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*Opening wide our doors and hearts  
in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior*

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**Holy Eucharist  
The Third Sunday of Advent  
Gaudete Sunday  
December 15, 2024 9:00 AM**

Join us in person for our service.

Or join us by going to our livestream on the St. Peter's Facebook page [here](#).

The worship leaflet can be found [here](#).

There will be a coffee hour after the mass.

This Sunday's Ministers:

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Steven Koskinen, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergers*

Ms. Ava Keniston and Ms. Merideth Keniston, *Torch Bearers*  
Mr. Steven Koskinen, *Lector*  
Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*  
Ms. Judy Howes, *Altar Guild*  
TBD, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

Music Notes for this Sunday's service can be found at the end of Key Notes.

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Dear Friends,

Today I had lunch with one of my oldest friends. As she prepares for Christmas, she finds herself in the midst of a swirl of emotions. Her younger son and his wife are expecting their second child, due at the end of this month. At the same time, she is coming to terms with the terminal cancer diagnosis of a friend from high school days. The two of them had just reconnected this past year, and were developing a close and loving relationship. Hope and expectations about what the future will bring, as well as fears.

Advent is a time to acknowledge those and other emotions, and to be reminded that the One who is to come is also the One who has come and is present to us in the living of our lives. Christ is with us when we rejoice, and also when we weep.

One of the prayers I love most in *The Book of Common Prayer* is one we often pray at Compline. Though it refers to the night to come, it speaks of Christ's presence with us when we rejoice, and when we weep. May we all draw closer to that truth this Advent.

Faithfully,

Fr. Tom

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

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## Weekly Stewardship Update: Our Numbers Increase



**We are happy to report that 38 families or individuals have now pledged \$72,234.**

Thank you, generous and faithful givers!

Pledges continue to come in and we welcome them.

If you have not yet done so, please fill out a pledge form and return to church or mail to the church address. Pledge forms can be found at church or [here](#).

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### **St. Peter's Hosts the Youth Service Corps This Sunday, December 15**

The next Youth Service Corps gathering will be at our church on Sunday, December 15. Folks will gather for lunch and community building, and organizing warming kits for Maine Needs. Please note to RSVP to Amber, our coordinator, by the end of today if you plan to attend. See more information below.

# YOUTH SERVICE CORPS EVENT

SUNDAY DEC 15 • 12-2:30 PM  
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
678 WASHINGTON AVE, PORTLAND  
PICK UP AT MAINE NEEDS AT 2:30  
AT 332 FOREST AVENUE, PORTLAND

COME JOIN US FOR PIZZA, HOT  
COCOA AND COOKIES! YOU'RE  
INVITED TO DRESS UP LIKE AN ELF  
TO BRING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT  
WHILE WE MAKE WARMING KITS TO  
DROP OFF AT MAINE NEEDS.

PLEASE RSVP BY THU DEC 12  
TO AMBER BURKS,  
YOUTH SERVICE CORPS  
COORDINATOR, AT  
[AMBER@STALBANSMAINE.ORG](mailto:AMBER@STALBANSMAINE.ORG)



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## Merry Hearts Meets on Thursday, December 19th for Lunch and Fellowship

Come for a lovely lunch of soup and a sweet, and time to visit with others. Perhaps this is an opportunity to invite a friend to discover the fellowship we share at St. Peter's. In the midsts of your holiday preparations, take time to break bread with others.

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## A Season of Giving

### Gifts for Children

Anica Hickey spoke to those of us at Coffee Hour last Sunday about her desire to provide Christmas gifts for children whose

families may not be able to afford them. At her initiative, she is providing us with the opportunity to help. Anica explains how:

### **Giving Tree for Children in Need - 2024**

This Advent, I am inviting the community at St. Peters to join together to purchase gifts for children in need.

If you would like to sponsor a child, here's what's next:

1. On December 15, during coffee hour, there will be wishlists on ornaments on a tree for each child. You can pick the child(ren) you would like to sponsor.
2. Purchase a gift and package it neatly with the child's ornament visible
3. On December 22, drop off your gift in the marked box in the undercroft
4. Presents will be delivered for Christmas!

Thank you so much for helping our neighbors this Christmas!

If you have questions for Anica or want to learn more, please reply to this email, and we will put you in touch with her.

Thank you Anica, for extending our love to our neighbors!

### **St. Elizabeth's Winter Coats and Boots Drive**

St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry will be accepting winter coats, boots, and gloves, mittens, and hats through the end of December. New or good quality used goods may be left in the basket in the undercroft for delivery to St. Elizabeth's. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

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### **Around the Parish**

Congratulations to Matt Cheney and Gwyn Stansfield, who have just announced their engagement!

At a recent coffee hour, Matt mentioned that he had run in the Mount Desert Island Marathon. As it turns out, Matt was the winner of the marathon, which was held on October 20.

Matt shares that “my parents came up from Kentucky, and it was great to have Gwyn and them there for support. There were

841 runners in the marathon. The course was the most stunning route you could ever hope for during a marathon, especially in the fall.”

Gwyn adds, “Matt finished MDI in 2:32 -- and it was a very close and exciting race! He ran pretty much side by side with the 2nd place finisher, Sean Clark of PA, throughout the race, before pulling ahead in the final couple miles.”

You can read an article about the MDI race, which quotes Matt and Sean [here](#).

Then just last Saturday, on December 7th, Matt came in first in the Millinocket Marathon. It was a very chilly day with temps starting around 10 degrees and a below zero wind chill. Around 200 marathon runners and close to 1800 half marathon runners participated, an event record. This was the second time Matt won the Millinocket race, having set the course record in 2022. His time in 2022 2:36, and this year it was 2:45.

MDI and Millinocket are known as the Sea to Summit series -- sister races, founded and managed by the same people and beloved by the Maine running community. And Matt was the winner of both.

Congratulations, Matt!

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## **On Words: What is the meaning of "to mean"?**

The Spanish verb "esperar" is used to mean "to hope", "to wait", and "to expect". In order to convey a particular sense, one must provide enough context, explicitly or implicitly, to enable the hearer to understand what is intended.

A less dramatic example in English is "want", meaning both "to desire" and "to lack". Again, context is vital, but there is still plenty of room for confusion. Imagine a rude and ill-behaved boy in your neighborhood. If his mother were to say to you "He wants manners" you would almost certainly assume the sense "to lack". However, the mother, blind to his faults and madly optimistic, might mean that the boy secretly wished to enroll in an Emily Post class. Hence the intended meaning of the mother is not the one you assume.

In such a stark example, it is clearly the case that the understood sense is not the one intended by the mother. It is important to realize that the "meaning" of what you say is what the listener can reasonably expect it to be.

This can lead not only to misunderstanding but to unpleasantness. Nor are we speaking only of verbs. For example, if, as you walked into your office, Ed told you "Someone had been going through your desk", you would assume that "someone" meant "someone else". If you later found out that the "someone" was Ed himself, you would not be pleased.

All this makes it reasonable that you might find yourself wanting to ask someone "What do you think you mean?". Almost anyone would, however, see this as an insult. And so it goes; language is work.

*On Words is a monthly column about the use and misuse of words by Jonathan McCormick.*

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## **Word of the Week**

*A weekly note about the words Episcopalians use.*

The word of the week is **Vestry**.

"What is a vestry?" That was a question asked of the rector during the gathering after church to talk about membership in the parish. It was a great question, as it reminded us all of language we use in the Episcopal Church that is not necessarily familiar.

The vestry is the governing body of a parish. Our vestry is made up of fifteen members. Working with the rector, (who by office is a member of the vestry) the group is responsible for the oversight of the spiritual, financial, and program life of the parish. Most vestry members serve for three year terms, and are elected at the Annual Meeting of the parish, which this year will be held on Sunday January 19th after the mass. Officers of the parish, the senior and junior wardens, the treasurer and the clerk, are also members. Our vestry usually meets on the fourth

Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM on Zoom, and vestry meetings are always open to any who wish to attend.

The term comes from earlier days in the Church of England, when parish meetings were often held in the vesting room of the church, called the vestry, the only space available other than the nave.

### **And Speaking of the Vestry....**

The Nominations Committee reports that there are still three open positions for the 2025 vestry. Persons are elected for a three year term, and if you are interested, please speak to a member of the committee: Lorna Blackmer, Lenita Richard, Anita Chandler, or the rector.

If you wish to attend the vestry meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 6:30 PM, the Zoom link is [here](#).

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### **Advent and Christmas Plans at St. Peter's**

Sun. Dec. 15: The Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete "Rose"  
Sunday

Mass at 9:00 AM, with music including resident soloist, Mary Sullivan

Sun. Dec. 22: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass at 9:00 AM

Return Gifts for the Giving Tree

Tue., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Solemn Mass at 7:00 PM with music including guest soloist, Michele Kennedy

Sat. Dec. 28: Christmas Concert at 4:00 PM

Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* and Other Seasonal Tunes, featuring Mary Sullivan and the Amethyst Chamber Ensemble (see more info below).

Sun. Dec. 29: A Service of Lessons and Carols at the 9:00 AM Service



## **Christmas Flowers**

Help adorn the church with flowers for our Christmas celebrations. Donations of any amount are welcome in memory or honor of someone, and those names are listed in the worship leaflets for Christmas. You can find forms to fill out at church, or online [here](#).

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## **The Amethyst Chamber Ensemble Will Present**

### **BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S *CEREMONY OF CAROLS***

WITH SEAN FLEMING, PIANO/ORGAN AND VIRGINIA FLANAGAN, HARP

PROGRAM WILL ALSO FEATURE CAROLS AND SEASONAL SONGS FOR MIXED VOICES

SOLOISTS WILL INCLUDE MARY SULLIVAN, SOPRANO; JOELLE MORRIS, MEZZO-SOPRANO; AND JOSH WITHAM, TENOR/SAXOPHONE

OPEN TO ALL WITHOUT CHARGE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH AT 4 PM AT ST. PETER'S

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## **Advent Offerings at Other Episcopal Parishes**

# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road, Cape Elizabeth

presents

## Advent Organ Recital Series

Tuesdays during Advent

**6:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

Free-will offerings to support Music Ministries

November 26

**Harold Stover**



December 3

**Jennifer McPherson Mulhern**



December 10

**Marnus Greyling**



December 17

**Hentus van Rooyen**



**Saint Alban's**  
A PLACE TO GROW TOGETHER

# Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays in Advent  
5:30 PM

December 4, 11, & 18

JOIN US FOR A SERVICE OF  
MUSIC, PRAYER, AND  
CANDLELIGHT

ST. BART'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
396 GILMAN RD, YARMOUTH, ME

'Behold! I bring you good news of great  
joy that will be for all the people!'  
(Luke 2:10).

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## St. Peter's Calendar

### Looking Ahead

*Vestry Meeting*, Tue. Dec. 17th at 6:30 PM on Zoom

*Merry Hearts Lunch*, Thu. Dec. 19th at noon

*Christmas Eve Service*, Wed. Dec. 24th at 7:00 PM

*Amethyst Chamber Ensemble Concert*, Sat. Dec. 28th, at 4:00 PM

*Annual Meeting*, Sunday January 19th after the 9:00 AM Mass

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## Compline for Wed. Dec. 18th

Join us for the Compline Prayer Service on Zoom on Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 PM

[Here](#) is the service for Compline.

The Zoom link is [here](#).

[Here](#) is the service for Compline.

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## Sunday Minister Rota for December

### December 15

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergers*

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Ms. Judy Howes, *Altar Guild*

TBD, *Coffee Hour Host*

### December 22

Ms. Lenita Richard and TBD, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergers*

Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*

Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*

TBD, *Coffee Hour Host*

### December 24 Christmas Eve

Ms. Anne Whitman and Ms. Emily Keniston, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergers*

TBD, *Torch Bearers*

Ms. Merideth Keniston, Ms. Ava Keniston and Ms. Eleanor Keniston, *Lectors*

Mr. Bob Simmons, *Usher*

Ms. Janene Gorham & Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*

**December 29, 2024**

Mr. David Savage and Ms. Janene Gorham , *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Crucifer*

Ms. Anita Chandler + others, *Lectors*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Mr. David Savage, *Altar Guild*

TBD, *Coffee Hour Host*

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## **Weekly Prayer List**

### **Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends**

**Ann Marie Cady**

**Allison Schroth**

**Francisco Andreu**

**Diane Dalton**

**Dino Rice**

**Robert Stillings**

**Fred Fowler**

**Mary Ann Hoy**

**Barbara Vessey**

**Cindy Sherwood**

**Galen Weibley**

**Fred Madore**

**Peter Haskell**, *friend of Allison Schroth*

**Martha Gagliardi**, *friend of Fr. Tom*

**Tommy Valente**, *friend of Don and Ann Marie Cady*

**Jane Reiha**, *friend of Judy Howes*

**Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche**, *friends of Dino Rice*

**Marge Devine**, *family member of Allison Schroth*

**Jimmy Devine**, *family member of Allison Schroth*

**Fuji Sprott**, *friend of Dino Rice*

**David Turner**, *cousin of Craig Mousin*

**Tammy**, *friend of Craig Mousin*

**Beth**, *friend of Lee Walters*

**Pam**, *friend of Anita Chandler*

**The Kutasi Family**, *friends of Allison Schroth*

**Glenn**, *spouse of Caroline Loupe*

**Janet Blessing**, *neighbor of Jane Noone*

**Kelly Marie Bell**, *friend of Allison Schroth*

**Earle**, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*

**Grace**, family member of Jessie Vega

**Kay Gross**, friend of Jane Noone

**Lisa Gorham**, daughter of John & Janene Gorham

**Gerald and Anita Talbot**, friends of Anita Chandler

**Janine W.**, friend of Anita Chandler

**John Manchester**, friend of Fr. Tom

**James Ford**, former parishioner, friend of Lenita Richard

Please remember **Lincoln Clark** and his family in your prayers. Lincoln died today, December 12. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

If you wish to add or return persons to the prayer list, please contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinators:

Allison Schroth, at: 207-807-1315

[ASchroth@maine.rr.com](mailto:ASchroth@maine.rr.com)

or

Emma Bond at: 207-619-3662

[emma.e.bond@gmail.com](mailto:emma.e.bond@gmail.com)

### **A Prayer for Those We Love**

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

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## **NOTES ON THIS WEEK'S MUSIC**

In an age seemingly dominated by popular culture, it is interesting to note that the most frequently performed and largely attended musical composition of all time remains Handel's great oratorio, *Messiah*. Composed in an incredible 24 days, the work received its premiere at a benefit concert in Dublin. The reception was enthusiastic, to say the least: so that the largest possible audience could be admitted to the concert, gentlemen were requested to remove their swords, and ladies were asked not to wear hoops in their dresses. The performance earned unanimous praise from the assembled press: "Words are wanting to express the exquisite delight it afforded to the admiring and crowded Audience," enthused Dublin's leading music critic.

John Rutter (b.1947) is readily acknowledged as the most recognized English composer of the 20th-21st centuries. His

music has been performed throughout the world, and his Christmas works are now classic fare.

The authorship of Bach's *Eight Short Preludes and Fugues*, standard fare for every serious organ student, is a source of ongoing controversy. Attributed to Bach in the mid-19th century by the editors of the first complete edition of his organ works, the so-called "Eight Short" have more recently been thought to be by his student Johann Krebs, since in so many places they seem unlike anything else Bach is known to have written for organ. The only problem with that hypothesis is that they're unlike anything Krebs ever wrote, as well! Did some other composer--one of Bach's talented sons, for example--produce them, perhaps with some help from the master himself in places? Within the past few years, the brilliant but controversial German musicologist/organist Harald Vogel has offered a new theory: the "Eight Short" were composed by Bach all right, but for the pedal clavichord, not the organ, which he feels would account for the departures from Bach's usual style of organ composition. Whatever the case, they're fine pieces and can serve effectively at various points in a church service, as the example heard this morning attests.~ HT

As always, it is a pleasure to welcome resident soloist Mary Sullivan to St. Peter's Church.

[Visit our Website](#)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Portland ME | 10 Alton Street | Portland, ME 04101 US

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