# Need Event Space?



## **Birthdays, Graduations, Receptions, Meeting Space...**

St Asaph's has comfortable and affordable spaces to rent for an evening or a weekend. We rent space for events, parties, receptions, meetings, classes, musical performances, etc. We rent to individuals, nonprofit organizations, and businesses.

The Sanctuary is available for both church members and non-members who wish to mark life's passages, baptism, confirmation, weddings and funerals, before God in a Christian context. Our lovely Parish Hall serves as a gallery and a reception area. The conference room offers a quiet space for meetings, yoga or classes. Call the Parish Office for details, (610) 664-0966.



# Remembrances



## **Birthdays In February**

Daniel Poonamalli, Carol Linfoot, Paul Vilter, Simon Nickerson, Kelli Moodie, and Stephanie Shore.

## **Birthdays In March**

Max Santangelo, Joan Roberts, Yvonne Bartman, Chuck Nelsen, Pam Sheeran, Teresa Wallace, Renee Benson, Ndozi Okolo, Wayne Renneisen, Shelley Owen Williamson, Becki Barrett, Jessie Rubinstein, George Graves.



## **Those Who Need Our Prayers**

Alexandra, Andy Andres, Lois Arias, Barbara Barrett, John Barrett, Carolyn Harper Blacker, Kenny Davis, Josh Delclos, George Graves, Max Gravenstein, Jessica H., Jane Cosby Hand, Gwen Hauser, Diane Kessler, Maureen O'Connell, Roy Pfeil, George Post, Bessie Smith and Doris Weimar.



## **For The Recently Departed**

Marti Barrett (John & Janet Barrett).

**We also pray for all victims of war throughout the world**, for those civilians who have died whose names we do not know, for our enemies, and especially for our service men and women who have died.

## *Worship Helper Volunteers*

*Dear Friends,*

*If you would like to assist in some way, during our Sunday liturgy, we are always grateful to have new volunteers. Please email or call the Church Office to be added to the schedule, or if you are already on the list but wish to retire, please advise.*

*Thank you,*

*Lynda Staton, Parish Administrator  
[office@saintasaphs.org](mailto:office@saintasaphs.org)*



*If you are new to our community and would like to be added to this contact list to receive updates on our programming events, etc., please email to [office@saintasaphs.org](mailto:office@saintasaphs.org) your contact information or call (610) 664-0966.*

# Come Worship With Us

## Sunday Liturgy Schedule

8 am Contemplative Service

10 am, Parish Eucharist (*Live and streamed on Facebook*)

**Prefer to receive a paper copy of *The Outlook*?** Email the church office at [office@saintasaphs.org](mailto:office@saintasaphs.org)

### Parish Staff

The Rev. Andrew Kellner, Priest-In-Charge  
[rector@saintasaphs.org](mailto:rector@saintasaphs.org)

Lynda Staton, *Parish Administrator*

[office@saintasaphs.org](mailto:office@saintasaphs.org)

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9a-3p  
610-664-0966

Roy Harker, *Director of Music & the Arts*  
[music@saintasaphs.org](mailto:music@saintasaphs.org)

Steve Sheeran, *Youth Formation*  
[youth@saintasaphs.org](mailto:youth@saintasaphs.org)

Wade Rogers, *Sexton*

[https://www.facebook.com/  
SaintAsaphsBalaCynwyd](https://www.facebook.com/SaintAsaphsBalaCynwyd)

### Vision & Mission

The Church of St Asaph is called to be a progressive Christian community.

- We welcome everyone to God's table.
- We stand with those in need and advocate for the poor, the sick, the friendless and the marginalized.
- We make children central to our life as a community.
- We celebrate the presence of God with joyful, engaging and inviting worship.

## CHURCH OF SAINT ASAPH

*A Parish of The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*

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