



St. Peter's Press

October 2023

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Next Generation at St. Peter's

By Rev. Donna Elia



Think for a moment of the wonderful responsibility that rests on our shoulders. Since we are an energetic, justice-seeking, shoulder-to-shoulder faith community, we rejoice in this powerful image! Think Holy Spirit alighting like a dove, rather than burden weighing us down! St. Peter's is a remarkable church. Let me

rephrase that: St. Peter's is a unique, much-needed voice of love, peace, and justice. Every day, I give thanks for our congregation. I see your faces in my mind's eye. I think of how wonderful it is to meet new people coming through the door, whether for worship or Soul Café, or just to take in the simple beauty of the church. The world needs open-minded, generous-hearted, progressive congregations like St. Peter's, proclaiming a loving and inclusive God and extending a radically hospitable welcome!

On Sunday, November 5, we will begin a conversation about building a legacy for the future and empowering our stewardship now. Please join me during coffee hour for lunch and conversation about becoming a legacy for and with St. Peter's. I know that talking about money, wills, and finance is not for the faint of heart. We are a courageous

congregation, and the work of moving into a dynamic future is our calling. I promise the conversation will be gentle, engaging, and, hopefully, with God's help and yours, inspiring.

As Hillel the Elder said, "If not now, when? If not us, who?"

Rev. Donna Elia can be contacted anytime. You can call her on her cell phone (518-495-6795) or email her at delia001@nycap.rr.com.

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## Big Happenings Occurred in September at St. Peter's!

In case you missed it, September was a very busy month at St. Peter's. In addition to the normal goings on, we:

- Had Cleanup Day on September 9, when many hands contributed to shining things up and getting to places that don't normally get cleaned.
- Celebrated Luke Olivieri's 20th anniversary as Musical Director at St. Peter's on September 10.
- Learned so much from Matilda "Wokie" Parker at a talk she gave on September 16. She is known as an International Liberian Peacemaker. She spoke at our church and other venues, raising awareness of the situation in Liberia and what she is doing to improve conditions there with her foundation.
- Had our second Soul Café on September 19, which was a big success. We had 68 people feasting together in our Fellowship Hall, many of them not affiliated with the church.

See the Photo Album section of this newsletter to for a fuller picture on these events.

## **Clara Gott Incentive Fund Grants Awarded**

The Clara Gott Incentive Fund Committee, Chaired by Jere Wrightsman, met after church on October 1 and awarded grants to the following:

- St. Peter’s Church for manse landscaping
- St. Peter’s Church for childcare
- Replenishment of the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund
- Friends of St. Peter’s Greeting Card Fundraiser

The Committee also considered an application from the Austerlitz Recreational Program for a summer poetry program for kids. It was decided to table this application and reconsider it in January 2024, since the funds are not needed until next summer.

The next due date for submitting applications is December 15, 2023. Application forms are available at all times on the church bulletin board in the narthex and via a link on the St. Peter’s website: <https://saintpeterspc.org/clara-gott-fund/>.

Grant seekers may submit an application once per calendar year.

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## **Women Unabridged**

Women Unabridged met Thursday, September 28 at Mary Anne Davis’s patio, where they shared a potluck feast and good discussion of the book, *Demon Copperhead: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver.

The event was made even more special by a surprise cake to celebrate Nancy Ordman’s



birthday; thanks to Rev. Donna Elia for bringing it and Mary Anne Davis who made a delicious apple crisp with no sugar. The next meeting/potluck is Thursday, October 19 at 6 PM at Lee Armstrong’s home. The book is *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey* by Candice

Millard. The book group always welcomes new participants. For questions, contact Denise Davis, 518-392-9690, or Teresa Barenfeld, 518-755-3273.

## **Rev. Pat Jackson of Interwoven Congregations to Speak at St. Peter’s**

**Reverend Jackson** is executive director of



Interwoven Congregations, an organization that strives to help faith communities in the U.S. become agents for racial justice and healing — within their congregations, in their communities, and across society at large.

Rev. Jackson says, “I’m involved in this work of racial healing because of joy — for when we truly join hands, our hearts swell, and we catch a glimpse of the Kingdom. I’m involved in this work because of heartbreak — for injustices too long denied and too present to ignore. And I do this work out of hope — that one relationship, one partnership, and one action at a time, by God’s grace, will draw us closer to the Beloved Community we seek.”

During worship on October 8, Rev. Jackson will offer a Moment for Justice; during coffee hour, he will share Interwoven’s transformative experience of connecting predominantly White and predominantly Black congregations.

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## **Don’t Forget:**

- Contributions to Healthy Snacks for Kids to supply Sandy’s Food Pantry at Chatham High School and the Morris Memorial Afterschool Program.
- Contributions to toiletries for the Columbia County Sanctuary Movement, who help the migrants in our area.
- Contributions to the Chatham and Ghent Food Pantries.
- Buying/selling raffle tickets for Margy Quinn’s beautiful quilt (\$5 each; three for \$10).





***Christmas is coming!!! And that means the annual, beloved St. Peter's Christmas Bazaar and related activities!***

*Jennifer Thompson is hard at work organizing and will need our help. Please be in touch with Jennifer if you can help out in any way.*

***Some key dates:***

- Holiday event meeting: After church 10/15
- Wreath decorating: Saturday, Nov 25, 10 am to 1 pm
- Bazaar: Saturday, Dec 2, 10 am to 3 pm

***Some tasks (some assigned; some needing volunteers)***

- Wreath pickup.
- Basement setup for wreath making, including natural decorations for the wreaths, and cleanup after.
- Poster design: Jennifer, Mary Anne (by November 1).
- Event publicity.
- Set up and decorate the church for the bazaar: Pat Meess and Jennifer need more volunteers (Dec. 1)
- Lunch: Mary Anne needs two volunteers for preparation Friday and during bazaar and people from the church to make cornbread.
- Jewelry: Barbara Conkling needs 1-2 helpers to prepare and work the table during the bazaar.
- Handmade table: Barbara Smith needs additional volunteers.
- Cookie Walk Table: Donna Staron needs additional volunteers for selling and people from the church to make LOTS OF COOKIES.
- Silent Auction: need someone to head this up.
- Gather boxwood from Grace Anne Silvernale's yard; need volunteer.
- Need nature decorations for wreaths (happening the weekend before Christmas)
- Quilt Raffle: Jean Brower.
- Cash box: need volunteers.
- Clean up: need volunteers.
- Greeters: need volunteers.

***Other possibilities; does anyone have ideas for additional things we might include?***

- Perhaps a gift-wrapping station?
- Perhaps a food items table (tea, hot chocolate mix, flavored salts, soup mixes, granola, etc.)?





# October Worship — Sundays at 10 AM

(In-person and via Zoom)

**1st:** Rev. Donna Elia  
Communion

**8th:** Rev. Donna Elia  
Rev. Pat Jackson from Interwoven Congregations  
speaking during coffee hour

**15th:** All of Us

**22nd:** Rev. Donna Elia

**29th:** Lay Leader Jere Wrightsman

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## Quotes from Elie Wiesel

A writer, humanitarian, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Elie Wiesel, who died in 2016 at age 87, spent much of his life reminding the world of the dangers of indifference and hate and the importance of speaking up against injustice and intolerance, which is some of what we try to do at St. Peter's. His 95th birthday was marked on September 30. We can all learn from the insights he gleaned after surviving the Auschwitz and Buchenwald Nazi death camps.

*The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.  
The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.  
The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.  
And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.*

*Action is the only remedy to indifference: the most insidious danger of all. No human race is superior; no religious faith is inferior.*

*There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.*

*Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe.*

## October Lectionary Readings

**1st:** Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Matthew 21:23-32

**8th:** Exodus 20:1-4,  
7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Matthew 21:33-46

**15th:** Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Matthew 22:1-14

**22nd:** Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
Matthew 22:15-22

**29th:** Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Matthew 22:34-46





***Happy 40th Anniversary to John and Nona Lange!***

*It was a beautiful day October 1, 1983, at the farmhouse they rented in Ancram, along with some friends, including Kathy Geddie. They were Brooklyn dwellers at the time who loved getting away from the city to go to the farmhouse. City friends who came up for the wedding loved it, especially the freshly picked corn on the cob and the specially cooked barbecue chicken. There was dancing, dining, and lots of fun. Who knew that in just a few years Columbia County would be their home.*



***Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Larry Massimo!*** *Larry celebrated by enjoying lunch out with friends. Before that, Randy Ezinga, Sharon Wing, and Kathy Geddie surprised him with some flowers and chocolates from the Deacons.*





# Photo Album

## Cleanup Day, September 9



*Kitchen crew Mary Anne Davis, Wendy Diskin, and Marcy Coalter. Look how it gleams. This does not show the spotless refrigerators and organized cabinets.*



*From left: Mary Anne and Randy getting rid of junk! Jennifer and Sharon organizing closets! And Kate Lippert and Isla Coalter playing with, er, I mean, organizing, toys.*

# Photo Album (Continued)

## Cleanup Day, September 9 (Continued)



*Lots of vacuuming: Larry Massimo in the pews, Lee Coalter in the vents, Seraphina and Lee Coalter in the light fixtures, Jeff Kiplinger on the stairs.*



*Amazing athletes and window washers Kate Lippert and Daphne Coalter cleaning the third-floor windows, climbing up high to reach them! (You should have seen them hoisting themselves atop cabinets to reach the windows!)*



Thanks to Mary Anne Davis and David Pearce for organizing this event and the many hands that made it work, including many not pictured!



# Photo Album (Continued)

## Luke Olivieri's 20th Anniversary Celebration and Potluck, September 10



Just WOW! Marcy and family made this amazing cake with the Cape Cod theme. Husband Lee made the lighthouse with a base of Rice Crispy treats! Below are shots of Pastor Donna and choir members Nona Lange, Sandy Fischer, and Jeff Kiplinger speechifying and other candid shots from the day.





# Photo Album (Continued)

## ***International Peacemaker Matilda Parker from Liberia***



*Several gathered to hear Matilda “Wokie” Parker speak on Saturday, September 16. Some who came are not affiliated with St. Peter’s; they had read about the event in the paper. Lunch was served, featuring Middle Eastern food from the Our Daily Bread. Wokie is Matilda’s Liberian name; it means strong woman, and indeed she is. She stayed in Albany with Felicia Gambles, also from Liberia but living in Albany now. She was delighted with the pottery gift from Mary Anne Davis; the inscription says “Hope.” Attendees donated more than \$400 to Ms. Parker’s Foundation.*





# Photo Album (Continued)

## Soul Café, September 19



*The pièce de résistance of the Soul Café was Joel Dyslin's huge salmon, which he smoked for many hours. Under the golden smoked skin was beautiful pink meat with a delicious, delicate smoked flavor. Also on the menu were meatballs made by Marcy Coalter and Sharon Wing, mac & cheese made by Jennifer Thompson, scalloped potatoes made by Kathy Geddie, salad made by Mary Anne Davis, roasted beets and sweet potatoes, as well as sourdough rolls, made by Marcy, vegetable soup made by Joel, spiraled zucchini, and the congregations' homemade desserts. We counted 68 diners, most of them not affiliated with St. Peter's. We received donations of more than \$500 to use for the next Soul Café! Thanks to all the volunteers who made this happen!!!*





**♪ Happy Birthday to: ♪**



|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Richard Iverson    | 10/1  |
| Lee Coalter        | 10/8  |
| Barbara Conkling   | 10/9  |
| Sandy Davey        | 10/11 |
| Irene Young        | 10/13 |
| Patricia McKeon    | 10/15 |
| Marcy L. Coalter   | 10/16 |
| Caitrianna Coalter | 10/16 |
| Thomas Lareau      | 10/19 |
| Eliza Alice Braley | 10/23 |
| Sarah Braley       | 10/28 |

*Did we forget your birthday?  
If you would like to be added to our birthday list, please contact one of our deacons.*



| Sunday<br>(Service at<br>10 AM)                                                                                   | Monday    | Tuesday                                                                                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                        | Thursday                                                                        | Friday    | Saturday                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>Rev. Donna Elia.<br>Communion                                                                         | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Choir Practice<br>7 PM at church                                                                            | <b>4</b><br>Blessing of the<br>Animals on the<br>Green, 5 PM<br>Council Meeting 6<br>PM via Zoom | <b>5</b>                                                                        | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>8</b><br>Rev. Donna Elia.<br>Rev. Pat Jackson of<br>Interwoven Congregations<br>to speak during coffee<br>hour | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>                                                                                                               | <b>11</b><br>Choir Practice<br>7 PM at church                                                    | <b>12</b>                                                                       | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                |
| <b>15</b><br>All of Us!                                                                                           | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>                                                                                                               | <b>18</b><br>Choir Practice<br>7 PM at church                                                    | <b>19</b><br>Women<br>Unabridged<br>meeting, 6 PM<br>at Lee's house.<br>Potluck | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                                                                                                |
| <b>22</b><br>Rev. Donna Elia                                                                                      | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>Deacons' Meeting<br>7 PM via Zoom                                                                          | <b>25</b><br>Choir Practice<br>7 PM at church                                                    | <b>26</b>                                                                       | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>Full Hunter's Moon<br> |
| <b>29</b><br>Lay Leader Jere<br>Wrightsmen                                                                        | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b><br>Happy<br>Halloween!<br> | <i>Autumn is a second spring when<br/>every leaf is a flower<br/>Albert Camus</i>                |                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                                          |