

# *The Lower Lights*

**St. Peter's-at-the-Light Episcopal Church**

**Barneгат Light, NJ 08006**

**January 2021**

As we approach the end of 2020 we look back on a very different year – one that none of us have ever experienced in our lifetime – health pandemic, sickness, isolation, depression, closing of schools and businesses, loss of jobs, etc., but I believe we have, with God's help, persevered and are looking forward, with optimism, to a happier, healthier, and more fulfilling 2021!

We sincerely hope your Christmas celebration was joyous and that you are looking forward, with great anticipation, to ushering out 2020 and welcoming 2021 with a renewed sense of hope and happiness. We wish you all a Blessed New Year!

**Sunday, January 24, 2021 is a very important date. Please save it on your calendar!!**

Immediately, following our Sunday worship service on January 24 we will conduct our Annual Meeting of the members of our Church. Besides Annual Reports from our various committees, we will also have the election for three Mission Committee Member terms which have expired and the acclimation of a confirmed member to fill an unexpired term. Additionally, we will also nominate three persons to serve as Deputies to the 2021 Diocesan Convention and three persons to serve as Alternate Deputies.

This issue of *The Lower Lights* will focus on our Annual Meeting and will provide you with information regarding Mission Membership, Election of Mission Committee Members, and how to nominate either yourself or someone else to serve in one of these open positions.

In order to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, members must be:

1. Baptized;
2. At least 16 years of age;
3. Of good moral character;
4. Adherents to The Episcopal Church and to no other religious body;
5. Regular attendants at Church services (i.e., more frequently present than absent unless for good cause);
6. Regular contributors to the current expenses of the Church for the preceding 6 months; and,
7. Confirmed in or otherwise received into the Church in accordance with canon before the day of the meeting.

Congregational members not eligible to vote may attend and speak at the meeting.

## **Mission Committee Overview:**

Serving on the Mission Committee is one of the most significant ways one can serve at St. Peter's. Our Mission Committee is comprised of a Sr. Warden, a Jr. Warden, the Vicar, and six Mission Committee Members. Each Warden serves for a two-year term and may serve no more than four successive terms. Each of the six Mission Committee members serves for a term of three years and must take a year off before being eligible to be elected to a new term. At its organization meeting, the Mission Committee elects a Treasurer (from among itself or the broader congregation) and a Clerk (from among itself). Each serves a one-year term.

### Job Duties and Responsibilities:

Together with the Vicar, each Warden and Mission Committee member provides vision and leadership in the Church, ensures that Church funds are expended properly, elects the Vicar, and provide for the Vicar's maintenance. The Wardens and Mission Committee members, under the Vicar, protect Church property and provide for all things needed for the orderly worship of God and for the administration of the Sacraments and Ordinances of the Church.

There are two Wardens; the Sr. Warden and the Jr. Warden. The Sr. Warden is the primary elected lay leader of the congregation and serves as a principal liaison between the Church congregation and the Vicar. The Jr. Warden is given responsibility for the upkeep of the Church buildings and grounds. In addition to other duties that may be required by law or by canon, each shall have such duties as may be prescribed by the Mission Committee.

There are six Mission Committee members. In addition to other duties that may be required by law or canon, each Mission Committee member must serve on such committees (as appointed by the Vicar) and fulfill such other functions as may be prescribed by the Mission Committee. Members are expected to attend all regular and special Mission Committee meetings. Any Warden or Mission Committee member is subject to removal from office by vote of the Mission Committee upon a fourth absence from any or special meeting within any twelve-month period.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting we will also elect three persons to serve as Deputies to the 2021 Diocesan Convention and three persons to serve as Alternate Deputies. If elected, you are expected to prepare for full participation in all matters that will be presented at convention. You will also be required to attend one pre-convention hearing. A number of dates and locations from which to choose will be provided. As an appointed Deputy you will be expected to read the prepared materials in advance of the convention. Deputies must attend the Convention; alternate Deputies may attend. If a Deputy is unexpectedly unable to attend an Alternate Deputy must attend. Those who attend will be required to share their experience and any information that may be important to our Church.

Our Diocese is divided into convocations. Convocations allow Church communities that are geographically located in proximity to each other to share programs and projects, ideas, worship and our faith journey. Each convocation has approximately 4 meetings

per year. The Convention Deputies and Alternate Deputies typically serve as our six convocation delegates.

Only congregational members eligible to vote are communicants (having received Holy Communion in or from St. Peter's at least three times during the previous twelve months) and may serve as a Mission Committee member.

The Mission Committee acts as a Nominating Committee and will offer a single nomination per each open position. A nomination form is enclosed with this issue of our newsletter. You may self-nominate and all nominations for any office to be filled at the Annual Meeting must be submitted in writing to the Committee no later than Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Your nomination forms should be sent to the Church office.

### **Open Mission Committee Positions:**

**Election of Warden:** Tom MacArthur is filling Walter Whimpenny's unexpired term, and he is eligible for reelection to a two-year term.

### **Election of Two Mission Committee 3-Year Terms:**

Joanne Kranch's term will expire. She fulfilled a 3-Year Term and is not eligible for reelection until next year.

Linda Pugliese's term will expire. Linda is fulfilling Sue Hofer's prior unexpired term. Linda has not served a full 3-Year term and is eligible for reelection.

### **Election of One Mission Committee Member's Unexpired Term:**

Ron Diamond resigned his Mission Committee membership in October 2020. Sue Hofer was appointed to fill his term through year end 2020; the congregation will need to ratify the Mission Committee's decision for Sue Hofer to complete the two years remaining on his term.

### **Election of Three Convention Deputies and Three Alternate Deputies:**

If elected as a Convention Deputy or an Alternate Deputy you will serve in this position for the 2021 Convention (detailed information will be distributed at a later date).

Again, to nominate yourself or someone else for service please complete the attached "Nomination" form and return it to the Church office no later than January 2021.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve St. Peter's Church. Please volunteer your time and talent!!

## **IMPORTANT JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:**

Jack Politt (January 1); Merry Wisler (January 2); Peg Caffrey (January 5); Dee Mann (January 6); Judie Putt (January 12); Hunter Albright (January 17); Richard Potts (January 19); Linda Hoffmann (January 26); and Ken Montgomery (January 31). To all we wish a very Happy Birthday!!

There are no January Anniversaries which have been brought to our attention. Please remember to report any major events, address changes, email changes, telephone number changes, etc., to the Church office so that your record may be updated. You may reach the office at 609-494-2398 or at [officestpeterslbi@gmail.com](mailto:officestpeterslbi@gmail.com).

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This issue has been assembled and distributed by your 2020 Newsletter Committee – Jean Archer, Sue Hofer and Nancy Rudko.



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**2021 Annual Meeting – Nomination Form**

*Please complete this form only after you have confirmed that the person(s) you are nominating is/are willing to serve. You may also nominate yourself for the positions listed below. A description of the job duties and responsibilities is included in the text of the Lower Lights. The completed form must be returned to the Church office in a sealed envelope no later than Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Note on the envelope that it is for the Nominating Committee.*

**Election of Sr. Warden:**

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as Sr. Warden. I have confirmed that this person is willing to serve for a two-year term beginning January 2021.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Election of Mission Committee Member:**

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as a Mission Committee Member. I have confirmed that this person is willing to serve for a three-year term beginning in January 2021.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Nominations for the position of Deputy/Alternate Deputy to Represent our Congregation at the Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey:**

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as one of our three 2021 Convention Deputies. I have confirmed that this person is willing to serve.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as one of our three 2021 Alternate Convention Deputies at the Annual convention of the Diocese of New Jersey.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_