

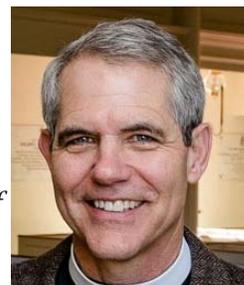
# Keynotes

December 16, 2015



## Hope is born at Christmas

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1: 12-14 (NKJV)*



At the recent ECW's Christmas Tea, Doug Cutler serenaded the women on the piano prior to the four- year old class from St. Peter's Day School singing a handful of Christmas songs. The children were introduced as Santa's Elves and each child wore a green and white elf hat and a t-shirt or sweatshirt decorated with a glue and glitter Christmas tree on the front. Needless to say, the women loved their presentation (and Doug's)! Not only did these children know the words, most of them sang with great enthusiasm. I could tell by the expressions on their faces that they considered their visit to the women to be of great importance.

What was equally wonderful was to see the expressions on the faces of our women. Afterward many members told me fondly, how these children reminded them of their own children when they were small, or, of their grandchildren.

Have you ever thought about why adults love little children? Apart from their cuteness and sweetness, we are touched by their innocence, wonder, and purity. Simply put, they remind us of God. They remind us of God's goodness and love. And in our world filled with images of violence, abuse and cruelty, they are a constant reminder that not all is bad with the world, and in fact, there is much more good. Being around children always gives me hope of better things to come!

At Christmas we think of God as a baby born in a manger. God comes into our broken world vulnerable, innocent, and pure. At his birth, Jesus creates wonder in the minds of a poor young family who will raise him. Shepherds hear of his birth and they too come to behold him. Kings from a foreign land seek him out as they follow his star in marvel and curiosity. Hope, once again rises in the hearts of many!

Part of the miracle of Christmas is that those who receive Jesus, who believe in his name, become children again. This marvelous act of God doesn't vanish after the twelve days of Christmas is concluded. It has always been God's will that all of creation is live life in a perpetual state of love, purity and peace with God and each other. This is part of our Christian hope. The Feast of the Incarnation helps us celebrate this truth and in many ways we relieve childhood through the wonder filled eyes of little children during Christmas.

May you filled in new and fresh ways this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. And may the peace, love and joy of Christ always keep your hearts young!

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Jim

## 2016 Commitment Card Reminder

Please remember to turn in your 2016 Commitment Card to the church office as soon as possible. If for some reason you have not received one or have misplaced it, please call or email Jennifer at the church office, and she will be glad to help you. 946-8151 or [jennifer@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:jennifer@saintpetersnc.org).

## The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*Sunday, December 20 at 10:15 am.*



This beautiful service consists of nine scripture lessons, carols and anthems, and prayers. The lessons tell the story of creation and man's fall from grace and subsequent redemption through the birth of Jesus Christ. There is no Holy Communion at this service.

The first service of Lessons and Carols was created many years ago by Archbishop Edward Benson for Truro Cathedral in England. The service gained great popularity across England and is now observed throughout the world. Archbishop Edwards originally saw this service as an opportunity to use music as a tool to get people into church that might not otherwise attend a service. That is why the lessons give an overview of creation and salvation.

You will be blessed by the beautiful music of our wonderful choir! "Veiled in Darkness" by Glen Rudolph, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz, "Jessye's Carol" by Donald Fraser, and John Rutter's "Christmas Lullaby" are among the selections this year. We look forward to seeing you Sunday morning!

## Church Attendance

	Dec 6	Dec 13
8 a.m. service	53	49
10:15 a.m. service	113	124
Spanish language service	62	100

### ECW MEETING ON JANUARY 6TH

Another year is almost over so it is time to tell you about our first meeting of 2016. Our speaker will be The Reverend Deacon Katherine Mitchell. Her presentation is entitled “Elements of Prayer” and promises to be an interesting and enjoyable start for the new year.

We closed out our 2015 series of programs with a Christmas Tea to honor our members who are over 80 years old. The event was a wonderful meeting which was enhanced by the young children of Saint Peter’s Day School. They entertained us with a selection of Christmas songs and they were delightful! We then enjoyed an excellent session of Christmas music played by our own organist Doug Cutler. This was a great meeting which was enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

We Look forward to seeing you On January 6th , 2016, at 9:30 a.m. in the music suite.

#### **Saint Peter’s Clergy & Staff**

The Reverend Jim Reed            Priest-in-Charge  
946-8151  
fr\_jim@saintpetersnc.org

The Reverend Deacon Janet Sueiro Rodman  
975-2214  
gjrodman@yahoo.com

The Reverend Deacon Katherine Mitchell  
617-721-6614  
katherine@saintpetersnc.org

Doug Cutler	Organist/Choirmaster
Vincent Holliday	Sexton
Lex Mann	Treasurer
Jennifer Spivey	Parish Administrator
Susie Taylor	Day School Director



#### **Vestry Organization (S.W.E.E.P.S.)**

Service: Mary Parker Egbert  
Worship: John Tate  
Education: Nancy Hamblin  
Evangelism:  
    Hispanic Ministry: Maria Gachuz  
Pastoral Care: Barbara Walker  
    Parish Life: Tom Archie  
Stewardship & Administration: Hodges Hackney  
    Building and Grounds: Patrick Nash  
    Clerk: Don Stroud

Jr. Warden: Swanson Graves  
Sr. Warden: Ed Hodges



## Please Pray For:



*Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* The Book of Common Prayer.

**Please Pray for:** Rev. Danny Allen-Pastor at First United Methodist Church (Washington), Phillips Babcock-brother of Dick Babcock, Fred & Ryan Beachler-nephews of Michael Beachler, Judy Beachler-sister of Michael Beachler, Pricilla Blier-grandmother of Kristin Bradbury, Sally Bliley-member, Mike & Marcia Board-friends of Sonia Privette, Maureen Brancely-friend of Rudy & Mavis Burns, Barbara Dell Carter-friend of Pam Hodges, Amy Cohen-Callow-friend of Mary & Ray Dennis, Rev. Carl Gunn-friend of Rudy & Mavis Burns, Carol Jones-friend of Pam Hodges, Cynthia Jones-member, Kathy Keasley-friend of Rudy & Mavis Burns, Rev. Lee Kinney-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church (Washington), Bo Lewis-friend of Sam & Barbara Grimes, Mark McCoy-friend of the Holschers, Susan McFarland-friend of Mary & Ray Dennis, Dr. Jimmy Moore-Pastor at First Baptist Church (Washington), Carol Nash-member, Jessica Orr-daughter of John & Leta Thompson, Pat Pate-mother of Dana Peters, Hilda Privette-mother of Sonia Privette, Wayne & Betty Privette-uncle & aunt of Sonia Privette, Marilyn Roth-member, Mark Simmons-nephew of Betty Cochran, John Stowell-brother of Aynn Hadley, Stephanie Teal-niece of Michael Beachler, Sis Thornburgh-member, Nena Tyndall-member, Dr. Peter Vardy-friend of Rudy & Mavis Burns, Hallett Ward, III-son of Ann Ward.

Prayer list requests may be made by completing a prayer card from the pew rack in church or by calling (946-8151) or emailing the church office ([jennifer@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:jennifer@saintpetersnc.org)). Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days.

### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

December 6: The greenery on the altar is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Patrick Harris Cochran by his family.

December 13: The greenery on the altar is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Fowle by her children and grandchildren.

December 20: The greenery on the altar is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lucy Bowers and Jimmy Johnston, Ruby King and Jim Moore by the family.

December 24 & 25: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Annie Cutler, Mary Wilson, Marianna Franklin and Tillie Jackson.

December 27: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sue and Swanson Graves by the family.

The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marion and Fred Troutman and Margaret and James Hackney, Jr. by Hodges and Marsha Hackney.

## Vestry Corner

Building and Grounds as a Commission of the Vestry is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and upkeep of all buildings and church grounds. Our sexton, Vincent Holliday does a fabulous job of daily cleaning and upkeep and we have the benefit of Jennifer's years of experience and her dedication in dealing with all aspects of our electrical, plumbing, HVAC and security systems.

The Building and Grounds vestry person works closely with the Junior Warden to anticipate, plan and budget for the many ongoing maintenance needs the St. Peter's variously aged facilities may have on an annual basis. These facilities range in age from the beautiful and historic church at 140 years to our much used All Saints' Hall at ten years. Several of the trees on our grounds are well over 200 years old. This past year has been no exception in terms of unexpected expenses for buildings and grounds. During the year, in addition to the periodic roof and plumbing leaks you would expect in our older facilities, we had a sprinkler system rupture in All Saints Hall. The expense for repair was more than \$20,000. Fortunately our insurance covered all the expense. Some other unforeseen and uninsured expenses we experienced in the past year included: air handler replacement \$5665 and a tree removal on the south side at \$5500. Fortunately the All Souls Fund was available as our safety net and helped us cover these and other emergency expenses. In the coming year, we will be looking to replace additional air handlers as they are approaching 30 years of use. Also, we will be installing security cameras around the buildings and in the church yard.

By far though, the greatest blessings we have in looking after the St. Peter's buildings and grounds are the volunteers that give countless hours annually in maintaining the buildings and grounds. This is especially true of our unique and spiritual chapel garden. If you are interested in joining this effort, we have a full church spring and fall clean-up day each year, and we always have a list of items that need doing. Please contact Jennifer or me and we can coordinate.

God's blessing on our wonderful church,

Patrick Nash



## Saint Peter's Annual Christmas Pageant

Calling all wise men, sheep, barn yard animals, shepherds and angels! Let's practice for our annual Christmas pageant on Sunday December 20th at 9:15 am in the church. The Christmas pageant is Thursday, December 24th at 4:00pm. All are welcome! Please contact Lynn Harrington for more information. (919)215-1420



**Wednesday, December 23**

7:00 AM & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist

**Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24**

4:00 PM Holy Eucharist & Pageant

8:30 PM Festival of Music

9:00 PM Holy Eucharist

**Christmas Day, Friday, December 25**

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, December 27**

Return to our Regular Schedule

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:15 AM Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, December 30**

7:00 AM & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist



**Office Christmas Schedule**

The Church Office will be closed December 24th through 28th.

On December 31 the Church Office will close at noon

and will re-open on Monday, January 4.

**Designated Outreach Contributions**

**for November-December 15, 2015**

**Rector's Discretionary Fund \$1978**

**Episcopal Farmworkers \$450**

**Episcopal Relief & Development \$198**

**Higher Heights \$450**

**Zion Shelter & Soup Kitchen \$2196**

**Eagles Wings \$450**

**Building Fund Principal \$2740**

**Kiwanis Youth Fund \$500**

**Ruth's House \$100**

## 2015 Stained Glass Windows Fund Annual Report

This is the 2015 Annual Report of the \$76,648.48 that remained in 2011 after the restoration of the stained glass windows.

Pursuant to a Vestry resolution, the principal is inviolate; however, the income from the fund may be used for future repairs and restoration of the stained glass windows only.

Memorials and gifts may be made to this fund.

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>October 31, 2014</u>	<u>November 30, 2015</u>
Replacement and Repair Fund	\$76,454.72	\$77,318.21
Disbursement Fund	<u>5,595.20</u>	<u>- 7,543.38</u>
Total	\$82,049.92	\$84,861.59

### 1. Stained Glass Windows Replacement and Repair Fund (Principal)

\$43,136.72 Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Money Market Funds, 0.01% est. yield

34,181.49 Corporate/Government Bonds, 3.12% est. yield

\$77,318.21 Total, 2.87% est. yield

### 2. Stained Glass Windows Disbursement Fund (Income)

\$3,114.10 Stifel Nicolaus, Co. Money Market Funds, 0.01% est. yield

4,429.28 Corporate/Government Bonds, 2.43% est. yield

\$7,543.38 Total, 1.64% est. yield

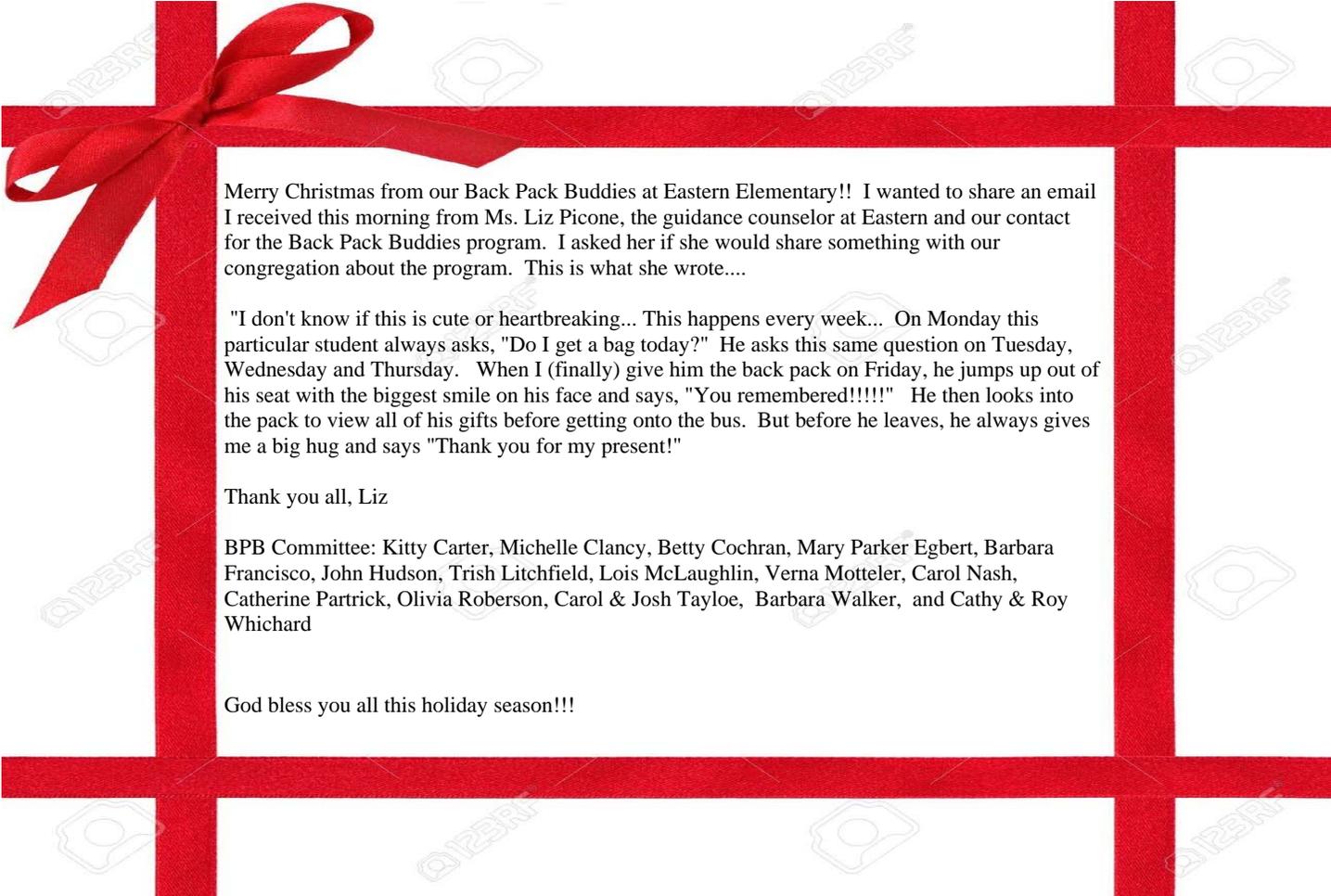
No funds are spent without a request of the Vestry by resolution and approval by the Fund's Trustees.

The Trustees are Alice W. (Dill) Lynch, Lex Mann, and Bill Cochran.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cochran, Treasurer

December 8, 2015



Merry Christmas from our Back Pack Buddies at Eastern Elementary!! I wanted to share an email I received this morning from Ms. Liz Picone, the guidance counselor at Eastern and our contact for the Back Pack Buddies program. I asked her if she would share something with our congregation about the program. This is what she wrote....

"I don't know if this is cute or heartbreaking... This happens every week... On Monday this particular student always asks, "Do I get a bag today?" He asks this same question on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. When I (finally) give him the back pack on Friday, he jumps up out of his seat with the biggest smile on his face and says, "You remembered!!!!" He then looks into the pack to view all of his gifts before getting onto the bus. But before he leaves, he always gives me a big hug and says "Thank you for my present!"

Thank you all, Liz

BPB Committee: Kitty Carter, Michelle Clancy, Betty Cochran, Mary Parker Egbert, Barbara Francisco, John Hudson, Trish Litchfield, Lois McLaughlin, Verna Motteler, Carol Nash, Catherine Partrick, Olivia Roberson, Carol & Josh Tayloe, Barbara Walker, and Cathy & Roy Whichard

God bless you all this holiday season!!!

## Priest-in-Charge Annual Report

December 6, 2015

Let me begin by saying thank you for the warm St. Peter's welcome that you have given me since my arrival in July! It has been a pleasure getting to know you and serving Christ with all of you. It has been my personal experience that God's love fills St. Peter's in everyway.

We have much to be thankful for this year. I'm thankful for our Vestry and the hard work that they have done. I'm grateful for our retiring Sr. Warden, Ed Hodges. Ed has helped make my transitioning to St. Peter's less stressful. He has been open and available to help me in anyway that he can and I appreciate his leadership this past year since the leaving of Fr. Johnson. It is also important for me to thank our other retiring Vestry members for their loyal and hard work: Barbara Walker, Mary Parker Egbert and John Tate. Our Vestry has pulled together and our meetings have been productive with their aim to be the support of our mission and ministry. Any Jr. Warden in a historic church like St. Peter's has his/her work cut for them. Ours, Swanson Graves, has worked continuously since I have been here repairing or replacing something. We are blessed to have someone as dedicated as Swanson in this ministry.

It would be remiss of me not to thank our wonderful staff. Jennifer continues to be the faithful hub of our church organization making sure that the daily parts of our ministry stay connected and moving forward. Doug not only helps us sing the praises of God each Sunday, but also keeps the altar graced with beauty. He helps out in the office and never fails to greet people with a smile and his humor. I do not have much I do not have much contact with Vincent our custodian, but I know he is here and doing his job because the church is kept clean and kept up. When I do run into him he never fails to greet me with his wonderful smile. Thank you Vincent!

I have enjoyed working with our Deacons Janet and Katherine. Janet's ministry with our Hispanic members continues to grow. I look forward to working with her and a committee composed of both Anglo and Hispanic

members next year to bring greater clarification and direction to this ministry.

I have not served at the altar on Sunday with a Deacon prior to St. Peter's. This is a learning curve for me but I am thankful for Katherine's help at the altar and in the pulpit. Katherine's assistance visiting members in the nursing home and at their homes is also very much appreciated.

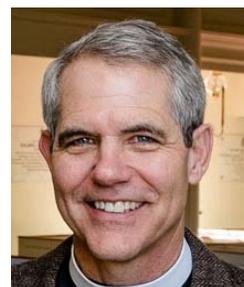
The Transition Team is now in place. They have met together for an eight-hour formation retreat and they have been officially commissioned. This month they will meet twice to begin planning our first congregation event on "Heritage". It is my goal to slowly stand aside and serve primarily as a consultant to the Team once they get started. Our two co-chairs, Keith Hardt and Nancy Hamblin will play very important roles leading the Team and making sure that the congregation stays informed. Please feel free to speak with me or any of the Team members if you have questions concerning their work.

In conclusion I believe that next year will be a time for open and honest reflection and dialogue at St. Peter's in the context of love and respect. Hopefully, this will be a time for healing and learning some new ways to build trust and practice forgiveness. If we can do that, then we will be able to begin the process of rediscovering who we are and what God is calling us to do in mission and ministry. Please be part of the congregational events next year. Work with our Transition Team as they lead us. You are an important member in this church. Your opinion along with your gifts and service help make up who we are. What Paul said to the church in Corinth applies to us today as well; "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Find your part at St. Peter's and fulfill it as unto the Lord.

Faithfully,

Fr. Jim



## Senior Warden Annual Report 2015

Never question that the Holy Spirit is working daily at Saint Peter's. My two years as Senior Warden have been fraught with controversy and blessings. At our parish meeting last year I spoke about the controversy. This year I would like to focus on the blessings.

I am a big walker – about 7 miles every morning. My closest friend, Steve Orr, is my walking partner when he is in North Carolina – which is very often – and we share our thoughts and feelings each morning on our hour and a half walks. Steve was recently the Senior Warden at his parish in Maryland – unbelievably for a term of 5 years! After our vestry election last year when we elected 4 people to the vestry who had been extremely vocal against the then recent actions of the vestry, I was extremely apprehensive about the tone of our impending January vestry retreat and the year ahead. I voiced these concerns to Steve one morning as we walked. Steve has spent his career in leadership roles in banking and insurance. A few mornings later, Steve offered me an incredible gift. He offered to use his experience in forming consensus in the business world by leading the retreat and forming consensus with the vestry. I discussed this proposal with Father Kevin and we decided to accept his offer. Steve and I were planning to spend New Years together but he ended up staying the whole month of January to plan and carry out our retreat. He interviewed all the members of the vestry individually and some members of the parish. He spent 5 days all day at the church doing this for only the satisfaction of helping his friend. He lives his life as an example for me and those who know him. The retreat was a success but not without incident. On Saturday morning Father Kevin announced that he was accepting a call to his home parish in Texas. This definitely had an effect on the direction the retreat took. Steve also navigated us through a move to remove me as Senior Warden. By the end of the retreat the vestry had agreed to support each other and work to refocus Saint Peter's. The Holy Spirit was directing our efforts through Steve.

When we returned home, the vestry's next task was to determine which direction we needed to take in finding a new rector. Working through Canon Matthew Stockard we chose the route of priest-in-charge. This process amounted to the Bishop and Canon Stockard being the search committee and the vestry interviewing the short list of candidates given us by the Bishop's office. In beginning this process, the vestry decided under the circumstances the decision on the candidate we called should be unanimous. When I informed Canon Stockard of this decision, he said he had never seen that happen successfully – that we should have allowed for at least a few dissenting votes. The more I thought about it the more I questioned myself about this. We interviewed three candidates over a period of one month. On the night of our meeting to choose the priest-in-charge, I prayed again that the Holy Spirit would direct our work, as I had prayed for months. After a preliminary vote to see where our thoughts were and a vote to eliminate one of the three candidates, the final outcome was a unanimous decision to call Father Jim Reed. Again the Holy Spirit was working at Saint Peter's. I remember vividly calling Father Jim the next day and his saying he had another interview that evening because he was sure he would not receive the call from Saint Peter's. I told him not only did we want him, but it was a unanimous decision. He accepted our call and cancelled the interview. We agreed that he would begin in early July - the Holy Spirit at work again.

In February, at Diocesan convention, I ran into my old friend, Father Jim Horton. I asked him if he would be available to help us at Saint Peter's after Easter for what could be a number of months. He readily accepted and we were fortunate to have him all but one Sunday during the transition time between Father Kevin leaving and Father Jim Reed arriving. Jim Horton also provided our Wednesday services, held office hours and provided for our pastoral needs. He loves Saint Peter's, the staff, and the parishioners. We were again blessed by the Holy Spirit.

Your vestry has worked hard over the past months under the leadership and guidance of Father Jim Reed to address the needs to our parish and building, form a transition team with your input, and develop and carry out a successful stewardship campaign.

We have a faithful staff. I could not have gotten through the last 2 years without them. I cannot begin to put a value on the work Jennifer does and the love she holds for this parish. She and I worked so well together. She would intuitively know what I needed and could prompt me when I needed it. I love and respect her deeply. Not only does Doug provide us with the most magnificent music, but when Jennifer was unavailable he would do whatever was in his power to help me. Neither one of them is above cleaning a toilet when Vincent is stretched to the limit. Lex Mann took over the job of church treasurer this year. He has done a great job. Bill Darden agreed to assist him. My thanks go to both of you. Deacons Katherine and Janet are both so effective in their roles. They have both ministered to me and supported me more than they will ever realize – they are my dear friends. All these wonderful people are filled and fueled by the Holy Spirit. I also must thank those folks who have served with me on the vestry during these last three years. We have been through much together. They have been my encouragers, my strength, and now my life-long friends. You are each blessings in my life.

I am impressed daily by Father Jim. He has all the qualities needed to help Saint Peter's recover and move in the direction God is calling us to go. I have enjoyed my time with him and anticipate our becoming good friends as we continue to work, play, and pray together.

When I encounter bumps in the road on my faith journey and the tasks before me seem too difficult and burdensome, I have relied on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Those hurdles have most always become personally strengthening and faith building. This has been my experience these past two years. I don't regret that the two years are over but neither do I regret that I experienced them. This time has been a blessing in many ways. Know that Saint Peter's is alive, moving forward and doing the work God has given us to do. Thanks be to God.

Ed Hodges, Senior Warden



## 2015 All Souls' Memorial Fund Annual Report

All Souls' Memorial Fund was established in 1954. Its purpose is to receive bequests and other forms of gifts by any person or to be given as memorial for a friend or family member.

All Souls' Memorial Fund (principal) is inviolate.

Only All Souls' Emergency Fund, interest from the Memorial Fund, can be used for **emergency repairs and maintenance** for Saint Peter's when regular church income is inadequate. No funds are spent without a request of the Vestry by resolution and approval by the Fund's Trustees.

All Souls' Memorial Fund (principal) is inviolate.

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>October 31, 2014</u>	<u>November 30, 2015</u>
All Souls' Memorial Fund	\$312,775.00	\$320,484.49
All Souls' Emergency Fund	144,220.78	154,902.95
All Souls' Investment Account	<u>1,094.91</u>	<u>1,156.91</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$458,090.69</b>	<b>\$476,544.35</b>

The current market value of these funds is invested as follows:

### All Souls' Memorial Fund (Principal)

\$ 35,111.67 Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Money Market Funds, 0.01% est. yield  
230,202.49 Corporate/Government Bonds, 3.12% est. yield  
55,170.33 Equities, 1.98% estimated yield  
**\$320,484.49 Total, 2.58% est. yield**

### All Souls' Emergency Fund (Interest from Memorial Fund)

\$ 23,283.91 Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Money Market Fund, 0.01% est. yield  
131,619.04 Corporate/Government Bonds, 3.31% estimated yield  
**\$154,902.95 Total, 2.81% est. yield**

### All Souls' Memorial Fund Investment Account

**\$1,156.91** Select Bank and Trust Checking Account

In June 2015, \$2,500 was paid from the Emergency Fund for the costs of removing a large pine tree in the church yard (Main Street side) that was dying and could have fallen on the church.

Since 1954, \$277,785.76 has been used from interest generated by All Souls' Memorial Fund for numerous emergency repairs. Saint Peter's is fortunate the 1954 Vestry had such foresight and for the generosity of its members.

Monthly financial reports are given to the church treasurer. The Trustees are Alice W. (Dill) Lynch, Lex Mann, and Bill Cochran.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cochran, Treasurer  
December 7, 2015

*The loose and undesignated offerings for all Christmas services  
will benefit the Rector's Discretionary Fund.*

### End-of-Year Pledge Payments

Please note the church office will be closed from December 24th through December 28th and again at noon on December 31st through January 3rd. You can place your payment in the offering plate during any of the services or simply mail your pledge payment to the church. (PO Box 985) If you wish to claim for 2015 tax purposes, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2015.