



Rev. Canon Peter A. Greenfield

January 16, 2022

Rev. Canon Peter A. Greenfield, 88, died Sunday, January 16, 2022 at his home, “In spinning the evolving tapestry of life, there comes a time when even the weavers must sleep.” Born in New York, NY, Peter was the son of the late Harold Kenneth and the late Judyth Karyl Sackheim Greenfield and the husband of Caroline Patten Greenfield for 67 years.

He graduated from Dartmouth College and received his master’s from Episcopal Divinity in Philadelphia.

Peter worked in the ministry as a Rector in Amesbury, MA, Hershey, Lebanon, Mount Joy and his longest tenure at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Lancaster.

He was a devoted NY sports fans in following the Knicks, Yankees, Giants and Rangers. He loved to swim and was an ice hockey coach for his sons. Devoted to the communities in which he lived, Peter founded ALERT, worked with Habitat for Humanity, served on the front lines during the AIDS crisis and guided youth from various backgrounds.

In addition to his wife, Peter is survived by his children: John P., husband of Michele Greenfield of Elizabethtown, Deborah Ann, wife of Kevin Wims of Philadelphia, Kim Meredith, wife of Derek Kelly of N. Myrtle Beach, SC, Kyle S. Greenfield of Columbia. Six grandchildren: Anna, Derek, Tyler, Brandyn,

Christian and Lily, and one great-granddaughter, Taylor. He is also survived by his non biological family, John Stauffer of Little Rock, AK, Sandra Crouthamel of Merchantville, NJ, Markus, husband of Laura Estamm of Lexington, MA, Meg, wife of Tim Argo of Cincinnati, OH, Robin, wife of David Fyock of Alexandria, PA thirteen grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. He was preceded in death by a brother, James, husband of Rosalie Greenfield of Tucson, AZ.

Carol, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as well as their extended family, invite friends and community folk to Peter's Celebration of the Life and Ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church, 321 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA with Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector of St. Johns and The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania officiating on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Due to COVID, masks will be required. The service will be livestreamed at www.stjohns-lancaster.org. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will be in St. John's Memorial Garden.

Please omit flowers as Peter preferred supporting the following charities: Episcopal Relief and Development at www.episcopalrelief.org or ALERT, c/o St. John's Episcopal Church, 321 West Chestnut St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

"My cup runneth over." Psalm 23

Cemetery Details

St. John's Memorial Garden

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I just found out, and I'm devastated. Father Greenfield and Carol took me into their home when I was 14. I never felt such love there. Not even from my own family. Stupidly, I ran away. I hope he and Carol can forgive me. My deepest condolences to his beautiful family. He was such a good man.

Dudie Sipe - April 13, 2025 at 08:38 PM



“ Rev. Canon Peter A. Greenfield

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

HC

“ Father Pete was a huge influence in my 'coming of age' years in the 60's and 70's at Hershey's All Saints. He had a special heart for teens, and when he was in the room you always knew he was 'with you'. Such fun and formative experiences, Bucknell Youth weeks, the traveling folk mass - I always will think of him when I hear 'The Sound of Silence' or 'Bridge Over Troubled Water', working with at risk youth, all manner of special retreats, playing the laughing game at EYC. He had a name for each of us, I was Hezekiah, although Kyle called me 'Heifer'. When I reconnected in recent years he was immediately and generously present in our communications. So many have enjoyed his light and love, and we will hold him in our hearts forever.

Blessings to all his family, and Peace,

Heather Campbell

Denver, CO

Heather Campbell - June 12, 2022 at 07:28 PM

RO

“ Fr. Greenfield was a friend and mentor to me as I prepared for the priesthood. I will never forget him and his time with us at St. Peter's, Lewes, in the summers after his retirement. He loved the hymn: "God be in my Head." He was loved by many.

Robbin Melchiorre

Robbin - March 07, 2022 at 01:22 PM



“ I met Pop Pete when I was 12 years old at EYC at Hotel Hershey. A few weeks later my Mom and Dad took me down to Pete and Carol's to work with him in Operation Understanding. That was the beginning of a wonderful relationship with my family. I spent time every summer with Pete and Carol and their children who became my 2nd parents when I was with them. I have so many memories of those days, too many to mention. Over time they "adopted" my children and grandchildren as their own. I am so blessed to have been part of their lives and their children's as well as all the foster children that they welcomed into their home! Pete and Carol go together as two of the most loving and giving people anyone could ever know. We who were touched by Pop Greenfield were so blessed! He will rise in the glory!

Robin Fyock - February 02, 2022 at 06:19 PM

BH

“ Kathy and I were saddened to read of the passing of one of our favorite and fun loving Pastors. We were members of St John's, Lancaster, when Father Pete joined our church community. If memory serves me correctly I was on the Vestry when the decision was made to name Father Pete the senior Pastor. Serving with him at the altar, although most times I was in the choir loft, was an enriching and rewarding experience. We were both sport fans, and many a memory of our athletic accomplishments and participations. He was also a tremendous aid in developing and pursuing my spiritual journey.

I shall never forget the habit Father Pete had of opening the Eucharistic service. He would present himself in front of those gathered in the sanctuary and recite the following from our prayer book, "Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, in your mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

We extend our deepest sympathy to the ENTIRE family, and ask the the God of ALL to grant them comfort, assurance and peace. Father Pete - Rest in Peace and may light perpetual shine upon you now and forever.

Bud and Kathy Hart - January 24, 2022 at 11:46 AM

JE

“ I met Pete at our dog park. We would chat sometimes while walking our dogs. He had a beagle, I believe, whose name I cannot remember now. Pete stood out in his warm and interested of engaging. He was impressed that we both had brothers who live in Tucson. Those few and brief encounters and still remembered. If I could just recall his dog's name.

Jay Essif - January 23, 2022 at 04:51 PM

TH

“ I send you my sympathies for the loss of Rev. Pete. I only knew him briefly having met him at the dog park. He was such a nice man.

Tom Hoffman - January 23, 2022 at 01:31 PM

SH

“ Bucknell, Lewisburg, PA. EYC in the 70s. That is where I met Father Pete. His care shone through everything he did. When he spoke to you, it was like the only person who mattered to him was you. What power he had and what empowerment he allowed goofy preteens and teens to have. He called me Suzuki. Of course it was great fun hanging out with John b/c well, it was always more fun with a PK (priest's kid) b/c they knew how to bend the rules and not get caught. Fast forward many years and I reached out to Father Pete. He immediately remembered me, and agreed to officiate at my marriage at St Stephen's in Harrisburg, PA. Just as in life, EYC, weddings, Father Pete brought his charm, dignity, humor, and LOVE everywhere. He knew what to say and how to say it to make you understand God's love and his love for all.

Blessings, Peace, Slainte
(Suzuki)
Suzi Wolfe now Hack

Susan Hack - January 22, 2022 at 09:13 AM

JG

Suzi- Thanks for the nice words about my Dad. As far as those "rules that got bent and not get caught".....I have no idea what you are talking about (Ha Ha)

John Greenfield - January 22, 2022 at 02:34 PM

SH

Shhhh of course not but Kyle was also 'not' involved :)

Susan Hack - January 22, 2022 at 05:33 PM



“ Dear family and Friends of the good Reverend Pete Greenfield, even though I cannot be at his service, my thoughts will be with all of you. Pete and I go back to the days when there was a youth camp out of Saint Johns fixing up houses around Lancaster county. We also dealt with the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the time. And when I had an especially bad chemo which let the wonderful little disease PCP in, I asked to see Pete because this was a disease that we had dealt with with so many young people who had HIV/AIDS. He was a great comfort to me at a very low time in my fight with cancer. I became one of his “clients“ as so many others had been before me. I will still remember him as my friend, colleague, and the largest leprechaun I have ever known! Please be well and take the comfort of God which God will give you in your loss . In our loss. Bob Bailey

Bob Bailey - January 21, 2022 at 09:22 AM

JM

“ Dear Carol and lovers of Pete,

So many lives have been significantly molded by blessed Pete — and those who surrounded him with your loving care, especially Carol, the biological and the extra-biological children. Somehow you all had courage to let love and compassion overflow from your family to all those whom you incorporated as your wonderfully extended family.

I can not imagine Pete entering the pearly gates and resting in peace ... it seems far more likely that when we come to the gate Pete will be waiting to draft us into his baseball team, take on some physically or psychically demanding project, or any of a number of projects to make things — for everybody — more exciting, caring and challenging.

Though Hatty and I can not be present for the funeral, we shall be with you by video to celebrate the gift of Pete to us all.

- John & Hatty McDowell

John McDowell - January 20, 2022 at 12:42 PM

JJ

I stumbled across Fr. Pete's obit while looking up whether he had ever published "The Good Samaritan" song. My recollection was that Fr. Pete wrote the hauntingly beautiful song—and I've never forgotten it. Fr. Pete made the best part of summer—EYC at Bucknell, better, if that's even possible. As far as cool clergy went, Fr. Pete was ahead of the curve. So sorry for your loss.

Jill Stanford

P.S. I remember being at your house in Hershey and Debbie telling us Kyle liked to eat the dog's food. You were a fun family and your parents were so kind.

God bless❤️☐

Jill Jicha - September 19, 2023 at 02:42 AM

TG

“*Father Pete, as I knew him, was a friend and mentor to me when I was a seminarian, and he co-officiated at our wedding in 1993. (In the photo, he's the minister in the white alb.) He was such a gentle, strong, compassionate, and understanding priest. I dearly wish I could have seen and talked with him again, when we moved back to the Lancaster area in 2016. His smiling face--and sense of humor--as well as his caring heart will stay with me always. "May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."* - The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker (Episcopal clergy)

The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker - January 20, 2022 at 12:30 PM

TG

“*Father Pete, as I knew him, was a friend and mentor to me when I was a seminarian, and he co-officiated at our wedding in 1993. (In the photo, he's the minister in the white alb.) He was such a gentle, strong, compassionate, and understanding priest. I dearly wish I could have seen and talked with him again, when we moved back to the Lancaster area in 2016. His smiling face--and sense of humor--as well as his caring heart will stay with me always. "May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."* - The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker (Episcopal clergy)



The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker - January 20, 2022 at 12:29 PM

TO

“ As he was known to us, Pete was a loving neighbor and trusted friend on the summer shores of Lake Attitash, Ma. He came into our lives through marriage as his lovely wife Carol is the daughter of Hawley and Mary Patten. The Patten's owned the summer camp next to the Larsen camp where my great aunt Liddy would spend her summers. I was a kid of the '70s, and the Lake was a magical place filled with adventure and wonder. We came to meet Pete and Carol years later, as by now I was a young adult, and they had taken to spending summers at the Lake. Pete was a wonderful spirit who would always take the time to talk, a Yankee fan sure, but I always looked forward to seeing him on the trips to the Lake. Twenty years ago, my then-girlfriend Jen and I had the pleasure to have Pete marry us in my mother's backyard in Oakton, Va. Thank you for everything, Pete, a glass will be raised in your honor when the lounge reconvenes on the summer shores of Lake Attitash.

Todd & Jen Graham

Todd - January 19, 2022 at 11:39 PM

CG

“ Peter was a beloved neighbor who never saw me without going out of his way to take time to chat. He also kept an eye out for neighbors, along with some others of my neighbors he made me feel safe in my community. He also always had the most beautiful garden and often sat on his back porch facing the main road into the community. He always waved and chatted with me. I will truly miss Pete.

Ceci Good - January 19, 2022 at 11:19 PM

KS

“ When I think of Fr Pete, three things come to mind, the sermon of the shrimp boat fisherman, his snow boots under his robes at my wedding, and a sense of genuine and sincere interest when he asked "who are you doing?" The question wasn't mere small talk, but the most sincere question. This rare quality found in him, the ability to make someone feel seen and heard, is a true lost the Church and the world as whole. May Carol and their family find peace in these difficult times

Kayla Spahr - January 19, 2022 at 11:02 PM

JG

“ Fr. Pete is always remembered as our priest at Bangor Episcopal Church, in Churchtown, Lancaster County! He added so much to the spiritual development of the church community. RIP Peter.

John and Jaime Gould

John Gould - January 19, 2022 at 03:58 PM

MG

“ I am beyond grateful for the life of Pete Greenfield. I grew up in the Diocese of Central Pa & along the way (when I was a teen) met Cannon Greenfield. He invited me to his summer work camp. I attended that camp for 2 or 3 years & will never forget the care, concern, guidance, & love I received from Cannon Greenfield. At the time, I was experiencing lots of transitions & he made me feel seen & understood. I remember thinking to myself that the Holy Spirit must have sent him. He was both patient & humorous to all the teens involved in Work camp. He also taught us the importance of serving the community & giving our neighbors a helping hand. Many years later, I bumped into him at convention a few times, and each time, I reminded him how much I appreciated him & of course he was humble & would turn the focus to me.

Melanie Graves - January 19, 2022 at 03:36 PM

EK

Fr. Pete was there for me during my youth. I attended work camps and youth conferences. I was experiencing growing pains in my youth and he reached out to me and made me feel loved and worthy to be called Gods own. He always had the right words.

He officiated over my

Wedding. I have known him for over 40 yes.

My condolences to Carol and his children and extended family.

Ellen Mclane keller - January 19, 2022 at 08:04 PM

TK

Fr. Pete was a wonderful role model and father figure for me as a child. My siblings and I came from a pretty rough background and he made us feel not only welcome but special at St Johns. He sent us to numerous camps that i know our parents couldn't pay for. The work camps are some of the best memories of my childhood. He was so committed to us kids and the community and we learned so much. Had it not been for him, my life would not be the same. He loved those who some would deem difficult and give up on. He officiated my wedding and baptized bother of my children. He led a truly exemplary life. I am terribly saddened that he is gone before I ever really got to say thank you and tell him I love him. Sending condolences to Carol and family, thank you so much for sharing him with us.

Tammy Dommel (Bear) - January 19, 2022 at 09:45 PM

EW

“ 1 file added to the album *Wedding Memory*



Edward & Rosemary Webber - January 19, 2022 at 01:18 PM

RM

“Pete was a great friend to my husband and me and a wise mentor for me as I began my ministry. We remember the great times we had with him and Carol, from Shipoke to Amesbury to Alexandria, Va. Pete’s life was full of helping others, whether a neighbor or those afflicted with AIDS, We will miss exchanging books with him and hearing him talk about nearly everything! Our condolences go to his family in their loss.

Rev. Beth Mollard - January 19, 2022 at 10:57 AM

SP

“ To Carol and all Pete’s family, I extend my deepest sympathies.

I can’t even tell you how much influence Fr Pete had on my life. Seriously, he pulled a troubled teen (one of many) out of despair and gave her hope. He’d always say “Jesus loves you Susie, and so do I.” For a child who never heard those words, it restored hope and set me on a very different journey. He and his wife, Carol, saved so many of us. Lives well lived.

Fr Pete encouraged me to attend the diocesan youth conference in 1973. I met Phil there and a few years later we were married. Pete and I served on many outreach committees over the decades. Operation Understanding (starting at age 17 as an “intern”), HIV/AIDS Commission, Christian Social Relations, Sunnyside Ministries, and others. He always had the well-being of everyone at heart, particularly the marginalized. His love, wisdom, compassion, and tenacity formed my way of engaging in the world.

I shall miss the twinkle in his eyes and that wonderful laugh. One time, shortly after Bsp Creighton came, the bishop and I were chatting at a reception. Although wine was being served, as always, I had ginger ale as I rarely drink alcohol. At the time I had terrible problems with vertigo and balance. Sometimes, I would just fly off to the right a few steps and have to come back. This happened as I was talking to the bishop. Pete happened by and said to the bishop, “Don’t mind Susie, she’s working on that drinking problem.” I sputtered to try to explain differently to the bishop, who gave me an odd look, as Pete winked and walked away laughing heartily. That was our Pete. 😊 So many stories.

Well done good and faithful servant. Your Light will always be a beacon. Rest in Peace and Rise In Glory. 💕

*Love always
Susie*

Sue Purdy - January 19, 2022 at 10:43 AM

TI

“ *To beloved Carol and Peter's entire family we send our love and prayers as we share in your sorrow at losing your dear husband and father.*

Faithful and compassionate, his ministry always favored those in desperate need. Dear friend of mine. He knew my Dad. Pete often spoke about his athletic experiences in his years around Hershey when my Dad officiated at baseball games in which Pete participated.

Pete was a beloved priest and dearly honored throughout our diocese. His love as a pastor touched countless lives including our own. He was a colleague and neighboring priest at St. John's in Lancaster as we served together on many city programs of social justice among the poor and powerless.

I've known Peter since his early days when he was Rector at Hilltown and I was Rector at Southampton in Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1960s. His companionship was always inspirational and enduringly loyal.

Now He rises in glory and rejoices in his place at the Heavenly Table. Sandi and I prayerfully join with the widespread Greenfield family and with all who sorrow.

The Rev. Canon Stanley F. Imboden - January 19, 2022 at 08:52 AM

JB

“ *so many fond memories of pete and family during summers in lewes and amesbury you will be sorely missed rest in power king your work will live on* 🕊️❤️🦋

jen brubaker - January 19, 2022 at 05:00 AM

DM

“ It is very hard to imagine that Father Pete is no longer with us - he was such a force in so many lives. Many of us would have trouble remembering the names of so many children and grandchildren, but Fr. Pete remembered everyone’s name, and made everyone feel they had a deep and special relationship with him. His volunteerism and good deeds were many, but his small adjustments and minor tweaks to improve the world never stopped. At Valle Crucis, he met my friend Marcy. She was small and a little quiet, and was nicknamed “Mousy”. Pete disapproved, and renamed her “Button” because she was “cute as a button”. At Bucknell in the 70’s , Fr Pete was sporting his hand carved Ankh, Egyptian symbol of life. Well, it was known that he carved these himself, and EVERY kid wanted one, he was swamped with dozens of orders. It must have taken him months of carving, but everyone got theirs in time

David Marker - January 18, 2022 at 10:27 PM

PN

“ We are so deeply sorry for your loss. Father Pete meant so much to our family and especially our 4 special needs kids. At St. John's Episcopal, Marietta we run a monthly support group for parent's of special needs children. Father Pete always made every effort to come and be with the kids. He would help them do their craft, watch a movie with them, or put a puzzle together. There was always leftover food to take home, to which he just loved. His dedication to his wife, and family was such a wonderful thing to watch.

Father Pete and I would exchange cards back and forth with words of support for whatever was going on in our lives. I will miss those cards so very much, and will keep the ones I have left forever.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful father with us. He will be forever in our hearts.

*Sincerely,
Robert and Paige Nein*

paige nein - January 18, 2022 at 08:53 PM

PB

“ What a wonderful, caring person! My husband and I were so honored that he married us. We send caring thoughts to his family and pray to God to hold you in his arms.

*With love,
Penny and John Blasko*

Penny Blasko - January 18, 2022 at 06:40 PM

BW

“ Dearest Carol: Fran and I extend our most profound sadness and deepest sympathy to you and all your family as you grieve the loss of one of the giants of ministry outside the doors, so to speak, of the churches of The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. I personally will cherish many fond memories of shared gatherings and ministries as long-standing co-members of the diocese's Department of Christian Social Relations, especially the annual commitment to the Operation Understanding program which supported hundreds of outreach ministries and programs throughout all corners of the diocese for so many years. Pete was always open to new ways of how the church reached out and cared for the needs of so-called marginalized folks, truly he "walked the talk" on a daily basis no matter the expense of time and effort and often regardless of the struggles to attain the necessary funds. Aside from our connection as colleagues in ministry, Fran and I remember with great affection many occasions of personal times with both you and Pete that we shared for so many years. Please know that even though we will be unable to attend the celebration of Pete's life on Saturday, you and all your loved ones will be in our hearts and prayers. May you all know the consolation of God's endless mercy and love as you recall and share the joys of his love and presence in our midst. Peace be with you, Bill+ (The Reverend Canon William T. Warne, II)

Bill and Fran Warne - January 18, 2022 at 06:27 PM

KS

“ I was so sorry to hear of Fr. Pete's passing and my memories flooded back more than 40 years! So many of them! I met Fr. Pete through the Whitesel's, when we were looking for counselling for pre-marriage. Fr. Whitesel suggested we go to see Fr. Pete. Donald had known Pete for many years. That was when I met Fr. Pete. Don and I eventually moved to Lancaster and settled at St. John's. We loved Fr. Pete and when he retired, it was awful for us. But life moved on and the years moved by. We saw him on and off many times through church events. But there was never another Pete and there will never be another Pete. He was the best of the best and God has a very special angel beside him now!!
God Bless Carole and the family as they move on without Fr. Pete.
With Love, Katherine Whitesel Swisher



Katherine Whitesel Swisher - January 18, 2022 at 05:48 PM