

St. Peter's Parish Church

The Keys

December 2019 - January 2020

The Rector's Mobile Phone: 757-293-8801

THE KEYS Editors: stpeters.admin1@gmail.com and amypatterson53@gmail.com

From the Rector's Desk

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” ~ *Isaiah 43:19*

When I go out into creation and hike through the woods, I am continually reminded that our God is a God of new beginnings. I am grateful to God and the Vestry of St. Peter's for calling me to make a new beginning in this community of faith. Although you're reading this in late November, it was written within the first week of my time as your new priest and Rector. In those short few days, you've made me feel welcome in myriad ways. I've had conversations with you after worship, over coffee, in my office, or at a shared meal. Several of you have written me notes or brought small tokens of affection: a flower, fresh produce from your garden or delicious eggs from your chickens. I've received many warm handshakes and encouraging words. Thank you.

In the months leading up to a new call, priests enter a period of discernment. We spend time in prayer, seeking to perceive how the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, and where God is leading us. It's an essential element of priesthood that priests are sent from wherever they were raised up, and go out into the world. We come from one place, and we go out into another. When I first visited St. Peter's, I knew I was leaving the place where I had been, but I simultaneously felt that I was coming home. I believe that this is the place to which God has called me. This is the new thing that God is doing in my life, and in yours. My response is a feeling of deep gratitude and hope. I hope to be faithful to God and my new call. I hope to joyfully serve you, the church into which I have been called. I hope to build new relationships in the community and to develop a deep and abiding love for each of you, the people of this parish.

Hope leaves room for adaptability and space for the movement of the Holy Spirit. It is a faithful anticipation of a future yet unknown. God is up to something new, in my own life and in the life of St. Peter's. Do you perceive it? With God, all things are possible. God makes new paths, and brings life-giving water to places that had been dry. During the season of Advent, we spend time in prayer and preparation for the new things God is bringing into the world. It began 2,000 years ago with preparations for a baby. In the years since then during this season, the church has lit candles in the darkness, more each week, as we prepare ourselves for the new beginnings marked by celebrations of the birth of Christ. I hope you'll spend time during this busy season looking out into the world and trying to perceive the new things that God is calling you to, both personally and as the body of Christ in this particular place.

As we light candles during the darkest nights of the year, dream about the places God is bringing new light into the world. Spend time, as Mary did, pondering these things in your hearts. We are an historic church and a long-standing congregation. It gives us a deep grounding in the past and the traditions of the church. At the same time, St. Peter's is a church facing the future, waiting in hopeful anticipation to see where God is calling us next. I give thanks to God for you and for the warm welcome I've received. I'm grateful to be walking the way with you.

Grace and Peace,

Kristin †

The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham



Wardens' Corner

As Junior Warden, I have been charged with caring for St. Peter's buildings and grounds, and I have spent time this year organizing our files. While doing this, I find myself getting side tracked by reading about the history of the church's construction and restoration. Recently, I came across a note written by Chap Harrison that simply stated: "The Restoration was completed in 1964 and Christmas Eve midnight service was held there. The Rev. Edward W. Eanes, Rector, preached the sermon." This note sparked my curiosity. I was able to confirm in the REGISTER OF CHURCH SERVICES that the last service held in the church prior to the interior restoration was on January 5, 1964. The first service in the restored church was on December 20, 1964, and was Morning Prayer with ninety-seven people in attendance. This was followed on December 24 with Holy Eucharist at 11:15pm, the midnight service, with eighty-four people in attendance.

Until I found this note, I was not aware that our services returned to the church during one of the holiest times of the year. December brings with it the liturgical season of Advent, that time of quiet reflection, but more important, that time of preparation to welcome the Lord. It's the time to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift that God has given us. I am sure that much time and care was spent preparing for the first service in the church after the interior restoration, especially since it was during this season of expectation and excitement. I feel confident in saying this because of the traditions that we continue today to prepare for Advent and Christmas.

At St. Peter's, many things are in store for us as we try to enter more deeply into the spirit of the season. In Advent, we'll see the purple liturgical hangings and the Advent wreath with evergreens and four candles surrounding the Christ candle. All of this to remind us visibly of the emptiness of our lives without our Lord, and the new light and new horizons which God reveals to us.

I feel blessed that we have many traditions to participate in together as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. These include the Hanging of the Greens, Advent Wreath Making, Lessons & Carols, Christmas Pageant, Give a Child a Christmas, Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes, Christmas Wreaths for Veterans, Caroling, and Christmas Craft Day.

It is a time of expectation and excitement, as we look to celebrate Jesus, our Lord! A blessed Christmas to you all.

Faithfully yours,

~ Sheila Mitchell, Junior Warden

We are so blessed to have the Rev. Kristin Wickersham as our new Rector of St. Peter's. Thanks be to God!

St. Peter's Vestry Nominations




CLOSE

December 1, 2019

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Vestry Class of 2023.

Nomination forms are available in the Parish House foyer and in the back of the church. Forms may be submitted to the Senior Warden or to the church office. Prior to completing a form, be sure and get the person's permission before nominating them!

As a reminder, each Vestry nominee must be a member of St. Peter's Parish Church, a confirmed adult communicant (age 16+) in good standing, and "known to the Treasurer."



St. Peter's Parish Church

The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham, *rector*
Joyce H. Molina, *organist and choirmaster*
Sherri W. Hardiman, *parish administrator*
Stuart R. Burnett, *clerk & treasurer*
Susan G. Sitterson, *assistant treasurer*
R. Jon Ackley, *assistant treasurer*
David A. Swynford, *verger*
Ann O. Bradshaw, *register*

The Vestry

Linwood Gregory, *Senior Warden*
Sheila Mitchell, *Junior Warden*

Class of 2020

Carrie Evelyn (932-5078)
Kim Filipowicz (557-2905)
Linwood Gregory (932-4254)

Class of 2021

Kendall Hatley (932-3854)
Sheila Mitchell (932-4874)
Scott Adams (256-374-5517)

Class of 2022

Jess Fowler (804-898-0378)
Mary Margaret Gillette (804-370-4479)
Lee Tyson (804-349-2092)

The Keys

Sherri Hardiman, *Co-Editor*
Amy O'Keefe, *Co-Editor*

Margaret Best, *Altar Guild Chair*
Jodie Dolci, *EYC Advisor*
Carol Nelms, *Church School Superintendent*

Buildings & Grounds

Garden Guild News

The hot and very dry weather over the last few months has given us even more challenges than usual, but the Garden Guild has been up to the task. Members kept up a steady course of watering and weeding during the extreme heat.

I would like to issue a big thank you to the hard working guild members: Carol Nelms, Adam Gilette, Carrie Evelyn, Kendall Hatley, Charlotte Woodall, Sheila and Jeff Mitchell, Karen Lange, and Catherine Stanley. The grounds at St. Peter's are beautiful and restful because of the hours that these members dedicate.

If you ever stop and look around at all of the garden beds at St. Peter's, you will understand that this is a big job for a small group of people, and we are always seeking new members. We are divided into five rotating groups who take care of the garden chores in spring, summer, and fall. Things are slowing down now that winter is approaching, but there is always something that needs to be done. Please contact me at jaynethomaspinelli@gmail.com if you would like to join the Garden Guild. You will be welcomed with open arms!

~ Jayne Thomas Pinelli, Garden Guild Chairperson



Christian Education



Church School News

December will be an exciting and busy month for the Church School! Our annual Christmas Craft/Gingerbread House Day will be held on Sunday, December 1 following the 11am service. All ages are welcome to join in the fun of eating pizza and decorating a gingerbread house. The cost of this event is \$15 per family which includes pizza, beverage, and decorations for the house. Please sign up in the Parish House foyer so we will know how much pizza to order. Don't forget to bring a milk carton for the base of the house. Directions for the gingerbread house will be in the foyer with the sign up sheet.

Calling all angels and shepherds to join in the fun as we prepare for the Church School Christmas Pageant! Pageant practice will take place on Sunday, December 8 and 15 at 10am. We encourage all children to participate. The Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 22 at 10am followed by Lessons and Carols at 11am. What a fun day to get us in the Christmas spirit! Hope to see you on the December 8 for practice.

~ Carol Nelms, Church School Superintendent





Congregational Care

Congregational Care Opportunities

Prayer Chain Ministry ***New Members Are Always Welcome***

Want to witness the power of prayer? The members of this ministry uplift prayers for family members, friends, co-workers, and residents of the community so no one carries their burdens alone. Please contact Kim Filipowicz at kimflip8@gmail.com to join this ministry.

Meal Team Ministry ***Volunteers Are Always Welcome***

When people in our church go through surgeries, illnesses, new births or family losses, a nice home-cooked meal can be one of the best ways to show the support and encouragement of our church family. To become a member, please contact Jennifer Macotto at macottojen@aol.com or 703-731-4386.

If God is calling you to share your spiritual gift with this growing commission, please contact Kim Filipowicz, at 804-400-2369 or kimflip8@gmail.com.

~ Kim Filipowicz, Congregational Care Vestry Representative

We Salute Our Veterans – LTC Thomas Claiborne

LTC Thomas Claiborne was born on August 17, 1647, the son of William and Elizabeth (Butler) Claiborne. William Claiborne was a very successful Virginia trader who originally came to Virginia in 1621 as the appointed surveyor for the young colony. Late in the 1620s, he opened a trading post on Kent Island on the Chesapeake Bay. But, later in the 1630s, when successive Lords Baltimore claimed Kent Island as part of the Maryland Colony, he was expelled and returned to Virginia where he was named Secretary of the Colony, second in power only to the Governor.

William Claiborne established the plantation Romancoke, just north of the present day Town of West Point, where he organized and was responsible for forming "New" Kent County in 1654.

Thomas Claiborne followed in his father's footsteps by serving in the Virginia Militia while also serving as a member of the county court. Both father and son defended the Crown during the Indian Wars and Bacon's Rebellion in 1676, but at great expense and financial loss to the family.

In spite of relatively peaceful relationships with the local Indian Tribes after 1680, Thomas was wounded by an arrow and died several days later on October 7, 1683, at the age of 36. According to most records, Thomas was buried on the family plantation at Romancoke.

What seems to be a contradiction in history is the marker in St. Peter's Church cemetery that is actually a memorial marker (not a grave marker) for LTC Claiborne and his third wife, Sarah C. Fenn, placed by The Claiborne Society in 2009. Sarah Fenn Claiborne was a member of St. Peter's Parish Church until her death in 1716.

In 1926, all of the Claiborne ancestors and wives were moved from Romancoke to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond where they remain interred.

We give thanks for the life and service of the Claiborne family in the early years of Virginia's history.

~ Jess Fowler, Ministry for the Military



Congregational Care *continued*

Wreath Sponsorship for St. Peter's Veterans & Placement of the Wreaths

The Ministry for the Military will coordinate the placement of Christmas wreaths on the graves of our veterans. This will take place on December 14, which aligns with the Hanging of the Greens, beginning at 9am. We'll have a very brief ceremony concerning the wreaths, then the "wreath crew" will decorate the cemetery while others decorate the church with fruit and greens. All are invited to attend and help place these wreaths on the graves of our veterans.

We have now confirmed the identify and service of 58 persons whose graves will be honored. We are requesting sponsorship, at \$15 per wreath, for as many veterans' graves as you'd like to sponsor. If you would like to sponsor a particular veteran(s), please provide the information in a separate note and on the check for payment by Monday, December 2.

Checks may be made payable to *St. Peter's Parish Church*, with *Wreaths for Veterans* noted on the memo line. You may give your check to the Parish Administrator, Sherri Hardiman; Treasurer, Stuart Burnett or place it in the offering collection on Sundays.

~ Jess Fowler, Ministry for the Military



Outreach

Matthew's Haven

Give a Child a Christmas

The names of children who need sponsoring for our Give a Child a Christmas program are now posted in the Parish House foyer. We hope you will open your heart and prayerfully consider "being Christmas" for one (or more!) of these children.

For each child you sponsor, you'll be given their "wish list" with their name, age, favorite colors, activities, and any special Christmas wishes they have. Consider shopping with your children, create a memory and a family tradition they can pass on to *their* children!

Read more about our program in our Matthew's Haven Newsletter.

Matthew's Haven Assists with Montana Coat Drive

Matthew's Haven was proud to assist with coats, hats, and scarves for a coat drive all the way in Montana! The coat drive is sponsored by the Native American Youth Council, who distribute to those in need. Our little non-profit has expanded its wings outside of our own community for a great cause. We were blessed to help with this drive. I am told it can get to below zero many nights during the winter in Montana where these families live.

~ Catherine Pierce





Outreach continued

Sarah's Memorial Golf Tournament—Thank You!

The 8th Annual ***Sarah's Memorial Golf Tournament*** was held at the Club at Viniterra golf course on September 27 and was an overwhelming success! Again, the program exceeded all expectations by growing its scholarship opportunities for the College of William & Mary students and for graduating seniors in New Kent County.

Sarah passed away in November 2011 with a rare form of adrenal cancer. She was a former teacher of New Kent Middle School, an alumna of the College of William & Mary, and a faithful member of St. Peter's. Since the program began, six scholarships have been awarded at William & Mary and 20 scholarships have been granted to New Kent seniors, totaling \$33,000.

Over 100 golfers participated in this year's tournament at Viniterra along with 56 hole sponsors, 11 tournament sponsors, and 74 prize contributors and supporters. The food, the fun, the friendly competition, and the prizes were truly the order of the day. So many supporters joined together for this wonderful achievement!

In addition to the continued scholarships, an effort to enlarge Sarah's vision of planting churches and Hope Centers for children, in partnership with the International Cooperating Ministries organization, began this year. The success of this year's tournament will enable the new goal to come to fruition this year. More detailed information will be forthcoming.

Unquestionably, the major reason for the continuing growth of this spectacular program rests with the efforts and prayers of the St. Peter's family. We sincerely thank everyone for their participation and look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Faithfully,

*Patrick Evelyn, Trustee
& Sarah's Memorial Golf Tournament Committee*



Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Offering will benefit Bridges of Change, a brand new emergency violence Shelter that serves New Kent County and the surrounding counties of Charles City, King William, King and Queen, and the town of West Point. Bridges of Change is a registered 501 (3) c non-profit organization. New Kent Sheriff Joe McLaughlin is credited with assisting them in opening the safe-haven in a undisclosed location.

During the months of October and November, St. Peter's has already collected urgent donation items to stock their shelter, such as non-perishable food, laundry detergent, dish detergent, dish cloths and towels, paper plates, paper towels, toilet paper, and cleaning products. There have been two deliveries made to them so far. Now we can help even more! Your monetary contributions can assist with providing furnishings for the shelter as well as providing residents with other basic needs. Every kindness will be most appreciated.

For more information, you can visit them on Facebook.

The Christmas letters and offering envelopes will be mailed soon. Please be generous!

~ *The Vestry*



Parish Life

From the Treasurer

~ 2019 Contributions Due in Church Office ~ or Postmarked by December 31



Treasurer Report

All contributions to St. Peter's received in the CHURCH OFFICE or postmarked by December 31, 2019 will be applied toward 2019 pledges and included as 2019 contributions on your end-of-year statements for tax purposes.

Contributions received or postmarked AFTER December 31, 2019 can still be applied to complete a 2019 pledge, but they will be recorded as 2020 contributions for tax purposes and will not be included on the 2019 end-of-year statements.

Likewise, pre-payments against 2020 pledges received prior to December 31, 2019 can be applied to 2020 pledges, but will be shown on your 2019 statement as a contribution for the 2019 tax year. Statements will be mailed to you by the end of January 2020. As a reminder, if you have not submitted your pledge for 2020, they are still being accepted!

If you have any questions about the current status of your 2019 pledge, please send an email to the Treasurer at stpe-ters.treasurer1@gmail.com and I will be happy to run a contributions report and email it back to you. This will show all your 2019 contributions and the status of your 2019 pledge.

~ Stuart Burnett, Treasurer



St. Peter's 37th Annual Oyster Roast and Fish Feast

The St. Peter's Oyster Roast and Fish Feast was a resounding success. It was a sell-out crowd of four hundred attendees with perfect weather in the 70's! The committee would like to thank the parish for their support in this event. Many parishioners come together to make this event a success and it continues to be a wonderful time of fellowship for the parish. The next Oyster Roast will be in 2021.

Note of Appreciation

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported me during my recent recovery from my accident. Thank you for all the well wishes through cards, calls, and texts, as well as making food for me and my family. I know it was especially appreciated by Craig. As Austin stated, "Mom, I love all these dinners everyone is making for us—they are so good. But I'm sorry we are getting them because you're hurt!"

We are so very blessed to have such wonderful caring people at St. Peter's.

~ Catherine Pierce



Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. On Super Bowl Sunday, young people take up a collection, asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice.

St. Peter's EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) donates to our local New Kent County Food Bank. Over \$150 million in food and funds have been collected by participants since its inception. In 2019, Virginia alone donated \$107,356.90.

The EYC will be collecting donations on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2, after both services. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.



9th Annual Soup Cook-off & Family Games Night

Our ***Soup Cook-off & Family Games Night*** will be held on Saturday, February 1. The Soup Cook-off begins at 6pm and Games will start about 7:15pm. The category will be your favorite soup, which can be a soup, stew, chili or chowder. We plan to have pizza as well for the youth.

Last year's winner was Stephanie Merritt with her delicious Creamy Tuscan Soup! The Soup Cook-off contest is in its 9th year. We will have a sign-up board in the Parish House foyer in early January. Please mark your calendar for this evening of good fellowship, great food, and fun games.

We will only accept the first 10 soup/chowder contestants, so please take note of this.

We are also looking for Bridge players. Two tables will be set up in one of the Church School rooms (8 players). If we have more players than expected, we'll set up a third table. All kinds of games will be played in Richardson Hall after the Soup Cook-off, such as Catch Phrase, Phase 10, Dominoes, Monopoly, Risk, Pictionary, and other card/board games. Please feel free to bring any games that you'd like to play.

Please mark your calendar for this evening of good fellowship, great food, and friendly competition! If you have any questions, please call May O'Leary at 804-909-3535.

~ *The Fellowship Committee*



From the Parish Register



Baptisms

Declan Matthew Settlemyre, infant son of Matt & Maggie Settlemyre; grandson of Jim & Peg Noctor, October 6, 2019
Philipp Mendoza von Hitritz, infant son of Philipp von Hitritz & Nathali Mendoza; grandson of Steve von Hitritz; grandson of Kim von Hitritz, November 3, 2019
Preston Graves Lambert, infant son of Matt & Anna Stuart Lambert; grandson of Stuart & Cynthia Burnett, November 24, 2019

Blessing of Marriages (Recorded in the REGISTER OF CHURCH SERVICES)

Erich Rogers von Hitritz and Veronica Manole, October 26, 2019
Philipp Kemp von Hitritz and Nathali Corina Mendoza, October 26, 2019

Burial Offices

James Malcolm Hart Harris, Jr., October 18, 2019
Brenda Gayle Dawkins Lambert, October 21, 2019



~ *Sherri Hardiman, Parish Administrator*



A Few Fun Facts about St. Peter's

St. Peter's **PARISH HOUSE** was erected in 1963 to the Glory of God and in Memory of Richard Cunningham Richardson, 1902-1961. The Parish House is home to the Offices, the Education Wing, the Nursery, Richardson Hall and the Kitchen, the Mullins Assembly Room, Martha's Gift Shoppe, the Music Room, the Matthew's Haven Room, and the Restrooms.

RICHARDSON HALL is the fellowship hall where parishioners gather for Coffee Hour and other events held in the Parish House. Mr. Richardson's picture is displayed there.

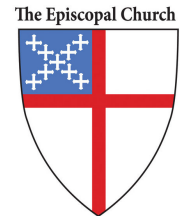
The **EDUCATION WING** was erected in 1994 to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Helen Schrantz Fleet by S. Douglas Fleet. This wing is home to the Church School classrooms, the Nursery, the Music Room, and the Matthew's Haven Room.

The **MULLINS ASSEMBLY ROOM**, also referred to as "The Mullins Room," was given in Loving Memory of their parents, William R. and Ellen McCoy Mullins, by Lewis M. Mullins, George E. Mullins, Marie M. Culbreth, Edna M. McKinney, Ella M. Phipps, Ida M. Owens, and Marjorie Richardson Goodall. This room is used for many purposes, including: Adult Forum, Vestry Meetings, and as a Gathering Place for families having baptisms, burial offices, visitations, and a place for bridal parties to prepare for weddings.

~ Sherri Hardiman, Parish Administrator



Worship



Report of 225th Annual Diocesan Convention

In mid-November, more than 450 clergy and lay delegates from across the Diocese of Virginia gathered in Arlington, Virginia for the 225th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia. During their ordinations, priests vow to participate in the councils of the Church. Annual Convention is the most important of these councils. This year, in addition to the Rev. Wickersham, the delegate from St. Peter's was Matt Danielson. Delegates to Convention have several responsibilities including the election of leaders to governing bodies, passing a budget for the upcoming year, and voting on any resolutions that come before Convention.

Five new people were elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee, which serves as a council of advice to the Bishop. Additionally, deputies to General Convention and Provincial Synod were elected. Delegates to Convention passed four resolutions this year. The first calls for making efforts to discontinue the use of single-use plastic and foam products. The second was a newly amended Diocesan Alcohol Use Policy. The third urged local, state, and federal water authorities to reconsider the location and routing of a water intake site to avoid Monacan Nation ancestral village and grave sites. The fourth called for increased transparency and reporting of progress toward achieving pay equity for stipendiary clergy by gender and race.

On the second day, the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority gave her pastoral address. In it, she outlined a timeline towards consecrating a new Bishop Diocesan. She will call for the election of the next Bishop Diocesan at Diocesan Convention in 2020. The consecration of the Bishop Elect will likely occur in late summer or early fall of 2022. Bishop Goff plans to retire in 2023. In a recorded video address, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry expressed his support for the timeline and plan. The Diocese's new Assistant Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson was introduced. She joined the Diocese on November 4. She was previously the Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of West Texas. Bishop Associate Robert Ihloff made his parting address toward the close of Convention. He will return to the Diocese of Maryland in January of 2020 to serve as a part-time Assistant Bishop.

Convention concluded with a service of Holy Eucharist presided over by all of the bishops, several priests, and assisted by many deacons. If anyone is interested in learning more about the work of Convention, please visit the diocesan website at: <http://www.thediocese.net/who-we-are/governance/annual-convention/225th-annual-convention-2019-/>.

~ Kristin †

The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham

Christmas Decorating



This Christmas season the church will be dressed with colonial decorations of fruits and greenery. These decorations are available for purchase in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church and in the Parish House foyer.

A donation of \$10 is requested. Please make your check payable to *St. Peter's Parish Church* and note *Christmas Decorations* on the memo line. The deadline to sign up is Monday, December 2. Thank you!

~ *Margaret Best, Altar Guild Chair & Sherri Hardiman, Parish Administrator*

Hanging of the Greens

Please join us for a fun time decorating St. Peter's for the Christmas season. The annual "Hanging of the Greens" will be on December 14 at 9am. We will once again decorate the church in the "della robbia" style with fruit and greens. This is a great time to show off your creativity! Come out and get in the Christmas spirit!!

If anyone has garden greenery for this project, please bring it to the church and leave it under the tower by December 14. We are looking for nandina, holly, cedar, and pine.

~ *Margaret Best, Altar Guild Chair*



A Music Note



It's that time of year when "holiday" music surrounds us wherever we go. I heard my first holiday song on the radio in October and have been playing Christmas music in the Henrico Concert Band since September. Personally, I look forward to Advent. I need that time to separate from the commercialism of our world and to appreciate the time of waiting and preparation.

Even at St. Peter's we get an early start. The choir began work on anthems for Advent and Christmas in October, many old favorites and new ones that will become favorites. Special musicians are planned to accompany us at several services. On December 8, flutist Yvonne LeFrancois returns to accompany the choir on a new Advent anthem, *Look to the Light*. Lessons and Carols will be December 22 at 11am. Through scripture and song, we will take the journey from the Garden of Eden to the city of Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Violinist Jennifer Johnson returns to make this service even lovelier.

Christmas Eve services are at 5 and 11pm. Come to one or both. Yes, there are those who come to both services! The 5pm service is joyfully filled with the sounds of children and families. The choir sings and the children's choir will lead us in *Silent Night*. The 11pm service is one of my favorites. A bit quieter, if that's your flavor. Harpist Anastasia Jellison joins us at 11pm. You may think the herald angels have arrived. As you build your memories, either service will linger as a joyful time of worship.

But wait—there's more! Caroling will be the afternoon of December 15. Everyone is invited; and the more, the merrier. Joy and love are painted across our faces in smiles as we make our visits. Look for upcoming announcements.

Finally, thank you to the choir who puts in many hours to prepare for Advent and Christmas. Thank you for your faith, your joy, and your love. **You are a blessing!**

P.S. The Henrico Concert Band's Christmas concert is December 16 at 7:30pm in the Henrico Theater in Highland Springs. It's free; however, it's best to reserve a seat by calling 804-652-1460. I'll be on the front row and Chrissy Wagner will take her place at the podium to direct the band on several numbers. A great concert is planned, and there will be time for you to sing along. Come join us!

~ *Joyce Molina, Organist and Choirmaster*

Remembering Those Serving Our Country ~ Near and Far ~

Chris Atkins
Brandon Belcher
David Douglas
Annie Patterson



Cemetery Flowers Reminder



We Episcopalians believe in "real" things, like real bread and real wine for the Eucharist. We use real flowers and real greenery to decorate the church. That part extends to the cemetery, so please remember as Advent and Christmas approach, that only real arrangements are permitted in the cemetery. Thank you.



*Wishing You All a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

We Ask Your Prayers for Those in our parish family who are sick:

Rollin Rosser, Sue Caldwell, Bob Kay, Karen Carraway, Ann Townsend Woodall, Betty Curling, ***and all others known and unknown.***

Steven Harrell, son of Sue Caldwell;
Mary Wilcox, friend of Miriam Ackley;
Minnie Brammer, mother of Lee Brammer;
Aaron Platek, cousin of Adriane Marshall;
Sherry Rebman, sister of Keith Wagner;
Mary Calabrese, friend of Jeff & Denise Fazio;
Gayle Ramsey, mother of Wanda Porter;
Barbara Serowich, sister of Jon Ackley;
Shirley Stone, grandmother of Millie Douglas;
Elsie Ferrell, great-aunt of Chrissy Wagner;
Rogers Family, friends of Kent & Ann Bradshaw;
Tori Coates, cousin of Ann Bradshaw;
Korman Butler, friend of Susan Cheyne & Lee Tyson;
Dana Watkins Spears, friend of Donna Fowler;
Katie Badanes, sister of Amy O'Keefe;
Don Grigg, husband to cousin of Bill O'Keefe;
Bill Baker, former parishioner;
George Ferrell, great-uncle of Chrissy Wagner;
Timmy Narsted, grandson of sister-in-law to Bill O'Keefe;
Julie Staub, friend of Tony & Stacey Wood;
Martha Pitts, friend of Ann Bradshaw;
Michael Fowler, son of Jess & Donna Fowler;
Greg Lloyd, friend of Ann Bradshaw;
Diane Bales, wife of friend to Bobby Nelms;
Michael Link, friend of Kurt Boestfleisch;
John Brammer, father of Lee Brammer;
Kent Cox, friend of Bobby Nelms;
Sally Patterson, cousin of Amy O'Keefe;
Vicky Fry, cousin of Sarah Adams;
Carol Monsess, mother of Becky Woodall;
Ken McKinney, father of Jodie Dolci;
Barbara Taylor, friend of St. Peter's;
Pat Stafford, friend of St. Peter's;
Randy Vass, friend of Rod & Joyce Molina;
Ben Marshall, brother-in-law of Susan Cheyne;
Ana Hernandez, mother of co-worker to Bobby Nelms;
Rachel & Alex Gutierrez, friends of Bill O'Keefe;
Nicky & Michelle Allen & Marlee, friends of Bill Lindsey;
Francis Boestfleisch, father of Kurt Boestfleisch;
Kay Honecker, mother of Peg Noctor;
Butch & Bonnie McCoy, friends of Kim McLean;
Ann Seitz, friend of St. Peter's;
Jim & Carol Mellick, father and step-mother of Chrissy Wagner;
Alex Ommaya, nephew-in-law of Terri Bessom;
Ernie Trillo, friend of Barbara Costello;
Melinda Arthur, friend of Amy O'Keefe.

ST. PETER'S PARISH CHURCH
Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
8400 St. Peter's Lane
New Kent, Virginia 23124-9633

Upcoming St. Peter's Events To Note

December 2019

- 1 Christmas Craft Day
- 1 Vestry Nominations CLOSE
- 2 Christmas Decorations Sign-up Deadline
- 14 Hanging of the Greens & Veterans Wreaths, 9am
- 15 Gifts Due for *Give a Child a Christmas*
- 15 Christmas Caroling
- 16 Vestry, 6:30pm
- 22 HE I at 9am; Lessons & Carols at 11am
Reception Follows
- 22 Christmas Pageant at 10am
- 24 Christmas Eve, HE II at 5 & 11pm
- 25 Christmas Day, HE II, 10am
Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7pm, except for 12/25

January 2020

- 1 Church Office Closed for New Year's Day
- 3 Deadline for February/March THE KEYS
- 16 Garden Club in Richardson Hall, 9am to 12 noon
- 19 Annual Meeting at 10am, No Adult Christian Ed
Services at 9 and 11 am
- 26 Vestry Installation
- 27 Vestry, 6:30pm
Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7pm

February 2020

- 1 9th Annual Soup Cook-off & Family Games Night
6pm - Cook-off; 7:15pm - Games
- 2 Souper Bowl of Caring at Both Services
- 9 Sweetheart Breakfast at 10am
- 17 Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day
- 17 Vestry, 6:30pm
- 26 Ash Wednesday, Liturgy of the Day, 12 noon & 7pm
Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7pm



“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in a manger.

Luke 2:15b-16