



Ring in the **Good News**

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 2016

Purcellville, Virginia

Advent Season

Inside this issue:

From the Rector:	2
A Fond Farewell	
A Second Look	3
at the Music	
Survey	
Have You Met	4
Isaiah?	
Walk In Love:	6
Thank You &	
Next Steps	
Missions Corner:	7
News of Guatemala	
& Liberia	
Casa Chirilagua	8
Friends Being	8
Friends Gift Drive	
Treasurer's Corner:	9
God is at Work!	
Realm Tips	9
Exploring Your	10
Faith 2017	
Kids & Youth	11
News	
Blue Christmas	11
Kidz Page	12
Service Roster	13
Special Dates	14
& Lectionary	
Calendar	15

Christmas Worship Services

Blue Christmas Service ~ Dec. 17, 5:00 pm

Holy Eucharist & Christmas Pageant ~ Dec. 24, 5:00pm

Holy Eucharist & Festive Choral Prelude ~ Dec. 24, 10:30 pm

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist ~ Dec. 25, 11:00 am





A Fond Farewell

By Fr. Tom Simmons

December will be our last month enjoying **Barbara Verdile's** leadership in song. Due to projected budget cuts for 2017, she announced in mid-November that this Christmas will be her last.

This is a significant loss for me, for our staff, for St. Peter's, and most particularly for our choir members who have worked so closely with Barbara over so many years. She joined us in January 2006 and for eleven years has invested tremendous effort into making our music moving and a blessing to God. She has built our music program. We will miss her great skill and experience, her flair and commitment to excellence, her absolute reliability, and her contagious love for our rich inheritance in sacred music.

Not only did she teach me, with patient persistence, to chant the Eucharist, Litany, and *Exsultet*, but she also built a skilled and devoted choir, trained a couple generations of children into choir members (and in some cases piano players!). She transformed our space by configuring the choir chancel and carving out rehearsal space upstairs for the choir. She introduced the congregation to new depths in the hymnal and inspired us to worship God "with the voice of singing." We are all greatly enriched by a decade of her playing, singing, conducting, composing, leading and building. Around her, the Holy Spirit built Christian community and worship to God.



Unfortunately, in our current season of pruning we are unable to afford such talent and experience. Please pray for God's provision and guidance, protection and blessing for all of us going forward.

As you do, remember that Jesus promised us such pruning seasons. Jesus said, "every branch that bears fruit he prunes, *that it may bear more fruit*" (John 15:2). This year and next is our time of pruning. It's hard to lose people that we love and routines that are so familiar to us. Pruning hurts, but it works, as Jesus promised. The Vinedresser is busy at St. Peter's preparing a future season of increased fruitfulness. He has good things in store for us. Today's loss opens us up for tomorrow's possibilities and opportunities. It prompts us to make beneficial changes that we couldn't imagine if all just stayed the same.

"We are all greatly enriched by a decade of her playing, singing, conducting, composing, leading and building."

Barbara said it best in announcing her resignation, "when one door closes, another opens." And so we will be walking through that door together in the months ahead. I caught the most astonishing glimpse through that door *the morning after* Barbara resigned. Literally! Out of the blue, Roger Long, our interim organist before Barbara came, emailed me after 10 years. He's a source of considerable expertise and connections to help us navigate the journey ahead.

Speaking of navigating the journey ahead, I am gathering a music committee that will represent both services, and people both in and outside the choir, as we:

1. Organize our fond farewell for Barbara—**Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, December 18th, 12pm, McCray Hall.**
2. Study where we are musically as a congregation, beginning with the results of our September music survey (see results below), listening and building consensus where we would like to go.
3. Conduct a search for a musician best suited to lead us into the future.

If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the committee, please let me know by December 15.

A Second Look at the Music Survey

By Fr. Tom Simmons

We enter the transition ahead with a good basis of knowledge on our congregation's preferences, from the survey we did in mid-September. We sought your opinion on our Sunday music by distributing a quick survey at Sunday services, and eighty of you responded! That was nearly two-thirds of the adults present in worship that day, which is an outstanding response rate. Here's what you said:

When asked if more folk music would enhance our worship, 56 people said they thought it would and 24 said it wouldn't. Of those in favor, 24 said they believe "strongly" that more musical variety would be an enhancement.

When asked if more instrumental music (in addition to the organ) would enhance our worship, 65 people said they thought it would and 17 said they thought it wouldn't. Of those in favor, 27 said they believe that "strongly."

When asked if more music selections in addition to hymns would enhance our worship, 57 people said they thought it would and 23 said it wouldn't. Of those in favor, 27 said they believe that "strongly."

Respondents also had a chance to describe, in their own words, their ideas for improving our musical worship. We got lots of good ideas from you, many of which fell into patterns, which are grouped below:

- More "contemporary" music – 16 people offered this suggestion, often with the caveat that these music selections not be fluffy, sappy, or shallow, like the genre sometimes is. One person asked that we not have any "Jesus my boyfriend" songs.
- More "instruments" in addition to the organ – 7 people suggested or expressed appreciation for the piano and other instruments.
- More "familiar" music – 5 people asked for music they can recognize and even sing from memory. Several people suggested specific songs they'd like to hear more often.
- More "simple" music – 5 people asked that our music selections be more "singable." For one that included "faster paced" songs.
- Like it as-is – 4 people declared their contentment with our musical worship. "Keep it traditional in keeping with the liturgy!"
- More choir – 4 people expressed their desire to have more people and/or more excellence in the choir.

Believe me, we are listening! This is a wealth of input that we will have the opportunity to digest and put to work in the months ahead as we reshape our music program together around a new leader. Obviously, some of the words used above like "contemporary" and "familiar" and "singable" mean different things to different people, so the music committee and I will welcome further input from you as we work to shape our music for the future.

Let's not talk about the recent music survey, folk music with guitar, contemporary music, organ, praise bands. Let's not talk about the words we sing, "songs of praise", praise songs, contemporary songs and hymns with poetic phrases written centuries ago that still capture our minds and hearts. Words that, in limitless combinations resonate with all things familiar and relevant or are maybe a little too sentimental or simplistic, or banal. Let's not talk about input, "changing up" the music, piano, other instruments, music that is familiar, familiar to everyone.

Let's talk about our connection to the elements of music, with us every moment of our lives: the melody of the birds, the peace of gentle wind through the trees, and maybe a bit of awe and fear when we witness the power and violence and screeching of the wind before a storm, the song of the ocean at the beach, the drone of traffic on the road or the percussion and melody of heartbeat and blood flow from before we were born.

Let's talk about how we often feel when we are all together in our services, singing, the hymn, our voices, our breathing, our very hearts beating together all as one. The organ drops back and, oh, the words to this verse are so beautiful! and we're singing with even more fervor as the organ grows and grows and we feel the Sanctuary about to explode with our energy and emotion.

I have been making music with you at St. Peter's for over ten years and I am proud to have shared that power and joy, to have witnessed, supported, collaborated, helped, augmented and created with you. Let's talk about how we create music at St. Peter's, music that moves us, a lot. And how we have shared and continue to share the melody and harmony.

Let's talk about the power of music and the power of singing.

With a voice of singing, declare this and be heard, Alleluia!

Barbara



Barbara Bulger Verdile

Have you Met Isaiah?

By Fr. Tom Simmons

You will in Advent and Epiphany, when our lectionary carries us through his remarkable writing in the Old Testament. Isaiah was a cousin of the king, an insider in the court, a member of the elite in ancient Israel. He was also a prophet of Yahweh seven hundred years before Jesus and called to a very special ministry.

God appointed Isaiah to summon the past as witness against the present. Israel during the life-time of Isaiah was dominated by a succession of bad kings misleading God's people to worship pagan gods and to ally with pagan powers. They didn't trust Yahweh. Against their unbelief Isaiah summoned the history of God's faithfulness toward Israel. He pointed to the Covenant that bound God and his people, which they spurned when they turned to other gods and powers. Like a prosecutor, Isaiah detailed Israel's violations of the covenant and pronounced God's sentence. This message composed roughly half of his book.

God also appointed Isaiah to envision the future to give hope to the present. Though Israel's immediate prospects were bleak, her future in God's plan would be fruitful. God's people would be pruned through suffering and would experience all that God had promised. Isaiah spoke of God's judgment of the pagans and restoration of his people. He promised to fulfill Israel's mission to bring salvation to the gentiles, to renew the whole creation from evil and death.

What makes Isaiah's writing so important for us is the clarity with which his vision was fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus of Nazareth. We celebrate his birth and manifestation during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany in this season. This year we will work our way through Isaiah together in a preaching series in December, January, and February.

To make the most of the season for yourself, consider taking on the simple ancient discipline of Studying Scripture. You can walk with Isaiah through Advent and Epiphany by reading one chapter a day starting on the first Sunday in Advent. If you'd like to dig deep with each of those chapters, use a study Bible to read the footnotes, follow the cross-references, and use the outline of Isaiah to give you a sense of context. You can start by reading the the introduction below, which I've edited for you from the ESV Study Bible.

Author and Date

Who was Isaiah? The opening words of the book explain that this is "the vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz" (1:1). Unlike Jeremiah, who discloses aspects of his inner personal life (e.g., Jer. 20:7-12), Isaiah says little about himself. Isaiah 6 records the event when he was called to be a prophet, revealing his innermost thoughts on that occasion. Chapters

7-8; 20; and 37-39 offer glimpses into his public ministry. The parallel accounts in 2 Kings 19-20 add a little. The NT bears witness to his prophetic foresight (John 12:37-41)

and boldness (Rom. 10:20). Beyond this, the Bible's interest is in Isaiah's message, which is summed up in the meaning of his name: "Yahweh is salvation."

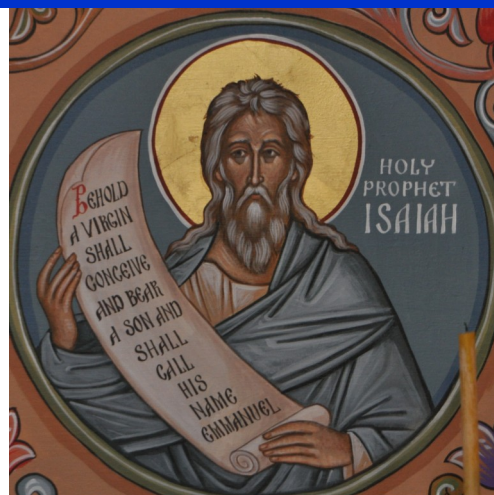
Isaiah's father was Amoz (Isa. 1:1, a brother of Amaziah, king of Judah. It is clear that Isaiah was a married man and a father (7:3; 8:3, 18), and a resident of Jerusalem (7:3). There is a tradition that describes the manner of Isaiah's death, being sawn in two under persecution by Manasseh, king of Judah (687-642 b.c.).

Isaiah prophesied "in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah" (1:1). His call to ministry came "in the year that King Uzziah died" (6:1), around 740b.c., and he lived long enough to record the death of Sennacherib (37:38), datable to 681. A few of the oracles can be dated: e.g., chapter 7 comes from about 735 b.c.; chapters 36-38 come from the time of the Assyrian invasion in 701. Most of the material, however, can be dated only in very general terms.

Theme

The central theme of the book is God himself, who does all things for his own sake (48:11). Yahweh is the Holy One of Israel (1:4), the One who is high and lifted up yet dwelling also among the "contrite and lowly" (57:15), the Sovereign over the whole world (13:1-27:13) whose wrath is fierce (9:12, 17, 21; 10:4) but whose cleansing touch atones for sin (6:7), whose salvation flows in endless supply (12:3), whose gospel is "good news of happiness" (52:7), who is moving history toward the blessing of his people (43:3-7) and the exclusive worship due him (2:2-4). Yahweh is the only Savior (43:10-13), and the whole world will know it (49:26). To rest in the promises of this God is his people's only strength (30:15); to delight themselves in his word is their refreshing feast (55:1-2); to serve his cause is their worthy devotion (ch. 62); but to rebel against him is endless death (66:24).

Isaiah gives a microcosm of his message in 1:2-2:5. The Lord announces his basic charge against the people: God has given so much to his people, but "they have despised the Holy One of Israel" (1:2-4). Therefore judgments are coming, in hope of bringing them to



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

repentance and to purify a faithful remnant (1:5–9). Judah has an outward appearance of faithfulness, diligently performing the sacrifices, but the people's hearts are far from God, as exhibited by their unwillingness to protect the weak (1:10–20). The Lord called his people to embody faithfulness to the gentile world, but they choose rampant unfaithfulness at every level. Now God intends to purge Zion of its sinful members and to set her up as a beacon of light for the whole world. With that future in mind, Isaiah urges his contemporaries to commit themselves to walking “in the light of the Lord” (1:21–2:5).

Purpose, Occasion, and Background

Isaiah announces God's surprising plan of grace and glory for his rebellious people and, indeed, for the world. God had promised Abraham that through his descendants the world would be blessed (Gen. 12:1–3). God had promised David that his throne would lead the world into salvation (2 Sam. 7:12–16; Ps. 89:19–37). But by Isaiah's time, the descendants of Abraham and many members of the dynasty of David no longer trusted the promises of God. Instead they aligned themselves with the false promises of the pagan world. Their unbelief during the pivotal events of Isaiah's lifetime redirected their future away from blessing and toward judgment. As a result, Judah moved from independence under God's power to subservience under pagan powers.

What, then, of God's ancient promises? Is the gracious purpose of God defeated by Judah's sin? Isaiah's answer is “Of course not!” Although God must purify his people through judgment, he has an overruling purpose of grace, beginning with Isaiah himself (ch. 6), spreading to Judah (7:1–9:7) and Israel (9:8–11:16), and resulting in endless joy (12:1–6). Even the nations of the world are taken into account (13:1–27:13). The purpose of Isaiah, then, is to declare the good news that God will restore his people, which will draw the nations to God.

The oracles of Isaiah's book envisions three historical settings (see chart): (1) chapters 1–39 are set against the background of Isaiah's own times in the late eighth century b.c.; (2) chapters 40–55 assume the Jewish exiles in Babylon in the sixth century as their audience; and (3) chapters 56–66 speak to the returned exiles and subsequent generations of God's people.

The First Section of Isaiah (Ch 1–39).

In his own times, Isaiah prophesied “in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah” (1:1). Called by God “in the year that King Uzziah died” (6:1), his long ministry began in 740 b.c. In the east, the militant Assyrian Empire was rising to power, forcing a choice on God's people in Judah: will you trust God for salvation, or political strategies and alliances? During the reign of King Ahaz, c. 735 b.c. under pressure from Assyria, they made the wrong choice. Later, in 701 b.c., during the reign of Hezekiah with Babylon as the threat, Judah rejected the false refuge of pagan powers and chose to rest on the Lord's “sure foundation” (28:14–22) instead. Hezekiah's actions during those negotiations, however, sowed the seeds of future captivity for God's people.

The Second Section of Isaiah (Ch 40–55).

Isaiah addressed that generation of Jewish captives far away in Babylon (598 to 538 b.c.). He announced the promise that God would come with a world-changing display of his glory (40:5) and restore the exiles to the Promised Land (48:20). He encouraged them to not be demoralized by the impressive but empty pagan culture (41:21–24), nor should they resent God's use of a pagan conqueror, Cyrus the Great, as their liberator from Babylon (44:24–28). They must look by faith for a greater liberator still to come, the messianic “servant of the Lord.” He will bring justice to the nations (42:1–4) and save his people from their ultimate captivity, the guilt of sin (52:13–53:12). Since the faith of God's people had already proven weak, God pledged that he alone will accomplish this, for his own glory (48:9–11).

The Third Section of Isaiah (Ch 56–66).

Isaiah then addressed the returning exiles and subsequent generations of God's people with messages of challenge and hope, to keep their faith and obedience steady until God fulfills all his promises. Isaiah makes clear the universal character of God's true people and the spiritual nature of the New Jerusalem (56:3–8; 66:18–23). He sees the final triumph of One who is “mighty to save” (63:1). His prophetic eye looks beyond the fraudulence of this world, to envision the new creation spring up in the midst of it (65:17; 66:22).

Overview	Section 1—Isaiah 1–39	Section 2—Isaiah 40–55	Section 3—Isaiah 56–66
Date and Setting	The 700s b.c.; oracles about the Assyrian threat	The 500s b.c.; oracles about Babylonian exile	Oracles about return from exile and beyond.
Audience	God's rebellious people craving worldly security	God's defeated people under pagan rule	All who hold fast to God's Servant and covenant
Actions	God purifies a remnant of his people through judgment	God comforts his broken people in exile	God prepares all people for his promised salvation
Message	“In returning and rest you shall be saved; ... But you were unwilling” (30:15)	“The glory of the Lord shall be revealed” (40:5)	“Keep justice, and do righteousness” (56:1)

Walk in Love: Thank You and Next Steps

By Linda Stoutenburgh, Stewardship Chair

First of all, THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who has submitted themselves to the spiritual discipline of making a financial pledge to St. Peter's. Not only is it an enormous help to the vestry as we budget and plan for next year, but I hope that, especially if you are a first-time pledger, you will appreciate the accountability to your intentions that is afforded by pledging. I trust that you will be blessed for your faithfulness. I am especially thankful for all of you who have been able to increase your pledge, and for all of you who tithe faithfully.

I also want to publicly thank our speakers in worship over the past weeks: **Lauren Hunt, Regina Brzozowsky Sophiann Nunaley, and Bob Loker.** They each did a wonderful job of sharing what inspires their "Walk in Love" at St. Peter's. And they each came to both worship services to share with you! Thanks also to the vestry and all of the ministry leaders who prepared and manned the Ministry Showcase. Through the speakers and the Ministry Showcase, I hope you gained a deeper understanding of what makes St. Peter's tick, and perhaps have been inspired to try your hand at new or different ministries here for your own Walk in Love.

Now That You've Pledged, What Next?

While pledging itself is important, fulfilling your pledge over the coming year is even more important due to our recent financial hardships. ***We have ways to help you keep your pledge!***

Set Up Online Giving through Realm: Once you set up your account on Realm, you can set up online giving, too! You can make a one-time gift if you miss a Sunday in church, or you can set up ALL of your regular giving as recurring payments to St. Peter's so you never need to wonder whether you are on track with your pledge.

Set Up Giving through Your Online Banking: You can also set up either one-time or recurring giving through your bank's website. Just set up St. Peter's as a payee (you'll just need the mailing address and phone number), and then you can set up payments the same as you would for any other bill that you pay directly from your bank.

Get a Set of Offering Envelopes: We will soon have boxed sets of weekly offering envelopes set out for you use. Since these boxes have an envelope for each week of the year, they can help you keep track of whether you gave your offering or not. Look for them in the Narthex before the end of the year.

Check Out Your Giving History on Realm: Another benefit of setting up your Realm account, is that you always have access to your giving history! And not only can you see your giving, but also your progress in fulfilling your pledge.

Haven't Pledged Yet? It's Not Too Late!

If you have not yet submitted your 2017 financial pledge to St. Peter's, please get it in as soon as possible. It makes the budgeting part of the Vestry's job so much easier to have pledges in hand!

There are two ways to do it:

1. Turn in a pledge card!
There are pledge cards in the entryway if you don't have one. Just fill it in and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.
2. Make your pledge online using Realm. Once you have set up your Realm account, you can make your pledge, and even set up online giving .



This is the version of the Walk in Love logo that we developed from the verbs submitted by people at the Ministry Showcase. Take a look at the larger versions posted around the building to see how your St. Peter's family Walks in Love!

Missions Corner: News of Guatemala and Liberia

St. Peter's Supporting Missionary Katey Erickson

By Bob Loker

St. Peter's Church is now financially supporting Katey Erickson as a missionary in Guatemala. **Katey is the daughter of Todd and Maureen Erickson who are well known to St. Peter's.** The Erickson family serves at Redeemer's House in Guatemala and has hosted teams from St. Peter's for the past six summers. Katey, who is just beginning her missionary career, has great potential. She loves the Lord, has a clear calling, speaks fluent Spanish, and loves kids. She is serving with Independent Missionary Network (IMN) at El Faro, a mission center on the Caribbean coast. The following is taken from the IMN website.

"Katey Erickson grew up within ministry her entire life and when she was sixteen, she moved with her family to Guatemala. The wonderful thing about this move was that each member of the Erickson family was called by God to do so. After a few months, she truly felt that God was affirming her call into full-time ministry, specifically in Guatemala. After living in the US for three and half years, studying Spanish Literature and Christian Education at Wheaton College in Illinois, Katey moved back to Guatemala to work at "El Faro".

"She had visited "El Faro" when she was sixteen and God continually placed this ministry on her heart and in her prayers. She is beyond thrilled to be living there permanently. She loves to work with children and youth, especially through mentorship, discipleship, and providing the space for them to truly connect with God. She is excited to see how the Lord will continue to work in and through her while she grows deeper in love with Him and continues to serve Him."

Please be in prayer for Katey and her ministry at El Faro.



St. Peter's Guatemala Mission Trip June 17 – 24, 2017

St. Peter's will be sponsoring a mission trip to Guatemala in support of Redeemer's House International from June 17 through June 24, 2017. Redeemer's House builds holistic relationships with at-risk families and much of our work will be with children (nutrition, after school programs, and Bible school). The cost for the trip is estimated to be about \$1750 contingent upon airfare prices. Please contact Bob Loker (540-338-2978 or bobloker@gmail.com) if you have an interest in applying to be a team member.

An informational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8th at 5 PM in McCray Hall.

St. Peter's – Caldwell, Liberia

By Tim Hall

The photo below is from Eric Kandakai's funeral in Liberia. He was laid to rest on 17 September with The Very Rev. Edward Gbe presiding. The photo of his family (Morris, Jamama, Wusu, and Alpheus) with Rev. Gbe I think is especially nice. Sadly, Rev Gbe and his wife Anna lost one of their sons, Thomas, age 33, the week after Eric's burial. So we really need to keep St. Peter's Caldwell in our prayers.



On a brighter note, from the money we raised at our annual Plant Sale:

- \$500 is being sent to Rev. Gbe to be used to support the St. Peter's Elementary School and
- \$300 is being sent to Rev. Michael Sie to support the Canterbury School Library.

Thanks be to God for that!

St. Peter's Hosts Casa Chirilagua for Our Great Country Farms Outing

By Bob Loker

On a beautiful fall Saturday in October, St. Peter's hosted Casa Chirilagua Kids Club for our seventh yearly outing at Great Country Farms. Casa Chirilagua is a Christian ministry supporting the predominantly Central American immigrant community in Alexandria. **Great Country Farms graciously provided free admission, wagon rides, and farm activities.** We thank St. Peter's lunch makers **Nancy Baker** and **Krista Winger**. (Nancy is our unsung heroine who has made all our lunches since our first outing in 2010!) We also thank our hosts, **Krista and Addie Winger, Paul Miller and Laurraine Landolt, Tina and Thayer Cote, Rebecca Smoot, Bridget Wagstaff and Bob Loker.**



Friends Being Friends Gift Drive

By Hayes Baker

The Outreach Committee is once again collecting wrapped gifts for residents of Loudoun County's group homes for adults with mental health and developmental disabilities. The gifts will be distributed at the **annual Friends Being Friends Christmas Dinner** at St. Peter's on **Wednesday, December 14**. Any leftover gifts will be distributed among the group home residents who are unable to attend.



Please take a tag from the Giving Tree display in McCray Hall or choose from the gift ideas in the under \$20 range listed on the display. Please wrap your gifts and include a tag that identifies the gender and size (if the gift is clothing or personal accessories). **Gifts may be dropped in the bin next to the display in McCray Hall until Sunday December 6th.**



Your generosity was overwhelming last year, especially since contributions may be the only gifts that many of our friends will receive for the holidays. For more information about the Friends Being Friends Group, please e-mail Hayes Baker at FriendsBeingFriendsGroup@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support!



Treasurer's Corner—Tanya Matthews

God is at work in his church! We are in our annual cycle of budgeting. First, pledges come in during November and then expenses are planned in early December, culminating with the approval of the upcoming year's budget by the Vestry in mid-December.

St. Peter's is finishing up its annual Stewardship Drive, led by **Linda Stoutenburgh**, who did an excellent job as Stewardship Chair. So far, we have **60 pledges** which total **\$266,391.92**. We need to get all pledge cards in by the end of November so the Vestry can plan the expense side of our annual budget. We are very thankful that several members of our congregation delivered stewardship talks this year **Lauren Hunt, Regina Brzozowsky, Sophiann Nunaley, and Bob Loker**, explaining their active involvement in the parish life of St. Peter's.

Generally speaking, our budget has line items for every revenue and every expense. Most of the money goes to staff salaries and benefits, with additional funds going to outreach and missions, mortgage payments and utilities, various ministries and The Diocese. We will have a better handle on these amounts in about a month.

The Vestry has struggled through a year with an unrealistic budget, reduced revenues, some expense overages, and some attrition of members. New parishioners have joined our congregation, and we are praying for additional pledges and tithes. Our renewed focus on finance, combined with more communication about money, adds additional transparency and accountability. Thank you for pledging, which helps in planning. God be with you as you contemplate your 2017 giving.



St. Peter's Church now has its own ONLINE COMMUNITY and would like YOU to join. By now you should have received your email invitation and set up your secure access to the Realm system. If you did not see your invitation, please check your spam folder and if it is not there, go to: <https://onrealm.org/StPetesnet7307/Register>

Thank you to everyone who has joined Realm! If you forgot to bookmark the sign in page the link is on St. Pete's website or go to: <https://onrealm.org/StPetesnet7307/SignIn>. Here are some tips to *GETTING STARTED IN REALM*

Updating Your Profile:

To Update Your Contact Information:

- Log in to your site.
- Click your name in the upper-right corner, and select Edit My Info.
- On the Contact Information tab, enter or edit the fields displayed.
- Note, especially, any fields marked with an asterisk. These must be completed before you can save.
- Click Save.

Your profile contains your contact information. This is what other members will use when they want to get in touch. Don't be afraid to include all of the information asked for. You can decide later what data you want to hide online by setting your privacy preferences. Please

enter your full birthday. *The year and your age will not be displayed on your public profile, but is needed for reports.*

Note: Children's information cannot be seen by anyone else, but staff. Also, Family members should not share email addresses if they intend to each have their own login.

To Update Your Personal Information:

- Click your name in the upper-right corner, and select Edit My Info.
- On the Personal Information tab, complete or edit the fields displayed. Fields marked with an asterisk must be completed before you can save.
- Click Save.

To add or update your photo.

To Add Your Photo

1. Click your name and select My Profile.
2. To add a family picture, click the second button.
3. Click the image square.
4. Click Choose File and browse to your image.
5. If necessary, adjust or move the area that will be displayed. You can also rotate or zoom the image by using the sliders on left and right.
6. Click Save.

To Update your photo

1. Click your name and select My Profile.
2. Place your mouse cursor over the image section of the page.
3. Click on the edit symbol (looks like a pencil).
4. Adjust or move the area that will be displayed. You can also rotate or zoom the image by using the sliders on left and right.
5. Click Save.

Exploring Your Faith 2017

By Fr. Tom Simmons

I invite you to “take the next step” in your journey with Jesus and his people. Consider ***Exploring Your Faith*** with us this winter. I think you’ll find this course useful in three ways:

First, you can connect at a deeper level with your friends-of-all-ages at St. Peter’s. We will share a meal together every week, get to know and support each other along the way.

Second, you can to begin (or accelerate) your growth in faith. We’ll stimulate your brain, learning the gospel in a practical and concrete way, and address many of your “why?” and “how?” questions about the Christian faith.

Third, you can prepare to take the next big step of commitment to Jesus and connection with his people, through confirmation or reception into the Anglican Communion when the Bishop comes on **Sunday, March 26, 2017**.

These are ambitious goals calling for a substantial time investment. The outline below shows how we will band together to fulfill them. This is a rich course. We will cover a lot of material in a relatively short period of time. It will be intense but we will do it together. I think we’ll have lots of interesting things to discuss together, and you’ll make new friends in the process.

Exploring Your Faith 2016-2017

The process to prepare you to “take the next step” in your spiritual life when you meet the Bishop.

Sunday Afternoons, 12:30-2 P. M. NOVEMBER 27-MARCH 21:

Part I – **Anglican Way**. You are who you hang with. Our team here at St. Peter’s is part of global communion of churches 80 million strong, following Jesus in Britain and beyond since the 2nd century. We’ll discuss what that means for us (November 27; December 4, 11, 18; January 8, 15).

Part II - **Creed**. A 4-part study (January 22, 29; February 5, 12) on the ancient statement of faith of the Church, the Nicene Creed, exploring what we believe and how those beliefs shape our lives.

Part III – **Covenant**. A 4-part study of the Baptismal covenant (February 19; 26; March 5, 12), which form the liturgical act of commitment to Jesus Christ and define the path of our Christian journey.

Special Liturgies and Events:

Confirmation Retreat Evening: Saturday March 25 6-10 p.m. We’ll enjoy our last supper together, discuss what we’ve learned, and what we’ll do differently from now on. Then we’ll enjoy the classic, gospel-proclaiming-sci-fi flick *The Matrix*. It’s an event not to be missed!

Ash Wednesday (March 1) and Holy Week Liturgies (April 9-16). We join Jesus in his final week in Jerusalem, re-tracing his steps in his passion, death and resurrection in the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Day. We will enact together this ancient journey of transformation.





children's MINISTRY

Many thanks to Krista Winger, Tamara Tyler, Dick Wilhelm and Deana Czaban for teaching Sunday School this first semester! They are all amazing people and teachers and gave so generously of their time and talents! Please take a moment to say "thank you!"

Remember the annual Saint Peter's Christmas Pageant will be held at the 5 PM service on Christmas Eve!

Our Pageant cast has been working hard at rehearsals, under the directorship of Liz Tuohy and we expect another wonderful evening!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsal for the annual Christmas Pageant will begin on **Saturday, 12/3 from 3:30-4:30pm** and continue on the following dates and times:

12/10 at 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM ALL CAST

12/22 at 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM ... ALL CAST

12/23 at 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM FINAL DRESS RESHEARSAL.. ALL CAST NEEDED

If you have a conflict, and we know there will be a few, please inform Kathleen Voss.

"What I Wish for the Christmas Season..."

Megan Smith... I hope that people are more accepting and Joyful !

George Simmons ... I'd like to meet Derek Rose!

Joe Burden ... I'd like it to snow!

Mark Matthews... I'd like the Wizards to win a championship!

Josh Smith ... Mending issues between friends.

Sarah Jane Simmons ... I'd like to be the Star in the pageant!

Sarah Staggs ... I'd like to be an angel in the pageant!

Maddie Babb... I would like to get a kitty or be a kitty

Jordan Smith ... I would like to be the Innkeeper in the pageant!

Olivia Smith ... That everyone has a safe place to be!

Madi Voss... I wish for good health for the people that I love.

Posey Simmons ... I wish for peace everywhere

John Matthews ... I am hoping for an alienware computer!

Daniel Burden ... I am wishing that my sister in Texas could come home.

Nik Holdorf ... I would like my own computer!

Mrs. Tyler ... My hope is for God's love to be manifest to all!

Mary V. Simmons ... I want everyone to have fun!



Mrs. Kathleen Voss ... My wish is that this Christmas season brings hope and faith to those in need.

Youth White Elephant Christmas Party

Join us on Sunday, December 18th, for our traditional youth group White Elephant Christmas party. Bring a wrapped small, quirky, homemade, or used present worth no more than 10 dollars to exchange. We will have Christmas music, egg-nog, and other festivities. 7PM, Youth Room, 12/18



For many people, the Christmas season does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised. For those suffering from the recent or impending death of a loved one or for those whose families are facing some other crisis, it may not feel much like "A Wonderful Life" at the moment. Some people find it's just a very painful time of year – keenly reminding them of what they've lost or never had, or the weariness of ill health, isolation, or simply feeling blue.

St. Peter's offers a **Blue Christmas Service**, a Service of Solace or Longest Night Liturgy, (since it is traditionally held on or near the winter solstice). On **Saturday, December 17, 2016, at 5:00pm**, people who are not experiencing a very merry Christmas are invited to come to St. Peter's and join with one another in a liturgy that proclaims the love of God for those suffering and the comfort & hope He offers during dark times.

A free supper will follow in our fellowship hall.

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

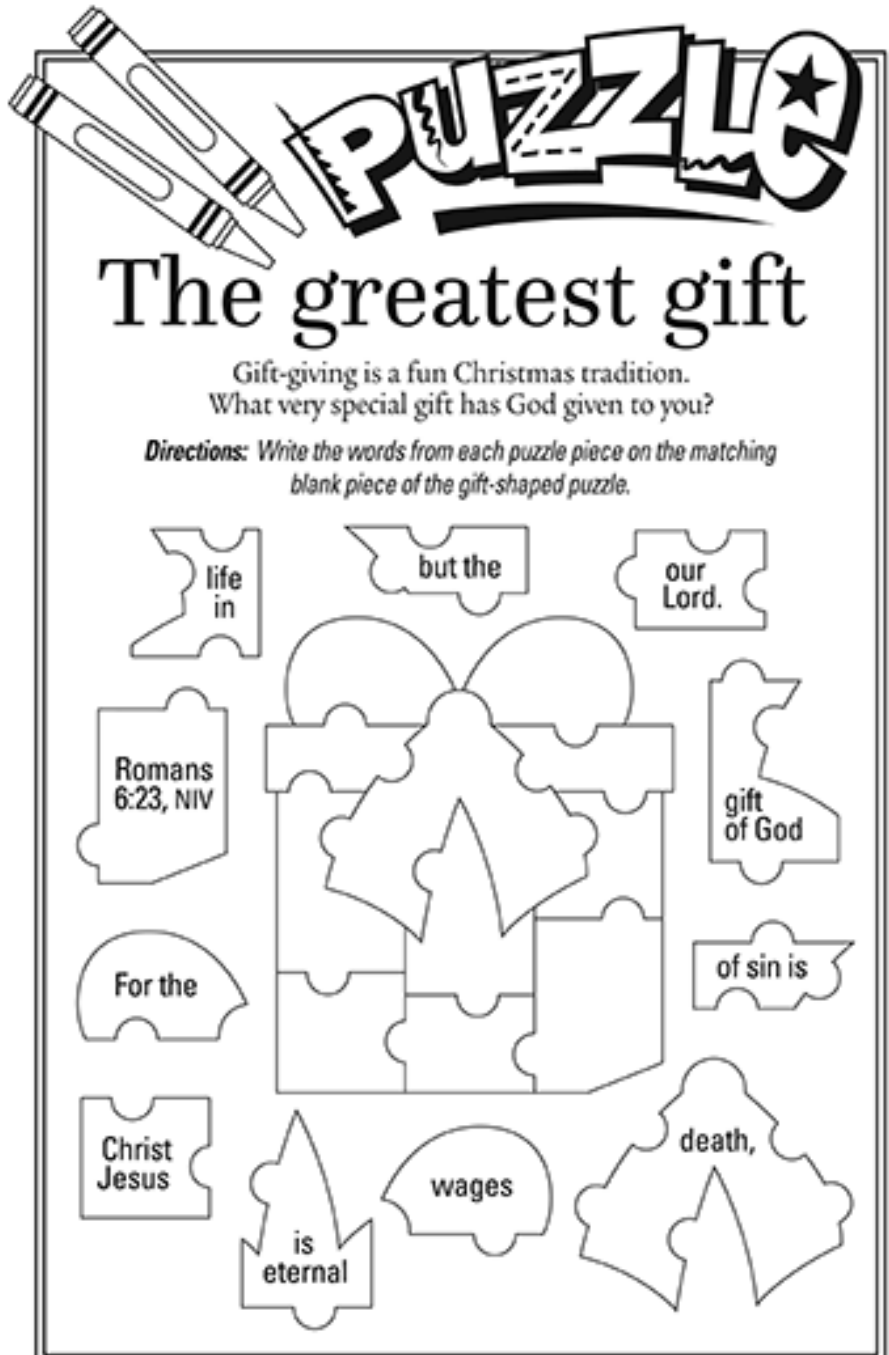


What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

Sunday School Families... please plan to participate in the Tree of Life's CHRISTMAS FOR OTHERS this year!

The donation board can be found in McCray Hall where you will find a number of items to choose from to purchase and bring back for local teens in our community. Be a part of TOL's vision to reach out to the poor and needy in our community with the love of Jesus Christ.

Return back date is Sunday, December 4.

St. Peter's **DECEMBER** SERVING SCHEDULE

		Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25 11:00AM
		Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Day
LECTORS	Early	William Lawrence	Calvin Smith	Dell Nunaley	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
	Late	Eamon Coy	Mark McKinley	Kyle Voss	
LAY EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Judy Hall, James Hall	Tim Hall, Sophiann Nunaley	Paul Donohue, Jaqueline Whalen	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
	Late	Tom Coate, Dan LaPre	Linda & Randy Stoutenburgh	Jonathan LaPre, Lauren Hunt	
SUB DEACON	Early	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Tanya Matthews	NA
	Late	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Tom Coate	
INTERCESSOR	Early	Terry Duhring	Sophiann Nunaley	Kelly Cockrill	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
	Late	Traci Eddinger	Randy Stoutenburgh	Marty Thompson	
ACOLYTES	Early	Aubrey & Addie Winger, Isabella Tucker	Josh, Megan & Olivia Smith, James Nunaley	Kimberly & Colin Donohue, John Matthews	George & Henry Simmons
	Late	Dan LaPre, Lauren Hunt, Jon Coate	Jonathan LaPre, Grace Falatko, Scarlett Daly	George & Henry Simmons, Lexi Eddinger	
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Jim & Wynell Schatz, Mark & Nancy Baker	Peter & Erin Schellhase, Chris & Terry Duhring	Sonny & Mary Hoeltzel, Todd & Pam Johnston	Simmons Family
	Late	Stephen & Sally Falatko, Liz Tuohy, Susan Collins	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Dave & Gail Hunt, Jimmy & Traci Eddinger	
USHERS	Early	Bill & Beth Gibson	Paul Miller & Laurraine Landolt	Zan Shah, Dick Wilhelm	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
	Late	Susan Collins, Sandy Wehr, Tred Parry, Jimmy Eddinger	Steve & Anne Schultz, Eamon & Jenn Coy	Jim Heim, Bob Ryan, Billy Dillon, Tred Parry	
GREETERS	Early	Rebecca Smoot	Mark Baker	Dell Nunaley	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
	Late	Eamon & Jenn Coy	Tom Coate	Steve Schultz	
TELLERS		Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Howard & Linda Evans	Tanya & Joe Matthews	TBD
ALTAR GUILD		Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Chris Lafferty, Patty Costantino, Rebecca Smoot, Marina Liburdi, Sharon Purnell	Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Chris Lafferty, Patty Costantino, Rebecca Smoot, Marina Liburdi, Sharon Purnell	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill

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!

DECEMBER Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES:

12-1 Dick & Bobbie Wilhelm
 12-7 Richard & Sharon Purnell
 12-19 Jon & Charlotte Corbett
 12-23 Todd Johnston & Pam Pierce-Johnston
 12-26 Chris & Brad Lafferty
 12-29 Zan & Vijay Shah
 12-31 David & Carla Ramsey

BIRTHDAYS:

12-5 Bill Geiger
 12-6 Keith Brzozowsky
 Traci Eddinger
 12-7 Marty Thompson
 12-9 Mary Coate
 Howard Evans
 12-10 Wanda Juraschek
 Jim Schatz
 Jim Wehr
 Jim Whalen
 12-12 Ruth Ensor
 Andrew Lonon
 12-13 Kellen Babb
 12-15 Maggie Heim
 12-16 Sally Andrews
 12-17 Samantha Purnell
 12-20 Bill Gibson
 Thea Verdile
 12-21 Teri Smith
 12-22 Bill Ensor
 12-25 Paul Benner
 Harold Neely
 12-26 Lexi Eddinger
 Dave Hunt
 12-27 Mack Ensor
 Lauren Hunt
 12-28 Sophiann Nunaley
 Robyn Thomson
 12-30 Pat Long
 Thayer Cote-Smith
 12-31 Madi Voss

Mark Your Calendar!

Dec. 1 Evening Prayer 7pm
 Dec. 3 Men's Breakfast 7am
 Pageant Rehearsal 3:30pm
 Dec. 4 Youth Group 7pm
 Dec. 6 Vestry Ministry Mtg. 7pm
 Dec. 7 Mission Team Mtg. 5:30pm
 Dec. 10 Pageant Rehearsal 3:30pm
 Dec. 11 Seminarian Lay Comm. 12pm
 Literary Guild Xmas Dinner 5pm
 Dec. 13 Vestry Exec Mtg. 6pm
 Dec. 14 Friends Being Friends Xmas Party 6pm
 Dec. 15 TOL Dinner 5pm *(hosted by Men's Breakfast)*
 Evening Prayer 7pm
 Dec. 16 Wed. Bible Study Xmas Party 6:30pm
 Youth Movie Night 7pm
 Dec. 17 Men's Leadership Mtg. 7am
Blue Christmas 5pm
 Dec. 18 **Farewell Potluck for Barbara 12pm**
 Altar Guild Xmas Set Up 12pm
 Youth Group White Elephant Xmas Party 7pm
 Dec. 20 Vestry Mtg. 7pm
 Dec. 22 Pageant Rehearsal 9:00am
 Dec. 23 Newsletter Deadline
 Pageant Dress Rehearsal 9:00am
 Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve HE & Pageant 5pm**
Festive Choral Prelude 10:30pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight HE 11pm
 Dec. 25 **Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 11am**
 Dec. 28 Pastoral Care Team Mtg. 5pm
 Dec. 29 Evening Prayer 7pm

Christmas Shopping on Amazon.com?

If so, did you know that a portion of the sale is donated to St. Peter's church when you use the

link to Amazon on St. Peter's website? www.stpetes.net

By simply using this link on our website (under the "Support" heading)

to get to Amazon, it gives St. Peter's a 6% (or more) cut of your purchase price - at No Cost to you.



Revised Common Lectionary Readings for DECEMBER

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
4	2 Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
11	3 Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10	146:4-9	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
18	4 Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16	80:1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
25	Christmas	Isaiah 9:2-7	96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20

December

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Next Step Community EVENING PRAYER	2	3 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal HOLY EUCHARIST
4 HOLY EUCHARIST SS/SF Choir & Choristers Anglican Way Bible Study Youth Group	5	6 Vestry Ministry Mtg	7 HOLY EUCHARIST Mission Team Mtg Bible Study	8 Next Step Community	9	10 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal HOLY EUCHARIST
11 HOLY EUCHARIST SS/SF Choir & Choristers Anglican Way Seminar Comm Mtg Bible Study Literary Guild	12	13 Vestry Exec	14 HOLY EUCHARIST FBF Xmas Party	15 TOL Dinner Next Step Community EVENING PRAYER	16 Youth Movie Night	17 Men's Leadership Mtg. BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
18 ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS SS/SF Farewell Potluck Anglican Way Bible Study Youth Xmas Party	19	20 Vestry Mtg	21 HOLY EUCHARIST	22 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Next Step Community	23 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal Newsletter Deadline	24 Christmas Eve HOLY EUCHARIST & Pageant 5pm HOLY EUCHARIST & Choral Prelude 10:30pm
25 Christmas Day HOLY EUCHARIST 11:00 AM	26 Office Closed	27	28 HOLY EUCHARIST PC Team Mtg.	29 Next Step Community EVENING PRAYER	30	31 HOLY EUCHARIST

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
P.O. Box 546
Purcellville, VA 20134-0546

Address Correction Requested



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

37018 Glendale St., Purcellville, VA, 20132

540-338-7307 www.stpetes.net

Rector: The Rev. Thomas W. Simmons IV
— frtom@stpetes.net

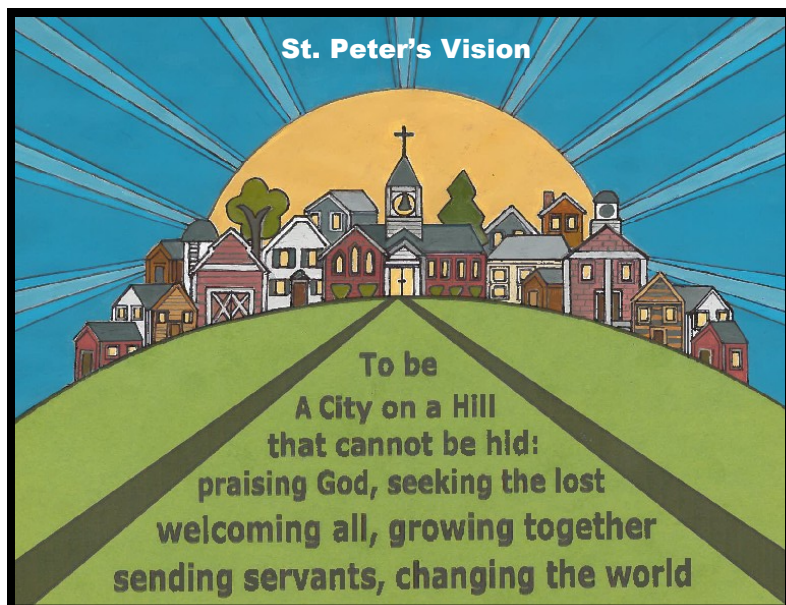
Director of Music & Organist:
Barbara Bulger Verdile — musicd@stpetes.net

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

Directors of Youth Ministries:
Jon & Kristin Coate — youthd@stpetes.net
Parish Administrator: Wanda Munsey Juraschek
— office@stpetes.net

Financial Administrator: Diane Adams
— bookkeeper@stpetes.net

Sexton: Chris Daniels — sexton@stpetes.net



The *Good News* is published monthly by St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Editor: Wanda Munsey Juraschek Newsletter email: GoodNews@stpetes.net

If you would like to save paper and postage, please notify the editor; *The Good News* is available to read or download on our website.