



Ring in the

Good News

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY 2016

Purcellville, Virginia

Easter Season

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This Year's Election Drama

Background.

Well Jesus did it...with a little help from the vestry! Together we were able to gather seven excellent candidates for the vestry, to restore a heavily depleted slate. Seven candidates is quite a catch! (see cabin mural at Lake Logan on p. 2). The classes of 2017 and 18 suffered high attrition due to competing commitments (Shane Ayers), mysterious disappearances (John Israel) and people moving away (Peter Forbes to Colorado and Dave Tocki to Massachusetts). These losses threatened to leave only Tom Coate and Jon Corbett (and some crickets!) on the vestry. I'm so glad we won't be lonely like that.

Thank you to Linda Stoutenburgh, Traci Eddinger, Dell Nunaley, Joe Matthews, Ron Clark, Peter Schellhase, and Jim Heim for stepping into leadership at the core of the congregation. You can "meet" them inside this issue. It's a fun group, a close-knit fellowship, and hopefully we'll be able to get a lot done in the year ahead.

<u>Term Expiration</u>	<u>Vestry Member</u>
June 2017	Jim Heim (<i>for John Israel</i>)
June 2017	Peter Schellhase (<i>for Peter Forbes</i>)
June 2017	Ron Clark (<i>for David Tocki</i>)
June 2018	Jon Corbett
June 2018	Tom Coate
June 2018	Joe Matthews (<i>for Shane Ayers</i>)
June 2019	Dell Nunaley
June 2019	Traci Eddinger
June 2019	Linda Stoutenburgh

Next Steps.

We will offer these candidates to the congregation for election following Sunday services on May 1. The vestry will take the following weekend (May 6-8) to get away to the Chesapeake Bay at Kent Island for orientation, fellowship and food, and planning. We'll be back in Purcellville for Mother's Day lunch on Sunday. Then on Pentecost we'll commission the vestry at both services. How appropriate. Come Holy Spirit, come!

The big task of the vestry next year will be to take the 90% completed work of the Hedgehog process, work out the final details and assimilate them into our planning and program, organization and facilities for the years ahead, so we can better serve our neighbors in the Loudoun Valley. This will involve some reorganization of the vestry roles to make sure we don't just MAKE a plan, but also DO the plan. Won't that be refreshing?!



CREDO

By Fr. Tom Simmons

I'd like to thank Peter Schellhase and Dan LaPre for leading worship April 10, which allowed me to go to a CREDO conference, hosted by the Church Pension Fund. Clergy are invited to come away periodically from the multi-directional demands of parish life to carve out time in a beautiful place with professional faculty and other clergy colleagues to refocus and rebalance and revive our sense of call to ministry. During the week we focused on our spiritual life, financial life, physical and emotional health, and vocational priorities. It was a great time, very insightful, and a big help for me to get myself squared away after running hard the last five years since my sabbatical in 2011. Thank you to Tait and the kids and to the people of St. Pete's for letting me get away for a week.



Lake Logan by my cabin.



My cabin by Lake Logan. All to myself.



A BIG day at the lake! This large mural was painted above the stone fireplace in my cabin.

Concern for the "environment"

Shane Morris reflects at Breakpoint (March 25, 2016) on evolving attitudes in American culture toward those who live and speak Christian faith in the public square.

Orthodox faith ... is becoming more offensive all the time. In their new book "Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You're Irrelevant and Extreme," Barna Group president David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons share startling research showing just how marginal basic Christian beliefs have become.

For instance, pro-life Christians have long held peaceful protests outside abortion clinics. But according, 64 percent of Americans consider this activity to be a form of religious extremism. Fifty-two percent said it's "extreme" to call homosexual relationships morally wrong, and a full 83 percent of Americans considered it "extreme" to "refuse to serve someone because the customer's lifestyle conflicts" with Christians beliefs.

Most shockingly, Barna found that if you "attempt to convert others" to your faith—an activity once known at those Billy Graham rallies of yore as "evangelism"—60 percent of Americans think you're "extreme."

We've seen this attitude show up in dramatic ways in the past few months. It's as if the Obergefell ruling flipped a cultural switch. The crushing of religious freedom restoration acts nationwide—especially the recent arm-twisting by Disney and the NFL over Georgia's version—drives home how marginal historic faith has become. Even modest pleas for accommodation—like the Little Sisters of the Poor's—are met with legal rebuke. How dare the Peach State prefer the first right enumerated in the Constitution over absolute freedom of sexual

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expression? How dare a charity staffed by Catholic nuns opt out of birth control coverage?

As my colleague Roberto Rivera writes, the powerful in America today are “just not that into us.” And increasingly, neither are the masses. Barna goes on to report that three quarters of the country say that “being religiously extreme is a threat to society.” In other words, if you protest the harvest and trafficking of infant organs, believe that no one should be forced to celebrate sin, or share the Gospel without being asked, you’re a threat. You’re an extremist. (No one speaks the word “terrorist,” but it springs to mind, unbidden.)

Writing in *The Atlantic*, Jonathan Merritt, who’s not usually on board with traditional evangelicals, worries over this data. “If most Americans would apply the same descriptor to ISIS militiamen and soup kitchen volunteers who [try to] convert non-believers, something is amiss.”

Indeed, something is amiss—but not just in our culture. Our nature itself is twisted. Saint Ambrose of Milan, Augustine’s mentor, knew this all the way back in the fourth century. Jesus had to die, he said, so that “the sentence of condemnation might be carried out, that He might satisfy the judgement that sinful flesh should be cursed even unto death.”

Fox’s Easter hit musical, “*The Passion*,” portrayed Jesus and the disciples as a boy band crooning pop hits about tolerance and acceptance. The

figure of Jesus said, “No matter what you believe surely love for our fellow man is a message that we can all share.” Yes, it is. But it does matter what you believe. Because that love does not take the form of a boy band singer crooning about our worthiness. It took the form of a servant who was despised, rejected, and killed because we were unworthy.

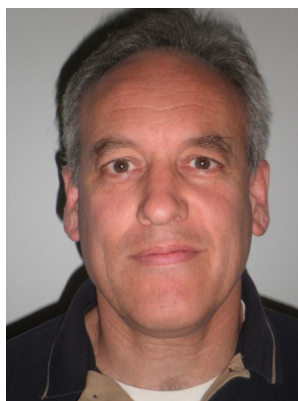
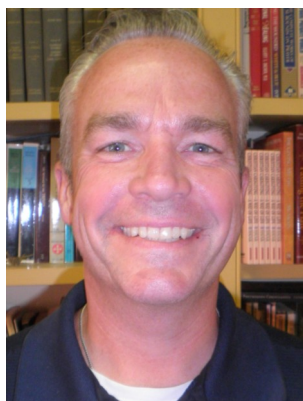
“When we learn to read the story of Jesus,” writes N. T. Wright, “and see it as the story of the love of God, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves—that insight produces, again and again, a sense of astonished gratitude which is very near the heart of authentic Christian experience.”

As we wrap up this Easter season, meditate on that. And no matter how unpopular our faith, no matter how extreme it looks to the world, remember that it was Jesus who went to the greatest extreme for us—and emerged victorious three days later.

“... The world could cope,” writes Wright, “with a Jesus who ultimately remains a wonderful idea inside his disciples’ minds and hearts. The world cannot cope with a Jesus who comes out of the tomb, who inaugurates God’s new creation right in the middle of the old one.”

As you and I witness to others the living reality of a crucified and risen Savior, who claims to hold “All authority in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18), we shouldn’t be surprised if the principalities and powers of this world respond with...chagrin. Thus has it always been.

“Thank you” doesn’t do justice to the deep appreciation we feel for the dedication and service of our retiring Vestry members. Well done, good and faithful servants: **Paul Donohue, Dan LaPre, and Steve Schultz!**



“I have had the privilege of serving on the Vestry as Junior Warden and have to say it was an honor to serve with all the dedicated vestry members who often put their personal time aside for the services of the congregation. It has been a pleasure to get to know them and a sincere delight to be able to serve this congregation. God Bless you all.”
—**Steve Schultz, Retiring Junior Warden**

Meet Vestry Candidate: Ron Clark

What passion and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

My passion is service to others. I am a committed Christian with a range of talents that are truly gifts from the Lord. I am inspired to use those gifts in service to others. Serving in a leadership role on the Vestry may provide an opportunity to reach others in the church whose gifts are yet to be discovered and used.

What ministries or events have you been involved in since joining St. Peter's?

Working with a small group developing the framework for expanding the vision, goals and mission for moving forward as a church and community during the next five years and beyond.

What opportunities and challenges do you see for St. Peter's in the next few years?

Creating a greater connection between St. Peter's and the broader Loudoun Valley community. Through those connections relationships can be established whereby people can connect and grow spiritually and thrive within our church community.

How would you as a leader address those challenges and opportunities?

Continue to collect information, analyze the data and collaborate with others to implement the vision for the church. It will be important to involve the greater congregation in becoming active in expanding this important ministry for St. Peters. Involvement breeds commitment. The challenge will be to involve a greater number of the congregation in the ministries of the church.

What are three areas of particular interest you would like to work on or lead?

Continue to develop and implement the strategic plan for the church.

Expand the vision for the church so that the Spirit and energy being developed within the walls of the church can be experienced throughout the greater neighboring communities. Involve the congregation to a greater extent in developing and ministering to others within and beyond the wall of St. Peters.

Give a brief (1 paragraph) bio of you (and your family, if applicable)

Married to Theresa Beeton for almost 34 years. Together we have four sons. I have a son and a daughter from a previous marriage and seven grandchildren. I have been fortunate to have experienced several careers including 23 years as an officer in the US Marine Corps, a business entrepreneur and a Clinical Social worker with a specialization working with families and relationships.



Meet Vestry Candidate: Traci Eddinger

What passion and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

I have served on one previous Vestry here at St. Peter's. I enjoyed the experience very much in terms of seeing the church's vision come to life. I have professional experience in business & administration and have a B.A. in Business Management with a secondary concentration in English. I have been a part of the leadership team which has been developing the "hedgehog" and new St. Peter's Strategic Plan. I have a tremendous amount of time and energy invested in this process and it would mean a great deal to be able to help see St. Peter's vision through.

What ministries or events have you been involved in since joining St. Peter's?

I began attending services at St. Peter's in November of 2000. I have since been involved in many ministries and events. Some of the primary ones include: Children's Ministries Committee, Vestry, Lector, Intercessor, many small groups and Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, etc.

What opportunities and challenges do you see for St. Peter's in the next few years?

St. Peter's is at a transition point where one Strategic Plan is coming to a close and a new vision for the future is emerging. It is a very exciting time and can be a challenging time, as well. Change is always challenging. I don't foresee a lot of deep changes to what is currently happening at St. Peter's, but I do see us changing why and how we do things to be more focused on our local community and bringing them into the Christian fold. I believe this presents an opportunity to focus our ministries and programs to better serve those who we see are in greatest need in our community and those who we feel we could best serve with our skills and talents. As always, developing new programs and putting them into action requires keen budgeting skills. We will need to focus our finances where our hearts are and work hard to make sure the congregation is on board and supports the vision with their bodies and their finances.

How would you as a leader address those challenges and opportunities?

I would love to work with the congregation on incorporating their thoughts and ideas into the overall vision of the church. I think focus groups or brainstorming groups could be quite effective. I see the Vestry's first challenge to be clearly communicating the vision and new Strategic Plan to the congregation in an enthusiastic, inclusive, encouraging and uplifting way. I think we may need to restructure our ministry areas to agree with the new direction of the Strategic Plan. We will also need to use some very creative fundraising techniques in order to fund new ministries.

What are three areas of particular interest you would like to work on or lead?

- Communication to Congregation
- Incorporation of Existing Ministries into new Direction
- Encouraging and Motivating

Give a brief (1 paragraph) bio of you (and your family, if applicable)

I grew up mostly in Maryland after my father retired from the Air Force. I completed my education at the University of Maryland and worked for Digital Equipment Corporation for 13 years. In 1994 I accepted a job with Sprint Corporation and moved to Northern Virginia where I met my husband to be. Jimmy and I were married in 1997 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Sterling and moved to Purcellville in 2000 where we quickly got involved at St. Peter's and the community. Jimmy's son Austyn went to school at Harmony Intermediate School and Loudoun Valley High School and our daughter Alexis is now at Blue Ridge Middle School.



Meet Vestry Candidate: Jim Heim

What passion and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

Church member for the past 5.5 years since we transferred to the Loudoun Valley area, first time volunteer for the vestry, interested in recruiting families and in retention of existing families to St. Peters

What ministries or events have you been involved in since joining St. Peter's?

Helped out with the Altar Guild along with my wife for a couple of years, completed, then assisted, with the Nunaley's on the Marriage Programs, participated in the upkeep of the church on several weekends, helped organize the Easter Sunrise service for the past few years. Attend the men's breakfasts and the Scotch and Cigar night.



What opportunities and challenges do you see for St. Peter's in the next few years?

Keeping the moral compass set in the right direction despite the worldly pressures to bend, accept and change from the conservative path of the church's tradition. Continue living the St. Peter's vision statement and working to serve the church and our community.

How would you as a leader address those challenges and opportunities?

Work with the church leadership in discussion of the issues ensuring that the compass remains in the right direction preserving conservative family values

What are three areas of particular interest you would like to work on or lead?

Happy to serve as needed

Give a brief (1 paragraph) bio of you (and your family, if applicable)

Recently retired from the U.S. Government, we have served around the world and am looking forward to some quiet time without having to move, again. My wife is a nurse with the Loudoun County school system and we reside in Round Hill. We have one college graduate living at home and another attending West Virginia University. At home, we have two German Shepard rescue dogs who rule the roost. We enjoy visiting local wineries and tourist attractions and traveling. Being too young to truly retire, I am working part time and continue looking for full time employment in the area. As a family, we started at Grace Episcopal in Alexandria, VA., and have attended St. James Episcopal Church in Guatemala City, Guatemala, St. Clement's in El Paso, TX and St. Thomas in Morris, IL.

Meet Vestry Candidate: Joe Matthews

What passion and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

My passion is to build and to develop meaning projects that benefit society. Hopefully my experience will help St. Peter's sort out its real estate and building needs to serve the community in the present and for the next 50 years.

What ministries or events have you been involved in since joining St. Peter's?

Building Committee.

What opportunities and challenges do you see for St. Peter's in the next few years?

Facilities are an important part of supporting the functions of the church and its growth. St. Peter's is limited by the size of the land it currently occupies and its facilities are aging and not totally aligned with its current needs. Going forward, we need to carefully think through and implement renovation, acquisition and construction strategies that allow the facilities to keep pace with the mission and direction that the church is taking.

How would you as a leader address those challenges and opportunities?

Work with the Building Committee and the Vestry to understand the church's needs and through a collaborative based approach work to establish strategic direction and an implementation approach that includes meaningful goals, milestones and metrics to achieve results.

What are three areas of particular interest you would like to work on or lead?

- 1) Land Acquisition,
- 2) Facility relates program management
- 3) Operations

Give a brief (1 paragraph) bio of you (and your family, if applicable)

Happily married for 28 years, a father of two 14 years boys and a professional constructor with 40 years of institutional and commercial construction experience involving \$800m of work. Interest include travel and using my life's experience's to help others.



Meet Vestry Candidate: Dell Nunaley

What passion and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

My current day and night focus is bringing the love of Jesus Christ to Purcellville & Western Loudoun County.

What ministries or events have you been involved in since joining St. Peter's?

Men's Ministry
Boy's Ministry
Family Ministry

Marriage Ministry
Discipleship Ministry
Small Group Ministry



What opportunities and challenges do you see for St. Peter's in the next few years?

Transition from a small Episcopal Church identity to a community oriented church focused on evangelism and outreach. Work together with like-minded churches regardless of denomination in a common platform.

How would you as a leader address those challenges and opportunities?

Work the current strategic goals into good objectives and actions.
Rally the church leadership.
Better coordination between St. Peter's and Tree of Life.

What are three areas of particular interest you would like to work on or lead?

Volunteer & leader induction and development
Small group development
Community outreach

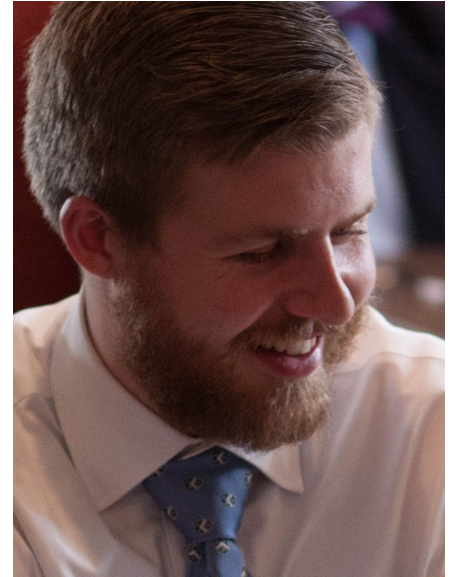
Give a brief (1 paragraph) bio of you (and your family, if applicable)

Married 24 years to Sophiann
Live in Purcellville 22 years
3 sons – William 22, Robert 20, James 14
Active at St. Peter's 21 years
Starting a new chapter with Tree of Life in Purcellville

Meet Vestry Candidate: Peter Schellhase

What passion and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

Since I joined St. Peter's in 2009, I have appreciated this church's unique collocation of gifts not often found in one place, including our diverse, multi-generational congregation, respect for God's Word and the Sacraments, and our strategic position to serve the local community. I want to see this church's distinctive gifts offered to our local community. I bring a heart for St. Peter's, communication skills, and prior Vestry experience.



What ministries or events have you been involved in since joining St. Peter's?

I have been privileged to serve in a number of roles, including in children's ministry and adult formation, lay reader and intercessor, lay Eucharistic minister, campus missionary, and vestry member. I also meet regularly with a group of men for prayer and fellowship. And I participate in and help lead the St. Peter's Literary Guild, which is somewhere on a continuum between a supper club and a small group.

What opportunities and challenges do you see for St. Peter's in the next few years?

At St. Peter's, "the fundamentals are strong." We have a strong, generous, welcoming congregation, which is visible and active in the local community. We offer authentic, traditional, sacramental worship, something that is increasingly difficult to find in the age of the megachurch. Many people in our local community are looking for this and it's one of the things we do really well. Our parish demographics defy the declining trend of the Episcopal Church, with many families and children and slow but steady congregational growth.

St. Peter's biggest challenge is something that can't be changed: Our membership in the Episcopal Church. Since the 60s the national church has acquired a dodgy theological and moral reputation, and recent developments threaten even the integrity of the Prayer Book liturgies. There is nothing we can do about this. As a confirmed Episcopalian myself, I believe our best and only course of action is to establish an independent reputation for orthodoxy and ecumenical catholicity within our local community. We are not defined by what the national church or even our own Diocese does.

How would you as a leader address those challenges and opportunities?

As a vestry member, by supporting the congregation and ministries of the church through prayerful oversight. I would also continue assisting in Christian education and outreach activities, and tithing to financially support the work of the church.

What are three areas of particular interest you would like to work on or lead?

I will be serving on the Vestry for only a year, completing the tenure of Mr. Peter Forbes, who recently moved out of state. As such, I would like to be flexible and serve at the discretion of the Vestry in whatever areas of need presently exist.

Give a brief (1 paragraph) bio of you (and your family, if applicable)

I grew up in the DC area and attended an evangelical megachurch throughout my childhood and teen years. In college my understanding and affinity shifted in the liturgical/sacramental direction and partly because of the ministry of St. Peter's I undertook the Anglican Way. In 2011 I married Erin. We now have a daughter, Mary (almost 1). I have been discerning a call to priestly ministry for several years, but am waiting on the right time and opportunity to pursue it, and seeking to be a good steward of my time and gifts in the present situation.

Meet Vestry Candidate: Linda Stoutenburgh

What passion and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

I previously served a term on vestry here 10 years ago. I have completed the three-year EFM program, and participated in many classes and several small groups. I work as administrative assistant at Leesburg Methodist Church which gives me perspective from a similar and yet very different way of being "church". I thrive as part of a committed team such as our vestry. I am passionate about doing, thinking, and believing as we ought, and enjoy the opportunity to explain/teach/answer questions about these things.



What ministries or events have you been involved in since joining St. Peter's?

Many! Worship – SD and LEM, healing team, instrumentalist, occasional preacher, choir member. Stewardship chair. H.S Sunday school leader. Part of mission teams to Biloxi and W.Va. Served on PDC and seminarian support committees. Occasional worship leader/preacher at Good Shepherd church and St. Andrews (Ada, Va). Marriage mentor and marriage ministry. And other things I have surely overlooked or forgotten!

What opportunities and challenges do you see for St. Peter's in the next few years?

We have what others around us need: Christ and Community. Getting that message out is both opportunity and challenge. If our hedgehog plan is successful at attracting new people, we will be in the position of trying to pursue our mission and vision in an undersized facility – another challenge! Our "high church" and liturgically-driven worship has great depth and richness, and also represents both opportunity and challenge. The opportunity, of course, is to share that rich worship experience with others. The challenge is to teach new members (and remind all members) why we do what we do and what it means, so that it does not become either rote or legalistic to those present, and also to help the unchurched visitor to understand and follow along with our worship so that they might wish to come back another time.

How would you as a leader address those challenges and opportunities?

As a leader, I would expect to address our challenges and opportunities as part of a committed leadership team that prays, listens, discusses, and discerns a path, and then take whatever subsequent actions/tasks seem appropriate.

What are three areas of particular interest you would like to work on or lead?

Worship, Stewardship, Christian Formation

Give a brief (1 paragraph) bio of you (and your family, if applicable)

My husband, Randy, and I have lived just outside Purcellville since 1994, and raised our two children here. We joined St. Peters shortly after moving here, but I didn't come to Christ, really, until 2003. I worked as a Geologist in environmental consulting until 2004, when I changed careers to work in the church office at Leesburg United Methodist Church. Since 2003, I have been part of many ministries, and some years back was exploring a possible call to ordained ministry. That call didn't work out, and I am still trying to discern what my principal ministry ought to be. At this time, however, I think I am meant to take up ministry at St. Peters through service on the vestry.

Thoughts On Preludes And Other Preparations

By Barbara Bulger Verdile, Director of Music

Many times I consider our different perspectives and needs and how we adjust to and accommodate each other in our worship. Each Sunday, for instance, as a musician, in the Sanctuary well before the official beginning of the service, then warming up with the choir and playing the organ prelude, I experience first-hand the varied (and sometimes harried) arrivals of our congregants. I witness those who come very early, seeking some time for reflection before the choir and I run through our paces. Readers often spend time at the lectern. Then the acolytes, bustling in and out of the Sacristy, gathering the processional crosses and torches, lighting the candles on the altar, all this accompanied occasionally by banging Sacristy doors.

This is the moment when most people arrive. Some go sit quietly in a pew but others move about socializing. A banging door is hardly noticed as the Sanctuary fills with conversation from those who haven't taken the opportunity to make their greetings in the Narthex and can't wait until after the service to do so. I sigh as I consider the contrast between those who came in to sit quietly, those who are speaking in almost normal volume, and the quiet, contemplative prelude I am about to play. Some of our congregants view the organ prelude as the beginning of the service, a time for quiet meditation, reflection and preparation. Are those using this time to socialize aware of the others sitting quietly? Will those sitting quietly be able to benefit from hearing the prelude? Sometimes I have to wonder: will I even be able to hear it as I play? Who of us would consider holding conversations during the prayers, bible readings or sermons?

How should we all use this time to prepare and compose ourselves to hear and receive the word of God?

I'd like to offer an article that explores and expands a bit further these thoughts on preparation. It is written by Jordan Kauflin, who serves the Redeemer Church of Arlington, VA.

A couple weeks ago, my wife and I went out to eat on a date. On a whim, we decided to go see a movie as well. Just like that. No preparation, we just decided and went. The lack of preparation had absolutely no bearing on how much we enjoyed the movie. After all, we just wanted to be entertained.

Unfortunately, we can often approach the Sunday service in a similar way.

How do you prepare to gather with your church family? Is your preparation limited to the frenetic collecting of your children, snacks, and diapers? Do you spend your time trying to convince yourself that going is better than sleeping in? Or maybe you don't even think to prepare,

because it's just another routine that you've developed? How we prepare for our Sunday gatherings is directly related to how much we benefit from our time together.

At times, we can prepare as spectators. We come mainly to watch, not participate. It's like how I prepare to go see a sporting event. Besides making sure I'm not wearing the opposing teams colors, I don't prepare much. I anticipate it, but my general attitude in going to a sporting event is, "Entertain me! Move me! Show me something amazing!" Or if you're a loyal fan of a lousy team like I am, "Make me suffer!"

We can have the same attitude as we come to our Sunday gatherings. We come with the expectation, spoken or assumed, that everyone else needs to make sure we have a good time. I need my kids to be taken care of. I need people to seek me out. I need the music to sound a certain way. I need the rector to stop speaking on time so that I can get on with my life. As for Jesus? Hopefully he shows up by his Spirit so I can have a spiritual, emotional experience that carries me through my week. We come as spectators, expecting to be served.

For some of us, we prepare for our Sunday gathering as workers. This is what I typically face as a vocational pastor. But it's not limited to being a pastor. You might serve in your church as a children's ministry worker, usher, setup team person, greeter, or hospitality person. We prepare much like we prepare for work (and for some, it really is work). We make a list of all the things we need to do. We make sure we leave on time. Our mind is filled with logistics and details. We remind ourselves how important our role is.

Preparing to meet with our church becomes an assessment of what we need to do rather than an excitement for how God might meet us. Maybe our gatherings even become a place where we derive our significance and self worth because of all the ways we serve, rather than a privileged opportunity to be with our family. Ever been there? I have.

So how should we prepare?

Every time we gather as a church, God will speak to us as his word is preached, sung, read, and studied. Hearing from God is a weighty and glorious thing. Just read Exodus 19-20. To see God for who he is, to be overwhelmed by his greatness and holiness, to experience his presence, to see his boundless love and mercy, to encounter what should make our hearts tremble. Through Jesus, we can boldly come and receive (Hebrews 10:19-22), but confidence does not equal casualness. Prepare by asking God to help you receive his revelation with gratefulness and humility.

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Ordained—The Rev. Mark Douglass Riley



We rejoice with our former seminarian, **Mark Riley**, on the occasion of his ordination. Bishop Hollerith ordained Mark to the Sacred Order of Priests on April 6 at St. John's, Hampton, in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary, delivered the homily at the service. Fr. Mark is currently serving as the Assistant Rector at historic **St. John's Episcopal Church, 100 W. Queen's Way, Hampton, Virginia, 23669.**

Mark has a deep appreciation for St. John's historic legacy. Established in 1610, St. John's is the oldest English-speaking parish in continuous existence in the United States of America—though the current building is circa 1728. The building was damaged multiple times in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and most severely in the beginning of the Civil War when it was set on fire, along with homes and businesses, by Confederate soldiers in an attempt to keep the town from Union occupation. However, the brick walls survived and restoration was completed around 1870, making St. John's the only surviving colonial structure in downtown Hampton. We know they'll be blessed to have Fr. Mark there.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The grass is green, the sun is warm and the end of the school year is in sight! It's that wonderful time of year again! It's time for VBS!!!

**This year's VBS will be held from
9am – 12pm
the week of June 26 – July 1.**



Our theme is DEEP SEA Discovery!!! This year, we have chosen to help kids discover and experience the power of God's presence. We will help the children understand the importance of reaching out and changing the lives of people around them. Kids will know that GOD is always with them, explore the presence in their lives and serve God by serving others.

Registration for VBS will be on line by the end of the month. Cost is \$25 per child and \$30 per family.

We need VOLUNTEERS to make the VBS a success. Teachers, teacher's aides, music leaders, craft helpers and guides are all needed. Please contact Kathleen Voss at dcm@stpetes.net to volunteer or for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are only 7 more Sunday School classes left! Let's make an effort to attend and participate!

Contact Kathleen Voss for more information

Nursery

Have you met our two amazing ladies in the Nursery! **Ms. Ingrid and Ms. Leah!**

Our nursery offers care during the services and program hour for children 6 months to Kindergarten. Every parent could benefit from an hour or two of prayer and repose, especially parents of young children!

Feel free to stop in and take a look.



Family Fellowship Dinner!!!

Sunday, May 15th

4:30 - 6:30 PM

McCray Hall

Take break from cooking for a night and let us make dinner for you!
With so many new and young families at the Church,
let's get together for food and fellowship!

4:30 - 5:30 Meet and mingle babysitters available in the nursery

5:30 - 6:30 Dinner for the family... we'll provide the dinner,
you provide the conversation!

Please RSVP to Kathleen Voss at dcm@stpetes.net by May

The Spirit of the Liturgy

Sundays, May 1–June 26, 9:30am

Every Sunday we participate in “the liturgy.”

But it's easy to do this without stopping to think about what exactly we are doing, what it means, and why it is important to us. This may even be especially true for those who grew up in the Episcopal Church or it's the only church you've spent much time with. Many other congregations don't seem to practice the liturgy, at least, not like we do. Is it all just a matter of preference? Is it “just a tradition?” Why do we worship the way we do as Episcopalians or Anglicans?

If you've asked yourself any of these questions, this class is for you.

Over four weeks in May, we'll explore:

- What “liturgy” means
- Where the Christian liturgy came from
- What worship looked like in the early Church
- How this comes to us through the Anglican tradition

Most importantly, we'll explore how the liturgy answers the question at the center of all religion:

How can human beings draw near to God?

After Memorial Day, we'll return, time permitted with additional sessions on issues such as sacred art and music, the sign of the cross, postures of prayer, and why we worship on Sunday.

—Peter Schellhase



LTC Todd Thomson Memorial Golf Tournament Wednesday May 11 Worthington Manor Golf Course, Urbana, MD *Proceeds benefit HeroHomes of Loudoun*

LTC Todd Thomson was a courageous, dedicated, and compassionate man who lost his battle to cancer on 13 March 2015. Todd was raised in western Loudoun. He and his wife decided to raise their family in western Loudoun as well. Todd was always concerned about the welfare of his soldiers and veterans. His dedication and compassion for his fellow veterans made the selection of HeroHomes as the recipient of the proceeds for this year's tournament a fitting tribute. HeroHomes will be building houses in western Loudoun for those who have fought for the preservation of freedom and democracy for others.

To register or make a donation, brochures are located in the entryway or contact Robyn Thomson at robynandtodd@verizon.net



*St. Peter's Wednesday Night Bible Study
invites you to join us as we bid a fond farewell
to Michael & Maggie Snyder*

Monday, May 30, 2016

5-8pm

at the home of Doug & Monica Gill

15131 Shannondale Rd.

Purcellville, VA

Please bring heavy hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share



Close to God

I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space. But I can lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, get down on my knees in earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.

—Isaac Newton

(Continued from page 11)

When God reveals himself to us, things happen. Experiencing God leads us to respond. Rather than being a spectator or a passive participant, our hearts are moved to worship because we have once again seen the beauty, greatness, holiness, mercy, and love of our God. We sing to him, confess our sins, receive his word preached, take communion, and give our finances, all in grateful response to seeing who God is and what he has done for us in Jesus.

Prepare for this Sunday by asking that God would help you rightly respond to him.

Our worship doesn't stop when the singing ends, or the preacher says, "Amen." It continues as we greet, encourage, serve, pray for, exhort, and care for one another. God chooses to use people to edify his body. You and me. Isn't that amazing?

Do you come to church expecting that God will use you? It might be as you serve practically, it might be as you take two minutes to pray for a friend, or greet a new person, or encourage a child. You have a part to play. This Sunday, prepare for gathering with your church family by asking God how he might use you to edify his church.

So how do you prepare to go to church? This Sunday, come ready to encounter God and respond to him in glad and grateful worship with your heart and life.

***This
Sunday,
prepare for
gathering
with your
church
family
by asking
God how he
might use
you
to edify
his church.***

A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.



What you need:

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!

PUZZLE

A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.

A E I O U Y

B _ t M _ r _ tr _ _ s _ r _ d
 _ p _ ll th _ s _ th _ ngs
 _ nd p _ nd _ r _ d th _ m
 _ n h _ r h _ _ rt.
 L _ k _ 2:19, NIV

Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV

I thank God
for my mother

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all!"

believers4ever.com | Proverbs 31:29

**Mother's
Day
Sunday
May 8**

St. Peter's MAY SERVING SCHEDULE 2016

		May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
		6 Easter	7 Easter	Pentecost	Trinity	2 Pentecost
LECTORS	Early	Mark Baker	Gail Donohue	William Lawrence	Dell Nunaley	Kelly Wyatt
	Late	Kyle Voss	Lauren Hunt	Mark McKinley	Eamon Coy	Liz Tuohy
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Judy Hall, Peter Schellhase	NA	James Hall, Sophiann Nunaley	Terry Duhring, Tim Hall	Peter Schellhase, Judy Hall
	Late	Randy Stoutenburgh, Tom Coate	NA	Linda & Randy Stoutenburgh	Tom Coate, Lauren Hunt	Linda & Randy Stoutenburgh
SUB DEACON	Early	Tim Hall	NA	NA	Br. John	Buddy Andrews
	Late	Linda Stoutenburgh	NA	NA	Br. John	Dave Hunt
INTERCESSOR	Early	Kelly Cockrill	Dell Nunaley	Parents	HL	Kelly Cockrill
	Late	Marty Thompson	Traci Eddinger	Parents	HL	Randy Stoutenburgh
ACOLYTES	Early	Josh, Megan & Olivia Smith, James Nunaley	Kimberly & Colin Donohue, John Matthews	Adam & Eric Gibson, Mark Matthews, Hayes Baker	Aubrey & Addie Winger, Isabella Tucker	Josh, Megan & Olivia Smith, James Nunaley
	Late	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Lexi Eddinger, Grace Falatko	Chris Hunt, George & Henry Simmons	Dan LaPre, Lauren Hunt, Jon Coate	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Lexi Eddinger, Grace Falatko	Chris Hunt, George & Henry Simmons
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Zan Shah, Debbie Pappas, Alexis Didoha, Judy Didoha	Todd & Pam Johnston, Don & Krista Winger	Mark & Nancy Baker, Sonny & Mary Hoeltzel	Eckard & Keri Holdorf, John & Debby Caulfield	Drew Lavan & Nancy Wise, Chris & Terry Duhring
	Late	Kurt & Melissa Nordstrom, Eamon & Jenn Coy	Ryan & Amanda Walsh, Tom & Mary Coate	Dave & Gail Hunt, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Travis & Rebekah Ehrich, Dan & Una LaPre	Jimmy & Traci Eddinger, Steve & Patti Flowers
USHERS	Early	Todd & Pam Johnston	Paul Miller & Lauraine Landolt	Rick & Kelly Cockrill	Zan Shah, Dick Wilhelm	Mark & Nancy Baker
	Late	Joe & Nissa Clavelli, Mark & Katie McKinley	Susan Collins, Sandy Wehr, Keith & Regina Brzozowsky	Steve & Anne Schultz, Tred Parry, Jimmy Eddinger	Jenn & Eamon Coy, Keith & Regina Brzozowsky	Jim Schatz, Bob Ryan, Billy Dillon, Jim Heim
GREETERS	Early	Rebecca Smoot	Mark Baker	Bill Gibson	Dell Nunaley	Rebecca Smoot
	Late	Jae & Andrea Lee	Traci Eddinger	Jon Corbett	Steve Schultz	Jae & Andrea Lee
TELLERS		Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Howard & Linda Evans	Joe Clavelli, TBD	Pat Long & Sven Johnson	TBD
ALTAR GUILD		Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Una LaPre, Linda Turner, Justine Phelan, Mary Paul Jones	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Una LaPre, Linda Turner, Justine Phelan, Mary Paul Jones	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Una LaPre, Linda Turner, Justine Phelan, Mary Paul Jones	Bobbie Wilhelm, Jean Kuhns, Ruth Ensor, Anna Curtis, Kat Clavelli, Wynell Schatz	Bobbie Wilhelm, Jean Kuhns, Ruth Ensor, Anna Curtis, Kat Clavelli, Wynell Schatz

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!

MAY Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES:

5-2 Nora & Scott Young
 5-7 Mark & Katie McKinley
 5-8 Lynne & Bob McCann
 5-9 Ryan & Mandi Walsh
 Randy & Kelly Wyatt
 5-17 Tommy & Amy Cassidy
 5-22 Shane & Teresa Ayers
 Ben & Anna Curtis
 Drew Lavan & Nancy Wise
 Michael & Maggie Snyder
 5-24 Riley & Sara O'Neil
 5-26 Jae & Andrea Lee
 5-27 Tim & Judy Hall
 5-28 Mark & Nancy Baker

BIRTHDAYS:

5-1 Liv Nordstrom	5-10 Mark Novak
Blair Simmons	5-12 Mike Volpone
Sandy Wehr	5-14 Addison Baugh
5-2 Julianna Bailey	Amelia Baugh
Bill Reckmeyer	5-16 Megan Czaban
5-3 Charlotte Corbett	Jim Heim
5-4 Nancy Wise	5-20 Louise Hall
5-5 Maddie Babb	Priya Shah
Hayes Baker	5-21 Teresa Ayers
5-6 Tommy Cassidy	5-23 Jack Wehr
Becky Harris	5-27 Judy Hall
5-7 Pat Pearson	5-28 Jack Novak
5-8 Brian Jenkins	5-29 Fred Shier
Sven Johnson	5-30 Kylie Walsh
5-9 Jaqueline Whalen	

Mark Your Calendar!

May 1 Vestry Election 9am-12pm
 May 4 Mission Team Mtg. 5:30pm
 May 5 National Day of Prayer
 May 6 Vestry Orientation Retreat
 May 7 Vestry Orientation Retreat
 Men's Breakfast 7am
 EVENING PRAYER 5pm
 May 8 Mother's Day
 Vestry Orientation Retreat
 MORNING PRAYER 8am & 10:30am
 May 10 Vestry Exec Mtg. 6pm
 May 11 Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament
 May 15 Young Family Fellowship Dinner 4:30pm
 Guatemala Mission Prep 5pm
 May 16 Mt. Calvary Guild 10am
 May 17 Vestry Mtg. 7:15pm
 May 19 TOL Dinner *(hosted by Women's Fellowship)*
 May 21 Men's Leadership Mtg. 7am
 Literary Guild 5pm
 May 22 Newsletter Deadline
 May 24 Pastoral Care Team 5pm
 May 27 Men's TGIF 8pm
 May 29 Healing Liturgy
 May 30 Snyder Farewell Party 5pm



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 MAY

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
1	6 Easter	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
8	7 Easter	Acts 16:16-34	97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
15	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	104:25-35, 37	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17, 25-27
22	Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
29	2 Pentecost	1 Kings 18:20-21, 22-29, 30-39	96	Galatians 1:1-12	Luke 7:1-10



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Vestry Election HOLY EUCHARIST SS/SF Classes Choristers & CS Bible Study	2	3	4 HOLY EUCHARIST Mission Team Mtg. MSSG Bible Study	5 Choir Next Step Community 	6 Vestry Orientation Retreat	7 Vestry Orientation Retreat Men's Breakfast EVENING PRAYER
8 Mother's Day Vestry Retreat MORNING PRAYER SS/SF Classes Choristers & CS Bible Study	9	10 Vestry Exec	11 Golf Tournament HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG Bible Study	12 Choir Next Step Community	13	14 HOLY EUCHARIST
15 Pentecost HOLY EUCHARIST SS/SF Classes Choristers & CS Family Dinner Bible Study Mission Prep Mtg	16 Mt. Calvary Guild	17 Vestry Mtg	18 HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG Bible Study	19 TOL Dinner Choir Next Step Community	20	21 Men's Leadership Mtg Literary Guild HOLY EUCHARIST
22 Newsletter Deadline HOLY EUCHARIST SS/SF Classes Choristers & CS Bible Study	23	24 PC Team	25 HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG Bible Study	26 Choir Next Step Community	27 Men's TGIF	28 HOLY EUCHARIST
29 Healing Liturgy HOLY EUCHARIST Choristers & CS Bible Study	30 Snyder's Farewell Party	31				

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



MAILING ADDRESS
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— frtom@stpetes.net

Director of Music & Organist:
Barbara Bulger Verdile — musicd@stpetes.net

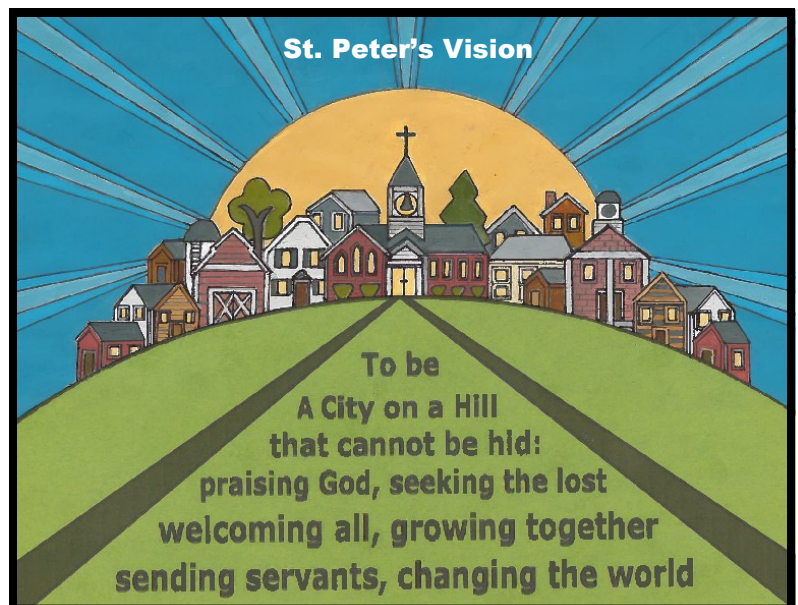
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