

BLOW YOUR TRUMPET GABRIEL

News of the Life and Ministries of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

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**Late
Spring 2025**

Issue 8 Highlights:

***A Word from the
Rev. Peter Floyd***

***Spring Photo
Highlights***

Voice of the Vestry

***Notes from our
Jr. Warden***

Jenny Berthiaume, Newsletter Editor



“Our mission is to share with our neighbors our love of God through worship, fellowship and service. We will journey together both during our worship and outside our church walls, as a community of faith, in unity with God and each other in Christ.”

The Vestry – St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church March 2024

Words and Reflections from Reverend Peter Floyd

“Some 17 years ago, I was sitting in a congregation gathered to celebrate the Eucharist. The priest read the **Collect for Purity**. The opening line smacked me upside my head! “O God, to you all hearts are open, all desired known, and from you no secrets are hid...” In an instant, I discovered that prayer is not a pious religious exercise. Prayer is paying attention to what is in your consciousness. For instance, yesterday I slowed to a crawl on Route 9, passing wreckers, fire trucks, police, ambulances and three smashed cars. EMT guys were putting someone in the back of an ambulance. In no particular order, my conscious mind saw the injured person being loaded in the ambulance, the cop directing traffic, and the EMT people. Given the truth of the opening of the **Collect for Purity**, I was praying for the victims of the crash, and the cops and the EMT people. Later on I thought about people texting while driving; wondering if that had anything to do with the accident. As well, I thought about the car that had passed me a bit earlier doing at least 90 mph. All of that is prayer. When St. Paul urges us to ‘pray without ceasing’, don’t get in a swivet about *not* praying. Paying attention to what’s going on in your head is your prayer.”

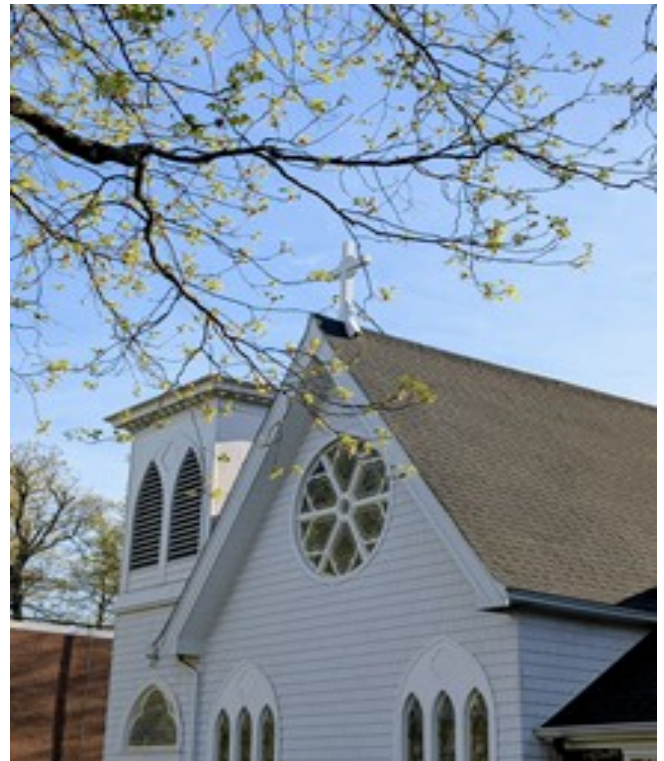
Spring Photo Gallery Spring Photo Gallery Spring Photo Gallery



Rev. Floyd called the St. Gabriel's praying community to arms during Lent. "Find all the coins you've collected in jars, cans, buckets and boxes over the years and bring them in so we can get together and count them! The total amount will be donated to a charity or organization that is near and dear to a parishoners heart." Karen Spots, who is a volunteer at **CAT TAILS** received this years donation of \$700!



St. Gabriel's was decked out for Easter. Thanks to the efforts of the Altar Guild, the candles glowed, the brass shined and spring flowers welcomed all for a joyous celebration.



Look! Up in the sky! It's a tree, it's a window! YES!, but it's also a CROSS on the roof! Thanks to Tim Freeland and company for restoring the cross to its proper place.



Check out that crane! Not an easy task!



But so worth it! Thanks be to God!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG - IT'S PLANT SALE TIME



The spring flower sale was a success despite a very soggy Friday. The flowers (volunteers and customers, too!) perked up when the sun came out on Saturday and Sunday. Net sales were well over \$6,000 for the 3 day sale! Thanks again to Jane and Richard Hudson for organizing this annual fund raiser!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!



Congratulations, Thomas! UCONN class of 2025! Thomas earned his dual Bachelor's degrees in Physics and Math Stats. He plans to spend this summer doing research and editing a textbook and doing some traveling. He'll resume his studies for a Master's degree in Physics this fall and thankfully will be back with us to share his marvelous talent as our organist.

LOOKING GOOD!



WOW! Check out the hardwood floors! Roller skating anyone? HaHa! Just kidding! The refinished floors in the narthex and parish halls are gleaming. Thanks to all the volunteers who moved furniture out and then back again. The floors never looked so good!

The Voice of the Vestry – May 4, 2025

Present: Rev. Peter Floyd (PIC), Ron Stack (Sr. Warden), Mark Pruzin (Jr. Warden), Karen Spotts (Treasurer), Kris Zabrensky (Asst. Treasurer), Richard Hudson (Clerk), Vestry Members: Tim Chicker, Bill Makucin, Re Pruzin, **Absent:** Paul Angelico

Call to order: 10:12 w/prayer, Rev. Floyd

March 9, 2025 Minutes: Approved, (Ron, Mark 2nd)

PIC Report:

- Visited Muriel Olson
- Officiated at funerals for members of the Church or the Epiphany, Durham.
- On their trip west this summer he hopes to officiate at his former parish in Broken Arrow, NE with a stop in Ogallala, Nebraska

Sr. Warden:

- Thanked parishioners who moved furniture, replaster and paint the storage rooms in the hall.
- Floors in the narthex and parish hall are complete: to allow time for curing, bell tower, kitchen and office doors will be used for access – furniture will be returned in 2 weeks.
- Foam still needs to be installed between stone and siding.

Jr. Warden:

- Parochial report delivered to the Diocese 4/14/25 – no feedback as yet
- Web site has been updated
- JW meet with someone from the Elks Club familiar with social media accounts to discuss possibility of using Facebook and Instagram to broaden our exposure.

Treasurers Report:

- All bills are current
- Will meet with Bill Makucin and Kris Zabrenski at Webster Bank to formalize Bill as the 3rd signatory on Operating Fund
- CD at Liberty Bank for \$10.6K was “rolled over” at the end of April: an additional \$5K was added to it from the General Fund at 3.69% interest.
- Account Balances:
 - General Fund: \$30.0K
 - Building Fund 8.0K
 - Memorial Fund 2.0K
- A 20 page questionnaire was sent by the accounting firm to be completed prior to the firm completing the yearly audit for the Diocese.

Old Business:

- Joanne and Rev. Floyd have contacted Grace Church and have received an e-mail indicating the parishioners are still looking at various churches for relocation.
- Rev. Floyd has been in contact with Don Richey regarding the possibility of preaching on one of the Sundays he is away.

New Business:

- Ron Stack has an application from Soda Service to set up an account; will also contact Fabrizio as a possible alternative for service.

- Tim Freeland estimates \$6K to replace 2 folding doors for the storage area. Narthex doors will be approx. \$3K. More information is needed.
- Discussion regarding a new contract for Thomas Tarutin for 2025-26 to be negotiated by Rev. Floyd with a proposed increase to \$225 per service.
- Motion by Tim Chicker to NOT have music for the months of July and August. Mark Pruzin 2nd, Motion Approved.
- Party for Thomas on 5/11. Rev. Floyd has offered \$250 from the Discretionary Fund.
- The \$6.5K cost of the floor refinishing will be divided equally between the Building and Operating Funds.

Next meeting scheduled for June 8, 10:00 AM

Meeting adjourned 11:00 AM

Richard Hudson, Parish Clerk

Important Notes from the JW as we move into summer months

- A reminder that we will be singing acapella (without the organ) during July and August.
- The Vestry will NOT meet during July and August.
- Thanks to the efforts of our Jr. Warden, St. Gabriel's now has a Facebook Page!
- Just a reminder that donations for the new narthex doors are being collected by any member of the vestry, Rev. Floyd, or Joanne Chicker.
- New readers are always welcome! See Joanne or Jenny Berthiaume if interested.

Counters and Readers! If you cannot make a Sunday when you are scheduled, please notify Joanne Chicker in the parish office. Please find your own replacement.

Jenny Berthiaume, Newsletter Editor