



Ring in the

Good News

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 2018

Purcellville, Virginia

Epiphany Season

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Revelation 21:5

*He who was seated
on the throne said,*

"I am making everything new!"

Then he said,

*"Write this down,
for these words are
trustworthy and true."*



A New Year—Welcome 2018

By Fr. Tom Simmons

Financially, 2017 was an... exciting year.

We started the year planning for the worst: a bare-bones budget that cut (or rather "deferred") staff salaries and funding for ministry. But we also hoped for the best: setting a goal of \$483,000 to restore what was cut.

And the people of St. Peter's really stepped up. You stepped up with very generous and consistent giving this year. **We are very close to reaching that goal.** Just a little further to fully restore the cuts.

And for 2018, we set an ambitious budget goal of \$521,000. This is what "fully funded ministry" looks like at St. Peter's:

- ⇒ long-delayed raises for our hard-working staff
- ⇒ a strategic reserve
- ⇒ facilities expenses we've been deferring
- ⇒ moving forward on some dreams for ministry

And you all really stepped up! You stepped up with **new pledges** coming to over \$38,000. Over half of you stepped up with increased pledges **average of \$750 increase.**

You all got us within \$14k of our goal. We're anticipating a handful of outstanding pledges. If you intend to make a financial pledge to St. Peter's for next year, please do so today or tomorrow.

Y'all done good St. Peter's! You are a very impressive group of people. Your faith in Jesus, your commitment to his work, your love for our congregation comes through loud and clear. I'm proud to here as your priest, and I'm excited about our prospects for a fully-funded 2018!

8 Questions to Tap your Passion

By Fr. Tom Simmons

I'll bet that one of the best things that could happen to you in the year ahead would be to tap into your passion more-deeply, to focus on and do what you love, what God placed in your heart.

But our problem is, we get so BUSY that we forget our true passions in life.

I'd like to help you rediscover your passion, so you can become the person you yearn to be.

Take some time to reflect on and answer these questions:

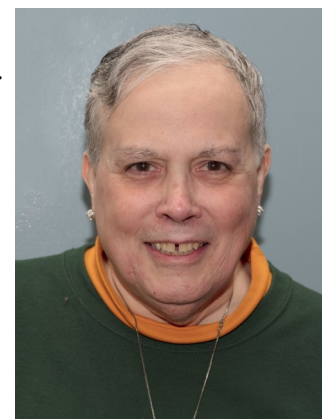
- 1) What do I want to do?
- 2) What am I good at?
- 3) What do people ask me to help them with?
- 4) What makes me angry?
- 5) What would I do without being paid?
- 6) What did I enjoy from my youth?
- 7) What is something I never tried?
- 8) What do I feel like God is calling me to do?

Think of how your life would be lifted by pin-pointing a passion or two and DOING IT! I'd love to talk with you further about it. Email me, if you'd like to move forward.

Here's how Marsha Price answered those questions. She started coming to St. Peter's this past Summer and took the plunge to join in November. It's really neat how God is awakening in her that special passion.

1) *What do I want to do?*

I want to know God through Scripture and prayer. I also want to share what I learn with others in a small group Bible study and through writing a blog.



Marsha Price

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

2) What am I good at?

Creative crafts, making things that are beautiful. I'm also good with numbers: book keeper and working with spreadsheets and money, and making PowerPoint presentations. I am also good at teaching and writing. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am good at probing into the meaning of Scripture beyond the surface of the text.

3) What do people ask me to help them with?

Teaching them how to do things such as programming an Excel spreadsheet. I've served on my church's Finance Committee. I've trained people to do statistical reports on sales, tracking business sources. When I was an older child I helped write the Sunday School lessons at church.

4) What makes you angry?

I am really distressed that Christians so much ignore the treasure that God has given us in the Bible. Historically, people risked their lives to give us the Bible in the English language so that we can meet God directly in its pages. But instead of personally feasting on its riches, Christians too often starve themselves on a Sunday morning snack of the texts that are read during the worship service. How long would they survive physically if they only ate once a week at coffee hour?

5) What would I do without being paid?

I started out keeping the books, making spreadsheets and presentations as a volunteer, and they ended up hiring me to do it. I would also share Scripture with anyone who will listen. I feel especially called to lead a group Bible study and to write a blog.

6) What did I enjoy from my youth?

I enjoyed the same 3 things ever since I was a child: teaching, writing, and studying Scripture. While other girls were playing dolls, I used to play school and I'd be the teacher. In school we had Bible class and I really enjoyed that. In high school I started writing stories and share them with my friends. They looked forward to hearing the next installment.

7) What is something I never tried?

I haven't seriously considered doing something I've never tried before since my answers to the other 7 questions are all the same.

8) What do I feel like God is calling me to do?

I'm very creative and I think God is calling me to use the gifts He's given me for Scripture study, teaching, and writing to lead a small group Bible study and to write a blog to share the insights He has given to me. I really want to share that with other people. I love to see people catch fire knowing God and reading Scripture.

Well, friends, Marsha seems to be figuring out how to move forward with her passion from God. I LOVE that! She's moving forward in the year ahead with a Bible study group. Marsha described what it will look like:



Have you ever looked closely at the way Jesus interacted with people? Have you ever wondered why He said the strange things He said or asked such abrupt questions? Have you yearned to have an encounter with Him yourself?

The Gospel of John offers us rare glimpses into how Jesus engaged people in daily life. If you'd like to have Jesus walk off the Biblical page and be "up close and personal" with you, join our group. Our goal is to deepen our relationship with Jesus. Since that takes time, this will be an open-ended class.

We will be meeting weekly at the church on a day and time that works best for the group. We will get to the meaning of the text by asking the important question of life: Why? What? How?

We'll try to put ourselves into the story, to see how Jesus is dealing with people there, and how he deals with each of us. There will be lots of discussion and learning from each other.

I'd like to start in January. **If you are interested in an adventure like no other, please email Marsha Price at marsha21377@yahoo.com.**

A Roadmap Through the Old Testament

By Jon Corbett



Roughly 70% of the Bible is made up of the Old Testament. How well do you know it?

What a great way to start off 2018 by considering a reading plan that will get you through the entire Bible! Or a good portion of the Old Testament (perhaps first 5 books)? Or some other Bible reading Plan? Or just wanting to feel more comfortable with the Old Testament?

Starting January 7 at 9:30 in McCray Hall, a course is offered designed to give you the tools to see the Big Story of the Old Testament, and how each part (Books of Moses, Prophets, Historical books, Wisdom, Psalms, ...) all fit into this story.

If you think of what you are reading as a destination, it's invaluable to have a map to know where that destination is located. Knowing where each destination is located in the greater map of the story of what God has done and will be doing, will aid in bringing meaning to what otherwise may seem obscure to us.

This will be a great course to help us all grow in our love for God's word ability to gain knowledge, wisdom, and insight from it?

Taught by Jon Corbett.
Runs from January 7 up to Lent.



Clergy Sabbatical Leave

By Dell Nunaley, Jr. Warden

As we move into 2018, the Vestry is in prayer and planning with the rector for his next sabbatical leave period. For those who might be unfamiliar with this important practice, I'd like to bring it to your attention early in the year.

Clergy sabbatical leave is the practice of giving pastors approximately three months away from the rigors of long-term ministry, every seven years, for meaningful rest and renewal. It is a biblical concept and practice, an extension of the concept of the Sabbath year in the law of Israel, a God-ordained rhythm of work and rest, for an extended cycle.

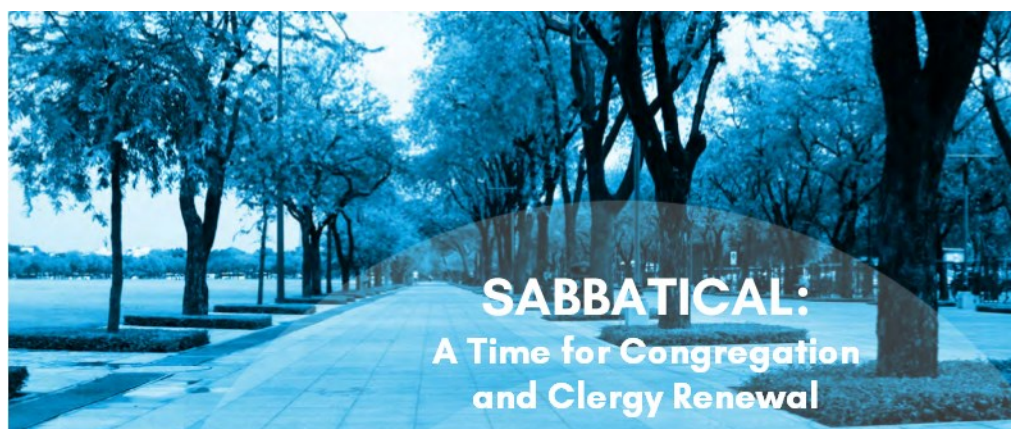
Why is the Sabbatical leave important to the church? Consider the following and unique circumstances of the pastor's vocation:

- The emotional drain of being constantly on-call and up-close and personal with people's worst pain
- The need for extended study and reflection which doesn't happen when the daily crisis or need of the moment interrupts at church or at home
- The daily blurred boundaries between work and family, friendships and leadership, spiritual and vocational life, necessitating a plan for personal and professional renewal
- The need for a disengagement from regular and routine tasks so that his ministry can be viewed from a new perspective, energizing oneself to meet the creative demands of delivering fresh and compelling messages on a weekly basis

These factors led the Episcopal Church to recognize the necessity of sabbatical leave for the long-term health of clergy and congregations. Sabbaticals lessen the rampant risk of clergy burnout and lead to longer, more a healthy, energetic and dynamic relationship between priests and parishes. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and an occasion for the renewal of vital energies.

Sabbatical leave differs from just a vacation, in that it is a planned period in which a pastor is freed from normal ministerial responsibilities to spend an extended time in prayer and study, rest and recreation, to reflect on the years past and prepare for the years to come in ministry. It's an opportunity for recovery and renewal of energy for priest and people.

This year, due to the generosity of the people of St. Peter's, the vestry has been able to budget funds to cover Father Tom's sabbatical leave. The challenge now is to find a suitable priest to stand-in for him. In 2011, we were blessed to have Jeffry Fishwick join us for that period. He offered excellent leadership that brought the congregation through a period of renewal and reflection while Father Tom was gone. Unfortunately, he is fully retired and not available for us now. Who will have that role this year? Please pray with us for God's guidance and provision. Once we have found a good stand-in priest we will again notify the congregation of the specific timing.



Guatemala Missions

By Bob Loker



This is the Fulp family. They live in the highlands of Guatemala. Daryl and Wanda have five children born to them and another five adopted. They are missionaries and operate Hogar de la Esperanza (Hope for Home), a home for impoverished children who have physical and/or cognitive special needs. They live in one of two Fulp households in the small town of San Antonio Aguas Calientes. One of the homes is managed by their daughter, Brittany, and her husband, Joel, and all the family is deeply involved in the ministry. In addition, Daryl runs a "four wheel ministry" and travels throughout the central highlands ministering to the disabled, providing wheelchairs and medical assistance. Their ministry is supported by the Wednesday Bible Study (now meeting on Mondays) and by other supporters at St. Peter's.

From New Year's through early March I will have the privilege of volunteering at Hope for Home. I will be renting a room in a home close by and offering a helping hand in any way I can. I am looking forward to experiencing life with the Fulp's. I have been following their extraordinary and selfless ministry for several years and often have used their lives as examples of Christlikeness when leading The Person of Jesus course at St. Peter's. I see Christ in them (and I hope a little rubs off onto me)! I would appreciate prayers that I would be a help and encouragement to the Fulp's and would grow in Christ during my time there.



"The Group" (formerly called the Wednesday Night Bible Study, which now meets on Monday Nights) has been supporting Hope for Home monthly for several years now. A few of our members have also participated in St. Peter's Guatemala Mission Trips and spent time with the Fulp family.

We wanted to support Bob's investment of time & talent in Hope for Home with a little of our treasure. We were able to surprise Bob at our annual Christmas party with a "check" representing \$1,500 in funds the group contributed for his upcoming trip and the ministry he will be conducting there. Our love & prayers go with you, Bob!

—The Group

Youth Events 2018

By Jon Coate

We have some really fun events to look ahead to in 2018. In addition to the regularly scheduled youth groups and movie nights, we're planning some really exciting activities, such as tubing, and a trip to the Bible Museum in cherry Blossom season. We're also trying out a new tradition in June where the youth group will host a "end of school picnic" for everyone in the 6th -12th grade range. Details will be announced for all special events as we get closer to those dates.

Looking ahead, keep an eye out for a separate summer schedule. My hope is to plan an exciting weekend retreat around July. Details will be announced asap!

Youth Calendar, January – June 2018

JANUARY

1/7 – Youth Group
1/14 – Baking and Board games
1/21 – Youth Group
1/26 – Movie Night

FEBRUARY

2/4 – Youth Group
2/10 – Tubing Trip
2/18 – Youth Group
2/23 – Movie Night

MARCH

3/4- Youth Group
3/18 – Youth Group
3/23 – Movie Night
3/29 – Maundy Thursday Lock-in

APRIL

4/8 – Youth Group
4/14 – Bible Museum and Cherry blossom trip
4/22 – Youth Group
4/27 – Movie Night

MAY

5/6 – Youth Group
5/19 – (Tentative) Day at the range (rifles!)
5/20 – Youth Group
5/25 – Movie Night

JUNE

6/3 – Youth Group
6/16 – End of School year picnic
6/22 – Movie Night
6/24 – Youth Group



friends

Thank you to everyone who contributed Target and Walmart gift cards to the Friends Being Friends Christmas party. Between St. Peter's and Friends of Loudoun Mental Health, we were able to collect 40 gift cards to include in

Christmas goody bags for our friends. We are so thankful for the generosity and continued support of our fellow parishioners at St. Peter's. With your help, we are providing opportunities for individuals with developmental and mental disabilities to socialize in the community and overcome stigma. If you are interested in volunteering with Friends Being Friends in 2018, please contact Hayes Baker at friendsbeingfriendsgroup@gmail.com.



NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!



What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR
MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL
ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

_____ :

_____ , _____

_____ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

St. Peter's JANUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

		Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28
		Epiphany Baptism of our Lord	2 Epiphany	3 Epiphany	4 Epiphany
SUB DEACON	Early	Buddy Andrews	Tim Hall	Tanya Matthews	Michael Whitnah
	Late	Linda Stoutenburgh	Tom Coate	Dave Hunt	Michael Whitnah
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Judy Hall, Tanya Matthews	Sophiann Nunaley, Jaq Whalen	Buddy Andrews, Ter- ry Duhring	Tim & Judy Hall
	Late	Randy Stoutenburgh, Dan LaPre	Lauren Hunt, Jona- than LaPre	Randy & Linda Stoutenburgh	Tom Coate, Dan LaPre
LECTOR	Early	Mark Baker	Gail Donohue	Bryan Field	Drew Lavan
	Late	Linda Stoutenburgh	Jon Corbett	Dave Hunt	Traci Eddinger
INTERCES- SOR	Early	Kelly Cockrill	Paul Donohue	Terry Duhring	NA
	Late	Jon Coate	Marty Thompson	Randy Stoutenburgh	NA
ACOLYTES	Early	Josh, Megan, & Oliv- ia Smith, John Matthews	Aubrey & Addie Wing- er, James Nunaley, Colin Donohue	Adam & Eric Gibson, Mark Matthews	Josh, Megan, & Oliv- ia Smith, John Matthews
	Late	Dan LaPre, Jon Coate, Lauren Hunt	George & Henry Sim- mons, Lexi Eddinger, Claire Falatko	Jonathan LaPre, Grace Falatko, Scar- lett Daly	Dan LaPre, Jon Coate, Lauren Hunt
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Paul & Gail Donohue POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	John & Debby Caul- field POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Todd & Pam John- ston POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Chris Lafferty & Lynne McCann POTLUCK FINGER FOOD
	Late	Tom & Michelle Adair POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Joe & Rebecca Babb POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Joan Baldi & Mary Barratt POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Charles & Jane Baugh POTLUCK FINGER FOOD
USHERS	Early	Mark & Nancy Baker	Kelly & Rick Cockrill	Bryan & Shiloh Field	Bill & Beth Gibson
	Late	Keith & Regina Brzozowsky	Billy Dillon & Bob Ryan	Jim Heim & Jimmy Eddinger	Tred & Debi Parry
GREETERS	Early	Bill Gibson	Rebecca Smoot	Jaq Whalen	Mark Baker
	Late	Steve Schultz	Jon Corbett	Dan LaPre	Tom Coate
TELLERS		Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Howard & Linda Ev- ans	Jim & Maggie Heim	Steve & Sally Falatko
ALTAR GUILD		Bobbie Wilhelm, Jean Kuhns, Ruth Ensor, Mari Campbell	Bobbie Wilhelm, Jean Kuhns, Ruth Ensor, Mari Campbell	Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Chris Lafferty, Patty Costantino, Rebecca Smoot, Sharon Purnell	Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Chris Lafferty, Patty Costantino, Rebecca Smoot, Sharon Purnell

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!

JANUARY Birthdays

1-1	Linda Turner
1-3	Brian Daly
1-5	Madelyn Jenkins
1-6	Callista Daly Elizabeth Wagstaff
1-7	Eli Field
1-8	Jen Coate
1-10	Arthur Laurent Riley O'Neil
1-11	Matt Kakol Don Winger
1-12	Debby Caulfield
1-13	Emmy Holdorf
1-14	Claire Falatko Patti Flowers
1-16	Addie Winger
1-17	Paul Navarro
1-20	Rachael Holmes Debbie Pappas
1-22	James Hall
1-24	Katharine Wagstaff
1-25	Mark Matthews
1-26	Charles Baugh
1-28	Regina Brzozowsky Alex Casey Penny Duhring Ethie Koss Liz Tuohy
1-30	Carla Ramsey Tricia Smith

Mark Your Calendar!

Jan. 2	Vestry Ministry Mtg. 7pm
Jan. 3	Mission Team Mtg. 5pm
Jan. 6	Men's Breakfast 7am
Jan. 7	HOLY BAPTISM New Adult Christian Formation Class 9:30am Bible Study Resumes 5pm Youth Group 7pm
Jan. 8	Bible Study Resumes 7pm
Jan. 9	Vestry Exec Mtg 7pm
Jan. 14	Youth Baking & Board Games 7pm
Jan. 16	Vestry Mtg. 7pm
Jan. 20	Men's Leadership Mtg. 7am
Jan. 21	Newsletter Deadline Youth Group 7pm
Jan. 26	Youth Movie Night 7pm

Volunteers Needed

to serve as:

- ♦ Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- ♦ Intercessors

Contact:
Fr. Tom or
Tom Coate

See Ministries at
www.stpetes.net



"It's from our church... we've been called up for active duty."

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for JANUARY

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
7	1 Epiphany	Genesis 1:1-5	29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
14	2 Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-20	139:1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
21	3 Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
28	4 Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Vestry Ministry Mtg	3 HOLY EUCHARIST Mission Team Mtg	4 Next Step Community	5	6 Men's Breakfast HOLY EUCHARIST
7 HOLY EUCHARIST & BAPTISM SS/CF Bible Study Youth Group	8 Bible Study	9 Vestry Exec Mtg	10 HOLY EUCHARIST	11 Next Step Community	12	13 HOLY EUCHARIST
14 HOLY EUCHARIST SS/CF Bible Study Youth Baking & Board Games	15 Bible Study	16 Vestry Mtg	17 HOLY EUCHARIST	18 Next Step Community	19	20 Men's Leadership Mtg. HOLY EUCHARIST
21 HOLY EUCHARIST SS/CF Bible Study Youth Group	22 Bible Study	23	24 HOLY EUCHARIST	25 Next Step Community	26 Youth Movie Night	27 HOLY EUCHARIST
28 HOLY EUCHARIST & Healing Liturgy SS/CF Bible Study	29 Bible Study	30	31 HOLY EUCHARIST PC Team Mtg			

KEY: PC=Pastoral Care; SF=Spiritual Formation Classes; SS=Sunday School



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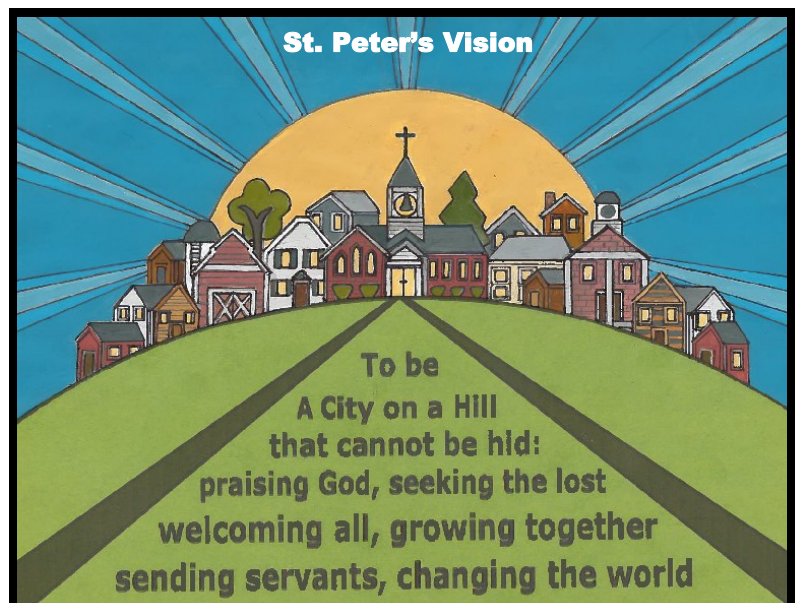
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