



Ring in the
Good News
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2015

Purcellville, Virginia

Epiphany Season

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**“It is my prayer that
your love may abound
more and more...”**

Philippians 1:9

Kingdom Colony, Part IV

By Fr. Tom Simmons

What is our purpose in life?

A lot of people are “working for the weekend” making money so they can par-tay. Many others are wearing themselves out just to pay the bills. Others are pursuing a “lifestyle” they envision for themselves, often wrapped up in expensive accessories and activities enjoyed with/displayed to “the cool kids.” We just want to be one of them.

But in the swirl of life in 21st century American suburbia, Jesus is calling us to a deeper, higher, older, more rewarding purpose. “We’re on a mission from God,” Jake and Elwood Blues said. (If you don’t get that reference find it on YouTube).

In the last few months in this space, we’ve seen that mission embodied in the Church, which is the working model of life in the world God is making. Like a model home displays the neighborhood-to-come, our Christian community is the future of God’s Kingdom, brought down, here-and-now. We’re figuring out how to live it together, and share it with the world.

When Jesus walked out of the grave he began building the “new creation.” The people Jesus is gathering around himself are the “new humanity.” Paul said we are “citizens of heaven” (Phil 3:20) living like a colonial outpost of Jesus’ kingdom in this world. Our “mission from God” is spreading his embrace to the surrounding society, bringing God’s kingdom to those parts of the world where we have influence.

To put that mission on the street, our job every day is learning to live it:

- in deepening intimacy with God,
- in more consistent loving care for the people around us
- in joyful labor to accomplish his purposes in all our endeavors
- in sharing news of Jesus’ tender lordship with our relations, friends and neighbors

This is how we “heavenize” the world, just as the Roman citizens of the colonial city of Phillippi were called to “Romanize” the faraway province of Macedonia. We have explored how the distinctive lifestyle of Christians - the Love, Joy and Peace we share with Jesus - give shape to the message before a watching world. We proclaim, “God’s kingdom is here. Right here in our midst.”

“How nice,” you might be thinking, “but what does it all mean in practical terms...here at St. Pete’s?”



But let’s talk about that.

God is at work in our congregation, equipping and growing us to be increasingly useful at advancing his purposes in the Loudoun Valley. God seeks to collaborate with us in discerning and doing that work. He’s looking for people to join together, praying and working so that his kingdom comes and his will is done right here in Purcellville “as it is in heaven.”

So we ask: Father who are you calling us to serve? How shall we do it? What do we need to prepare for and do differently? We will find answers to these questions through prayer and study and discussion.

David Hume, “Truth springs from argument among friends.”

The result will be a vision of the road ahead of us, and a realistic plan to “get there.” In 2015 we will revise our five-year Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and finalize our facilities expansion plan, which will envision our buildings and grounds for the next generation.

The vestry is gathering a group of leaders within the congregation to make that plan over the next year.

We are figuring out how Jesus is calling us AS A CONGREGATION to band together in mission outside the four walls of our church to change the world in the Loudoun Valley. This mission will be not just for people who are “into that sort of thing”... not just five people here...a few thousand dollars there.

We are seeking to hear from Jesus and the people in our community what large-scale, long-term, concerted effort we might undertake to tangibly serve the people around us in a way that: 1) they feel they need, 2) we are passionate about, 3) we are competent in, and 4) brings them into our Lord’s embrace.

We’ve got some work to do to figure these things out together. God is guiding us. We are learning to listen to him and to our community how we can best serve.

To that end I’m inviting the people of our church to join with our leaders in a learning process in Lent. We will be learning how to listen, to take an “inquiring approach” to learning from God and the people around us. So much of life is spent trying to “tell” others.

On **Wednesdays in Lent**, we’ll be learning to “hear” others in order to serve them with wisdom and care. I’ve been working on this material for my doctoral dissertation for the last two years and I’ll share it with you all this Lent. Join me for dinner and illuminating material and practical discussion, **6:30-8pm, in McCray Hall**. Bring soup, salad, or bread to share.

Lenten Lesson Supper Series starts Wednesday, February 25.

Mardi Gras Party

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



St. Peter's Acolytes invite you to join them
for a pancake supper with all the fixings on

**Tuesday the 17th of February
at 6:30pm in McCray Hall.**

Besides a delicious supper, Acolytes in Action will be serving up entertainment in the form of games, music, dancing, a parade, the crowning of the King and Queen of the day, and the burning of the palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

This is a **free will offering fundraiser for the Acolytes** -
always in need of new cassocks, cottas, and gloves.
So please come prepared for **FUN and FOOD** and with a generous heart
as we say goodbye to the season of Epiphany.

Masquerade costumes welcome and encouraged!

Scout Sunday—February 8, 2015

By Fr. Tom Simmons

St. Peter's has the privilege of chartering Cub Scout Pack 39, Boy Scout Troop 39, and Venture Crew 007. These organizations help boys become men who live out the Scout Motto to "Be Prepared." While their peers spend weekends playing video games, each scout pledges to "do my duty" to God, country and self.

The path they take through scouting prepares them in very practical ways to do that into manhood. In a culture that has very few proven paths for boys to become men, this is an invaluable resource to our families and society.

Troop 39 is a Christian troop that takes serving God to a new level for the boys. It is "boy led, dad supported and Christ centered." It is an EXCELLENT way for boys to put their Christian faith to work in challenging, practical, adventuresome, and manly ways.

As teenagers they achieve things of lasting significance. The rank of Eagle Scout is one of the highest achievements available to young men in America today. It not only profoundly shapes their character and skills and capacities, it also opens many doors to opportunities in education, employment, leadership, and advancement unavailable to boys playing video games.

On **Sunday, February 8th** we will observe Scout Sunday and recognize the contributions of these young people to our society. We will pay tribute to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in our congregation and community, who, along with their leaders, give of their time and talents to serve others.

If you are involved in scouting, as a boy or girl or adult leader, please wear your uniform and prepare to be recognized!



Our next event will be a movie and pizza night on **February 8th from 6 – 8:15 PM**

Due to **Confirmation, on March 8th**, we will not hold a movie night in March.

Please put **Roller Skating at the Bush Tabernacle** on your calendars for **Sunday, April 12th from 3 – 5pm**. I am in the process of working out the details for a joint Children and Youth event.

Parents, please email me or text me your young person's special accomplishments in drama, athletics, student government, helping out at home, etc.! I would like to share these achievements with their Church family!

—**Kathleen Voss**, *Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*



CMC

The Children and Youth Ministry team meets quarterly here at the Church. We discuss the vision and plan for our children and young people! It is a dynamic and fun group! Please consider joining...the more voices the better!

Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel will be starting up again this **February** and we need volunteers if it is going to be a success! If you want your child to participate in Children's Chapel than you should sign up to lead a session. It is not difficult and we will offer a training.

Children's Chapel offers kids in grades K – 3 an opportunity to hear the gospel in a kid friendly way and discuss it in a group setting. It offers parents the opportunity to focus on the sermon and enjoy a few minutes of quiet prayer while attending the service.

If I do not have the support of volunteers, we will not be able to continue this worthwhile and beneficial activity!

At the present time, I am only able to staff the late service, however, I am open to Children's Chapel at the early service as well.

Sunday School

Please put **Roller Skating at the Bush Tabernacle** on your calendars for **Sunday, April 12th from 3 – 5pm**. I am in the process of working out the details for a joint Children and Youth event.

We continue to work on the Lord's Prayer (K – 3) and the Nicene Creed (4th and 5th) in Sunday School. Parents, please continue to help your children with their memorization.

—**Kathleen Voss**, *Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*

The Joy of Bible Discovery: 1 John



Lent is normally a time when we think of giving up things—this lent you are invited to take up the discipline of in depth Bible Study. The Lenten Adult Formation class will focus on teaching and practicing skills and methods for in depth Bible Study. This can be used both for personal Bible Study as well as training for both developing and leading small group Bible studies.

We will be looking at the entire book of 1 John, which will be the lectionary reading after Lent. John in his day, in the face of false teachers, invited Christians to consider both what orthodoxy (right belief) and orthopraxy (right practice/living) ought to look like among God's people, in contrast to the false and often secessionist movements invading the Church. We will consider the meaning of John's message to believers in his day and it's relevance to us today as the Church is still beset by many false movements.

Please consider joining us to grow both in usable skills and disciplines as well as a greater understanding and application of the text of 1 John. Will meet every **Sunday morning (9:30-10:15am)** during Lent (**starts February 22**). **Leader Jon Corbett. Location: McCray Hall.**

Update from Liberia

By Tim Hall

Father Ed Gbe and I have been conversing fairly regularly, of late, much to both of our enjoyment. Here are some of the things we've discussed:

1. School is still scheduled to reopen on 2 February. I told Ed that we had forwarded, on Tuesday, \$2,100 for school desks and \$1,000 for his discretionary fund. He was thrilled to hear the funds were on the way and ever grateful for our support. He believes they should be able to make a good start on getting desks built for the school, but probably not all finished before schools reopen.
2. The school bathrooms are functional, but the well is not quite yet completed. I thought they were done with the digging, but Ed told me on our last call that they had run into rock during their dig and this slowed them down. But they have now busted through the rock and apparently reached a vein that will provide a reliable, ongoing source of clean water. They seem to be ready to cap off the well with their sealed hand-pump. Then they will fence off the well. I've asked for photos, but Ed is most challenged with providing them under the current circumstances.
3. We've talked about their upcoming Vestry elections, which he asks us to keep in our prayers. They will elect an entire new vestry on the 3rd Sunday of February, with the exception of the Sr. Warden, who is appointed by the Rector. Fr. Ed has selected Charles Snetter for another term.
4. Ed's not exactly sure how they will pick up the supplies coming in the shipping container at the end of the month. But, as Ed says, God will provide as He already has with the collection and shipment of this generous gift of relief and love.

Hope to have some new pictures of the well and school soon!

A Royal Priesthood

St. Peter declared in his first letter to Christians dispersed throughout the Roman empire, “**You** are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” The practical application of *being a priesthood* is that we, very simply, have an obligation to serve God.

There are numerous opportunities to serve God at St. Peter’s Church. Currently, we are especially looking for people to volunteer to serve in the Altar Guild, Children’s Chapel, and as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, but there are many other ways you can serve God. Contact Fr. Tom or Wanda in the church office for more information. Don’t let the following excuses stop you.

Top Ten Excuses for Not Volunteering in Ministry

10. “I’M NOT SPIRITUAL ENOUGH.”

Who is? You don’t have to be a Bible scholar of a prayer warrior to participate in most of St. Peter’s ministries. You are obviously reading this article – why not consider reading the scripture lessons or Prayers of the People occasionally during services? We have all kinds of other “practical” ministries in our Community, Commission & Support Ministry Areas.

9. “I DON’T KNOW ANYBODY AT CHURCH.”

What better way to get to know some folks than by working on a team? For instance the terrific folks who are ushers and greeters would love to have you join them, and you’ll become familiar with the many faces of St. Peter’s Church. Call **Jae or Andrea Lee** for more info.

8. “I DON’T HAVE MANY SKILLS.”

Everybody is a “10” somewhere, including you! Can you make casseroles for the St. Peter’s freezer? Can you help mow grass or weed flower beds? Would you like to help repair someone’s home or give someone a ride? Contact: **Tamara Tyler or Sophiann Nunaley** to report for duty.

7. “I’M NOT GOOD AT SHARING MY FAITH.”

You don’t have to tote your Bible into DC and stand on a street corner to spread the Good News. When is the last time you invited someone in your neighborhood or at your job to church? Or easier yet, invite them to the Men’s Breakfast or one of the Women’s Fellowship events.



6. “I’M BURNT OUT ON VOLUNTEERING.”

A valid excuse: sometimes we need time to switch gears and renew our energy after a long period of service. Sometimes, though, we say “burnout” when we mean “I’m afraid I’ll be stuck forever doing something I don’t like.” At St. Peter’s, you have permission to say “no” and “no more.” If someone gives you grief, remind them of this.

5. “I’M TOO OLD.”

Never, never, never! You’re never too old to do many of our ministries. Take the Prayer Quilt. They receive prayer requests from parishioners and provide much needed prayer support for those in need. Call **Judi Novak**.

4. “I’M TOO YOUNG.”

If you’re old enough to give this excuse, you’re not too young for ministry. Young people can talk to Dan LaPre about being an Acolyte, or Barbara Verdile about being a chorister or choral scholar. Watch for other opportunities listed in the *St. Pete’s Weekly* or announced by your Sunday School teacher.

3. “I CAN’T GET TO THE CHURCH DURING THE WEEK TO DO STUFF.”

Widen your ministry horizons: there are many things you can do at home. Besides making casseroles, and praying, you could write notes of encouragement or sympathy to parishioners in need. There is often an office-type job, such as preparing a mailing or making phone calls, that you could “work from home.” Contact Wanda Juraschek to be part of the Card Care Ministry or to help out with office work.

2. “I DON’T KNOW WHERE TO START.”

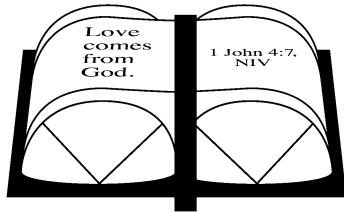
Talk to any vestry member, Fr. Tom, or Wanda in the church office. They’ll be happy to help you find the perfect spot!

AND THE #1 EXCUSE FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING IN MINISTRY IS: “I DON’T HAVE TIME.”

You could assist Fr. Tom as a Lay Eucharistic Minister during the service, hey – you’d be here anyway, right? RIGHT?! There are many other “bite-size” ministry opportunities, too. Call Wanda at the church office for suggestions!

GOD'S SWEET WORD

Share this Bible treat — and God's love — with a special valentine.



What you need:

- Black card stock or construction paper (2" x 1.5")
- Double-sided tape
- 2 wrapped Hershey's Nuggets candy bars (silver or gold)
- Pen or marker
- White paper (2.75" x 1")
- Thin sliver of red paper or ribbon
- Scissors

What you do:

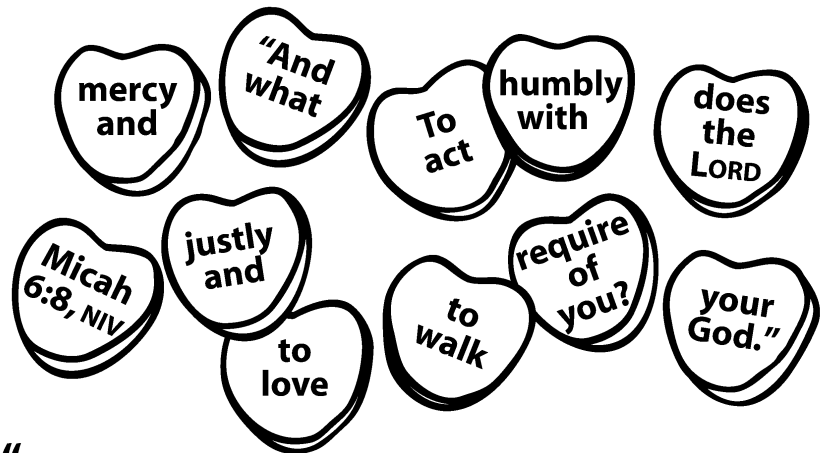
1. In the center of the black paper, tape down the candy bars side by side.
2. On the white paper, write a short Bible verse about love. Then wrap it around the candy bars horizontally and tape it down.
3. Place the red paper or ribbon between the two candy bars, and tape the top of this "bookmark" to the Bible.
4. Give away this fun, sweet message of God's love!



Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.



"

_____ ? _____

_____ " _____

_____ 6:8 _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

40 Days

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, this year. Lent is a forty day countdown from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Because Sundays celebrate Jesus' resurrection, they are not included in the 40 days. In the Bible, the number 40 appears several times: (1) the story of the flood, (2) Israel's wandering in the wilderness, (3) Jesus' time in the wilderness after his baptism.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.



St. Peter's FEBRUARY ROSTER 2015

		February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
		4 Epiphany	5 Epiphany	Last Epiphany	1 Lent
LECTOR	Early	Drew Lavan	Mark Baker	Kelly Cockrill	William Lawrence
	Late	Eamon Coy	Mark McKinley	Kyle Voss	Jon Corbett
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Tim & Judy Hall	Buddy Andrews, John Burden	Tim Hall, Sophiann Nunaley	Tanya Matthews, Peter Schellhase
	Late	Linda & Randy Stoutenburgh	Dave Hunt, Lauren Hunt	Linda Stoutenburgh, Randy Stoutenburgh	Dave Grommons, Dave Hunt
SUB DEACON	Early	Mark Riley	Mark Riley	Mark Riley	Mark Riley
	Late	Mark Riley	Mark Riley	Mark Riley	Mark Riley
INTERCESSOR	Early	Volunteer Needed	John Burden	Dell Nunaley	NA
	Late	Patti Flowers	Bill Geiger	Randy Stoutenburgh	NA
ACOLYTES	Early	Aubrey Winger	Adam Gibson, Hayes Baker	Aubrey & Addie Winger, John Matthews	Joshua & Megan Smith, Eric Gibson
	Late	Dan LaPre, Shane Ayers, Lauren Hunt, Peter Forbes	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Henry Psaltos	Chris Hunt, George & Henry Simmons	Dan LaPre, Shane Ayers, Lauren Hunt, Peter Forbes
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Hank & Corrine Hegener, Paula Reardon & Gary Simpson	Mike & Maggie Snyder, Bob Loker, Debbie Pappas	Martha Ballinger, Buddy Andrews Volunteer Needed	Chris & Terry Duhning, Mark & Nancy Baker
	Late	John & Beth Israel, Dave & Gail Hunt	Ryan & Mandi Walsh, Dave Tocki, Liz Tuohy	Steve & Deana Czaban, Susan Collins, Mary Barratt	Sven Johnson & Pat Long, Billy & Nancy Dillon
USHERS	Early	Mark & Nancy Baker, Todd & Pam Johnston	Zan Shah, Dick Wilhelm, Bill & Beth Gibson	Rick & Kelly Cockrill, Paul Miller & Lorraine Landolt	Mark & Nancy Baker, Todd & Pam Johnston
	Late	Susan Collins, Sandy Wehr, Nick Psaltos, Tred Parry	Billy Dillon, Jimmy Eddinger, Steve & Anne Schultz	The Clavelli Family	Steve & Patti Flowers, Bill & Renee Geiger
GREETERS	Early	Corinne & Hank Hegener	Peter & Erin Schellhase	Dell Nunaley	Rebecca Smoot
	Late	Dave Tocki	Peter Forbes	Eamon & Jenn Coy	Traci Eddinger
TELLERS		Howard & Linda Evans	Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Joe Clavelli, Rick Tyler	Pat Long & Sven Johnson
ALTAR GUILD		Sophiann Nunaley, Nanny Baker, Maggie Heim, Chris Lafferty, Esther Kilgour	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Lorraine Landolt, Leigh Psaltos	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Lorraine Landolt, Leigh Psaltos	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Lorraine Landolt, Leigh Psaltos

If you are unable to fulfill your ministry on a day you are assigned, please (1) find your replacement and (2) notify the church office of the change in schedule. Thank you for serving!

FEBRUARY Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES:

2-25 Tom & Tait Simmons
2-26 Marvin and Diane Banton



BIRTHDAYS:

2-1	John Matthews	2-13	Mary Barratt
	Megan Smith	2-14	Deana Czaban
2-2	Connor Ceier	2-18	Catherine Cockrill
	Bobbie Wilhelm	2-21	John Sleeter
2-3	Alex Andrews	2-23	Mark Koenig
2-6	Chris Lafferty	2-24	Randy Stoutenburgh
	Dell Nunaley	2-26	Kelly Cockrill
2-8	Gail Donohue		Matthew Heim
2-11	Rick Tyler	2/27	Kristin English
		2/28	Catherine Duhring

Mark Your Calendar!

Feb. 3 Hedgehog Mtg. 7pm
Feb. 4 Mission Team Mtg. 5:30pm
Feb. 7 Men's Breakfast 7am
Feb. 8 Scout Sunday
Mission Trip Prep Mtg. 5pm
Youth Dinner & Movie 6pm
Feb. 15 NO Sunday School or SF Classes
Feb. 16 Mt. Calvary Guild 10am
Feb. 17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30pm
Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday Service 7am
Ash Wednesday Service 12pm
Ash Wednesday Service 7pm
Feb. 19 TOL Dinner 4:30pm
Feb. 21 Men's Leadership Mtg. 7am
Literary Guild 5pm
Feb. 22 **Newsletter Deadline**
Healing Liturgy
Feb. 24 Pastoral Care Team 5pm
Vestry Mtg. 7pm
Feb. 25 Lenten Lesson Supper Series 6:30pm

WHO KNEW?

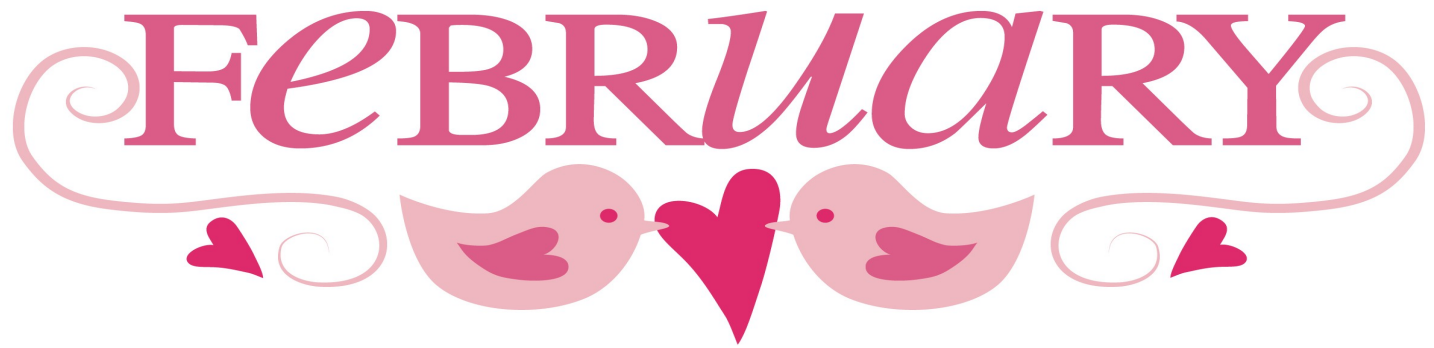
Be In-The-Know!

You can be the first to receive important announcements, the *St. Pete's Weekly*, and the *Good News* by signing up on our website. Under "Signup Opportunities" click on "Signup for St. Peter's announcements and news" and enter your name and email address. *It's as simple as that!*

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for FEBRUARY

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
1	4 Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
8	5 Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
15	Last Epiphany	2 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
22	1 Lent	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15

FEbruary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HOLY EUCHARIST SS/SF Choristers/CS Bible Study	2	3 Hedgehog Mtg	4 HOLY EUCHARIST Mission Team Mtg MSSG Bible Study	5 Choir	6	7 Men's Breakfast HOLY EUCHARIST
8 HOLY EUCHARIST SS/SF Choristers/CS Mission Trip Prep Mtg Bible Study Youth Dinner/Movie	9	10 Vestry Exec Mtg	11 HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG Bible Study	12 Choir	13	14 HOLY EUCHARIST
15 HOLY EUCHARIST NO SS/SF Choristers/CS Bible Study	16 Mt. Calvary Guild	17 <i>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner</i> 	18 ASH WEDNESDAY HOLY EUCHARIST 7am-12pm-7pm  MSSG Bible Study	19 TOL Dinner Choir	20	21 Men's Leadership Mtg Literary Guild Mtg HOLY EUCHARIST
22 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> HOLY EUCHARIST & Healing Liturgy SS/SF Choristers/CS Bible Study	23	24 PC Team Mtg. Vestry Mtg	25 HOLY EUCHARIST Lenten Lesson Series MSSG Bible Study	26 Choir	27	28 HOLY EUCHARIST

KEY: CS=Choral Scholars; MSSG=Men's Spiritual Support Group; PC=Pastoral Care; SF=Spiritual Formation Classes; SS=Sunday School
TOL=Tree of Life



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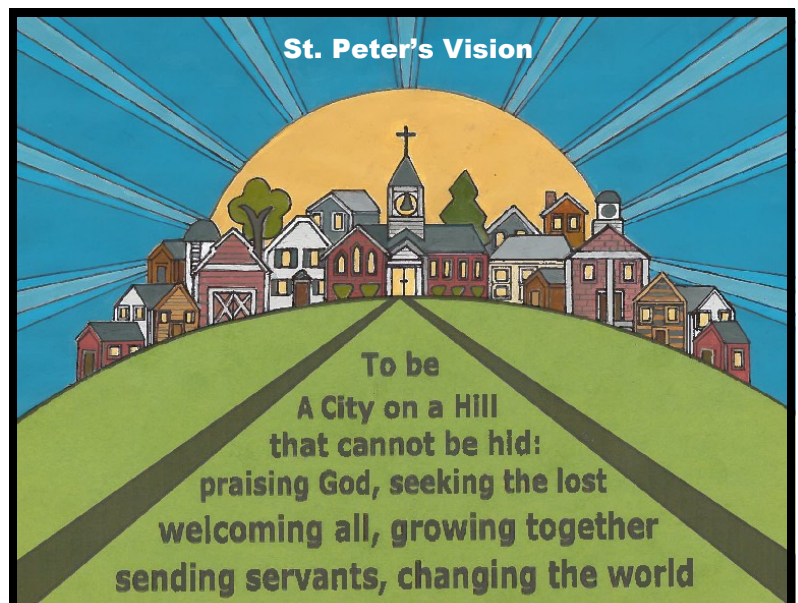
Rector: The Rev. Thomas W. Simmons IV
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Director of Music & Organist:
Barbara Bulger Verdile — musicd@stpetes.net

Director of Youth & Children's Ministries:
Kathleen Voss — dcm@stpetes.net

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