

40 Day
Prayer Challenge
For Lent 2021

Individual's Edition



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS • MARYLAND • ESTABLISHED 1692

1601 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis, MD. 21409

(410) 974-0200

info@st-margarets.org

www.st-margarets.org

As we enter the season of Lent in 2021, we are still dealing with the challenges of living in a Covid-19 world. As a result, this year we are offering you an easy way to celebrate Lent at home.

Here is a 40-day Lenten prayer challenge. As Jesus did for forty days and forty nights, we want you to offer up prayers for a variety of people and things for the same 40 days. Whether it is in the morning, after dinner, or at bedtime. Hopefully, this spiritual practice will lead you into a regular daily prayer routine in the future.



Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Peter W. Mayer
Rector, St. Margaret's Church

Join us for a Lenten Quiet Day

Join the Rev. Patti Sachs for an intentional time of quiet refreshment, meditation and prayer on **Friday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

To prepare for this two-hour journey, you'll need to block out the time to do it and gather a few supplies. You'll want a prayer space. You can make this space or perhaps you already have one. It should be a quiet place where you will not be disturbed. You can have a candle, maybe some incense, a book of reflections or meditations, a journal or maybe some coloring pages, your Bible, and perhaps some soft, soothing music. Participants will spend two hours being focused on the presence of God - in our lives, in nature, in our midst. To really focus on God, we need to remove ourselves and as many distractions as we are able.

Participants will start with a liturgy on our Facebook public page just like her morning videos. Fifteen minutes of quiet meditation follow. Then, for the next hour and 45 minutes, participants can do activities that include spending some time in nature, some time reflecting or meditating, and some time in quiet prayer. At the end of the session, participants go back to Facebook for closing prayers.

Daily Prayer Topics

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | For teachers | 21 | For help to forgive |
| 2 | For healthcare workers | 22 | For help to be kind |
| 3 | For clergy | 23 | For those fighting social injustice |
| 4 | For first responders | 24 | For those having a tough time |
| 5 | For the homeless | 25 | For those addicted |
| 6 | For the hungry | 26 | For those incarcerated |
| 7 | For restaurant/grocery store workers | 27 | For reconciliation & reparations efforts |
| 8 | For the military | 28 | For food and farmers/workers |
| 9 | For artists | 29 | For our country |
| 10 | For those sick with Covid | 30 | For senior citizens |
| 11 | For the families of those victims | 31 | For delivery drivers |
| 12 | For our leaders | 32 | For small businesses |
| 13 | For our church volunteers | 33 | For the Chesapeake Bay |
| 14 | For the mentally ill | 34 | For our LGBTQ+ friends |
| 15 | For neighbors | 35 | For high school/college graduates |
| 16 | For pets/those who help animals | 36 | For those affected by national disasters |
| 17 | For journalists | 37 | For the unemployed |
| 18 | For friends | 38 | Maundy Thursday |
| 19 | For our planet | 39 | Good Friday |
| 20 | For immigrants | 40 | The Lord's Prayer |

Begin Wednesday, February 17

Use Sunday as a day of rest

Finish on Saturday, April 3

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. James 3:1



O God, I ask that you watch over teachers as they prepare to lead their classes each day in new ways. May your strength fill them and enable them to inspire students. We pray that you lead them by your Spirit in every decision they must make daily. Through preparation and planning, help them to see every child through your eyes. We pray in your most Holy name. Amen.

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. 3 John 1:2



Gracious God, during the pandemic, I pray this day for healthcare workers; for nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, doctors, CNA's, radiologists, respiratory therapists, administrators, medical technicians, and ambulance workers. Receive the pain they feel as, despite their best efforts, they watch countless people die. You are the God who heals the brokenhearted so shield their hearts from undue pain, and when this pandemic is over, let those shields fall easily away. Be present with those healthcare workers as they speak to the dying on behalf of loved ones they have not met and do not know. Be present as they speak also to those loved ones. Place your words on their lips so that they might speak with honesty, clarity, compassion, wisdom, patience, and love. We pray in your name. Amen.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15



During this time of adversity and scattering from this virus, I ask You to help the Revs. Peter and Patti to remain leaders our Church into growing even stronger. They've quickly adapted and embraced this challenge. Their hours have become long, and they endure a heavier burden to care for a flock they can't see or visit in hospitals, nor be present with grieving families. We know it is challenging to preach to a camera in an empty room. Please give them the desire to seek You, giving them wisdom and energy. Grow their passion for their church and provide them with rest. Amen.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 1 John 3:16



Almighty God, you lend your strength to all those who are there for us in times of crisis, fear, and hurt. Please give courage to the first responders who continue to do this important work they are called to do, looking beyond the risk for the sake of those who need your help and protection. We give you thanks for the many ways they give of themselves, their skills, knowledge and help in troubling times. Protect them, O Lord. Extend your shielding hand over them and comfort their hearts when they are tired and heartbroken. Amen.

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' Deuteronomy 15:11



O Lord, we see you as the God of mercy, grace and provision. We thank you for the strength you give us each day. Lord, we intercede for those that do not have shelter of their own. Bless them with protection from the elements, bless them to have sufficiency of food and clothing, bless them with joy and peace of mind. Deliver the homeless to have their own residence and bless them with the security of your love and protection each day. Amen.

*Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street.
Lamentations 2:19*



Feeding the Community

Almighty God, it is difficult to see children suffer, especially from hunger. I pray for You to give the hungry daily bread today and end their persistent hunger. Provide the food they need to grow and thrive. Pour out Your grace on hungry families, especially parents straining to feed their children despite dwindling resources. We also offer thanks for all of the volunteers trying to meet the needs of their neighbors. Give them strength to continue their efforts. Amen.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35



O God, may your favor rest on every cashier, bagger, stock clerk, butcher, department manager, assistant store manager, store manager, waiter, and chef. Prosper, gracious Lord, the work of their hands and bless their households. Continue to protect them from COVID-19 virus, from every hurt, harm or danger. May they be met with love and kindness from everyone that benefits from their labor. Amen.

We put our hope in the Lord. God is our help and our shield. Our hearts rejoice, for we trust in God's holy name. Let Your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in You alone. Psalm 33:20-22



Almighty God, watch over and protect our nation's military members and their families. Sustain them with your everlasting arms and offer gracious protection for our service members currently deployed. May you be their comfort and their guide. Give them reassurance that you are a shield around them, an ever-present help in time of need. Grant our service members courage so that in all things they may serve without reproach. Amen.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith. Romans 12:6



Dear God, who gifted us the beauty of the arts, bless those who are losing their livelihood as the pandemic continues the cancellation of performances and shows worldwide. For dancers and actors, musicians and painters, we pray one day soon we once again are gifted with being transported to different times and places through the talents of those blessed by you. Amen.

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 John 1:2



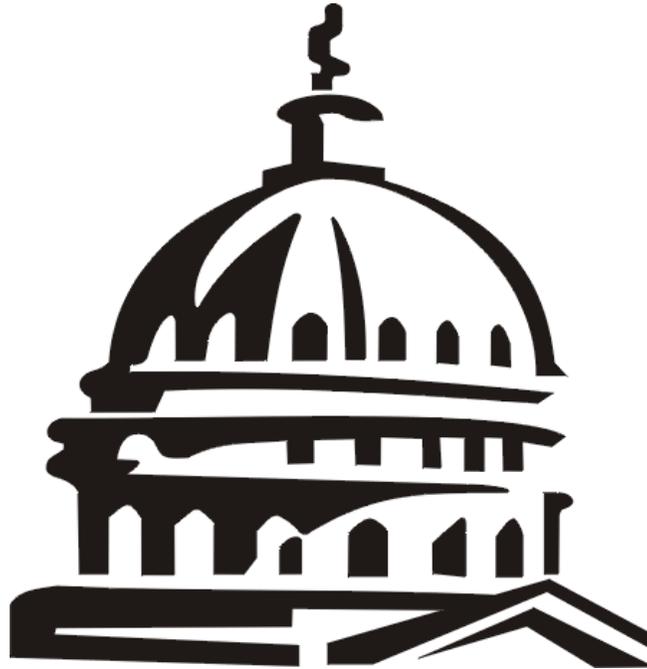
Merciful God, hear our prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive a quick diagnosis, the proper treatment, and the comfort of your healing presence. Help them soon to be free of pain and free of fear. And surround them with your love, empowering them with your courage. Amen.

So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. John 16:22



Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with them in their grief, protect them from despair, and give them grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4



Dear God, we pray for political leaders. Please give them strength and wisdom and guide their decisions. May they always put love first. Surround them with people from all walks of life and many backgrounds. Among the many voices which cry out to them every day, may they hear your voice above all others. As we look to them for assurance and guidance, especially at times of crisis, inspire them and speak through them by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. --1 Peter 4:10



Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our church. Thank you for equipping each one of these volunteers with gifts for ministry. Thank you for their willingness to respond to your call to serve with gladness. Sustain them on the days when they are tired. Grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents. Amen.

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28*



Loving God, we pray today for those who are confronted by the sadness, ambiguity and confusion of mental illness and for those upon whom they depend for attention and compassionate care. Look with mercy on all whose afflictions bring them weakness, distress, confusion or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give to them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help. Amen.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 3:16



Loving God, may we look at others as if through your eyes, less judging, more loving, and seeing them, like us, as not perfect or finished but as a work in progress that will be completed in due time by your hands. Amen.

Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?' Job 35:11



Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. We ask you to bless our pets and all animals and those who care for them. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

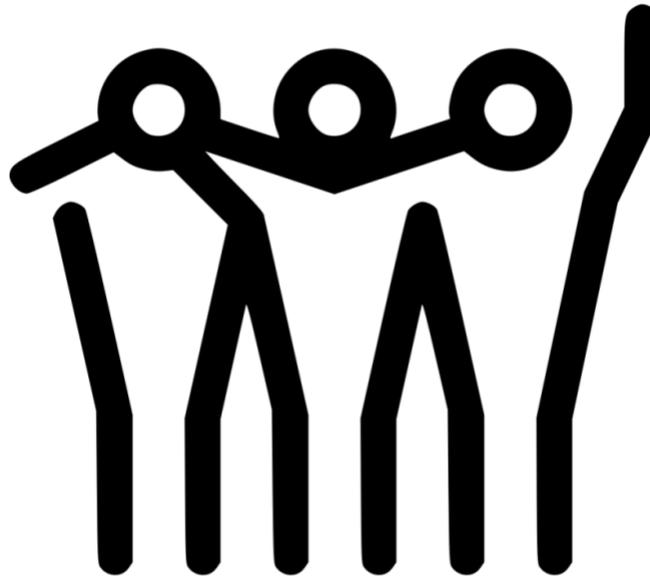
As he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

2 Peter 3:16



O God, look down and bless all who work in journalism. Protect those who labor in the service of the printed word, that they may dedicate themselves to the distribution of truth. See that they always remember the heavy responsibilities of what they write and what they say. Bless their work, and bless their families and friends. Amen.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



Loving God, thank you for all of your gifts. I thank you for giving me family and friends to be with in times of joy and sorrow, to help us in days of need, and to rejoice with us in moments of celebration. May I be a gentle presence in the life of my friends, ever willing to listen, to forgive, and to extend hospitality. Remind me of the importance of friendship so that I take the time to nourish these precious relationships. Amen.

That the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Romans 8:21



O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of and care for your creation. Help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your creatures as signs of your wondrous love. Help us turn from the selfish consumption of resources meant for all and to see the environmental impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable. Amen.

When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:33-34



Lord, we ask that you give us the strength to defend those who are marginalized, to give aid to those in need, to come to the defense of those who are poor or vulnerable, and to welcome those who are on the move into our country and into our hearts. Amen.

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:13



Loving God, thank you that through your son Jesus Christ you have forgiven me for my sins. I understand that through Your Holy Spirit it is possible for me to forgive others who have sinned against me. Please free me from any bitterness toward others from this point forward. And grant me wisdom to know when and how to trust. Amen.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32



Grant me knowledge, judgment, and care to use kindness to cut out hatred, racism, indifference, inequality, and all the other afflictions growing in the world today. Use me, Lord, to be an example of Your kindness and to be Your catalyst for change. Amen.

*Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.
Proverbs 31:9*



Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10



Loving God, give those with anxiety in this trying time the strength and clarity of mind to find their purpose and walk the path you've laid out for them. Help them trust your love and know that you will heal this stress. Just as the sun rises each day against the dark of night, please bring them clarity with the light of God. Amen.

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:15



Lord, I pray for all who are weighed down with some form of addiction. You are the One who came to set the captives free and to release the sinners from the chains that bind them. Look with compassion on all that are ensnared by any form of addiction. Give wisdom to their family members and those that care for them, that they may be given the support and help to put them back on the road to recovery. Endow them with patience, understanding and perseverance, knowing that this can take time to address. Amen.

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37



O God, we ask you to be with all those who are incarcerated today, for those living out sentences, and those awaiting trial or bail. Let your spirit of peace and comfort be upon them. Keep all those who work in prisons and jails healthy and prevent the spread of the virus to all those they interact with. Amen.

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: A sceptre of equity is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Psalm 45:6



O God, who originated all peoples, fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love, and kindle in them a desire for the just advancement of their neighbor. May every division be removed, and equity and justice be established in all society. Amen.

And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. Genesis 1:29



Thank you, God, for people who love the land and care for it well, making farming sustainable for future generations. Give them good working conditions, happy relations with the rest of the community, and a fair reward for their labors. Amen.

Dear God, we ask that prayers be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.

1 Timothy 2:1-3



Lord God, you are the Builder of all things. May our leaders work together and not get sidetracked by partisan politics. Help our leaders – and help us – not to be divided, but to commit to working cooperatively for the common good. Give our leaders and us humility and respect for one another. When our leaders have different opinions and agendas, help them find common ground and find ways to compromise. Amen.

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5



Gracious God, we ask you to especially bless the seniors in our church family. We thank you for them and their loving caretakers who appreciate their wisdom and the richness of their experience. Send your Holy Spirit to their family members who will help them make wise decisions and who will have the patience to care for those who once cared for them. Amen.

*For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.
1 Corinthians 3:9*



Mighty God, we give you thanks for all those whose jobs are essential, whose work keeps your people fed, provides necessary items for living, and keeps our lines of communication open. We especially give thanks for all the package delivery personnel who often must travel in the midst of trouble to carry out their work. We give thanks for their sacrifice, their dedication, and their strength. Amen.

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it. Proverbs 13:11



Creator God, we give you thanks for all the ways you inspire your people, the ways you provide for them, and set great paths before them. We are grateful for the many small business owners who felt your creative call and pursued their dreams. We pray for all those businesses who are suffering hardship because of the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. May the communities these businesses serve rally to support them and fill their spirits with hope. Amen.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:2



Good and gracious God, we see all the ways we take water for granted. We are thankful for Your gift of water seen in the beauty of waterfalls, placid lakes, rivers that move people and commerce, oceans full of amazing creatures. Give us guidance on how to be better stewards of the resources of the Chesapeake Bay. Amen.

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28*



Loving God, source of all creation, you endowed all people with inherent dignity and worth, and you invite us to treat each other in ways that honor and value that worth. We lament that too often the lives, rights, and freedom of LGBTQ+ people have not been valued in our communities and our society. Give us the courage to reconcile with those who have been harmed by religion. We ask your blessing as we seek to co-create a world where people are free from injustice, violence, and discrimination. Amen.

*Take hold of instruction, do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.
Proverbs 4:13*



O God, we pray parents have the flexibility to care for their children when schools close. May students who are in their formative years of high school and college understand the flexibility required to ensure safety for all. Help students understand that annual high school and college activities are not possible in a pandemic. And may school and collegiate systems plan out the school year with safety as their top priority. Amen.

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10



Holy One, you are a comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis, and chaos. Surround victims with your grace and peace through storm or earthquake, fire or flood. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue and rebuild, and fill them with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
John 14:27



O God, the Creator of all things, you have made us in your own image so that we may find joy in creative work: have mercy on all those who are unemployed, and those who find their work unfulfilling. Help us to build a society where all may have work and find joy in doing it, for the good of our world and the glory of your name. Amen.

*Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.
Matthew 26:26-29*



Holy God, you put all power and authority into the hands of Christ—Christ, who washes our feet in humble service. Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it, with love and compassion for all. Teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us, so that everyone will know that we are his disciples. Amen.

The SMC Maundy Thursday service is at 7 p.m. this evening on Facebook, YouTube, and our website.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5



O God, we remember today the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy, or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you have freely given and what you have done for us. Amen.

The SMC Good Friday Service is at 7 p.m. this evening this evening on Facebook, YouTube, and our website.

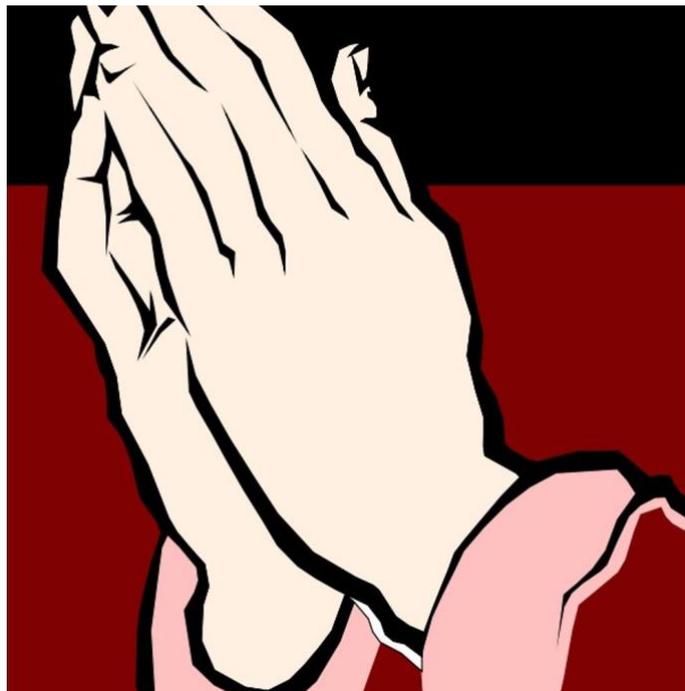
*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



**Congratulations! You have accomplished our 40 Day Prayer Challenge!
View our Easter Vigil service at 8 p.m. tonight on Facebook, YouTube, and
our website.**

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS · MARYLAND · ESTABLISHED 1692

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector
The Rev. Patti Sachs, Assoc. Rector
Elizabeth Radley, Director of Operations
Jim Douglas, Director of Music
Laura Tayman, Director of Communications
Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Leader
Teresa McCorkle, Bookkeeper
Jim Bowersox, Facilities & Operations Asst.
Judy Hall, Churchyard Administrator
Christine Feldmann, Grants Administrator

Vestry Board

Kristen Berthelotte, Senior Warden
Paul Schurke, Junior Warden
Katherine Wiernicki
Jim Barnett, Clerk

Vestry Members

David Allen
Stacia Bontempo
Marti Engstrom
Barbara Friedmann
Cory Greene
Alden Gross
Elizabeth Kopack
Kathy Lang
Luke Morgan
Chris Prender
Susan Roberts
Ella Tomko