

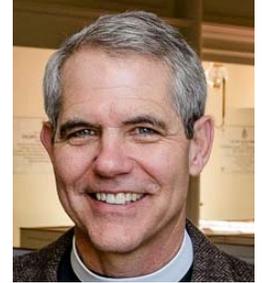
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Keynotes

December 14, 2016



***“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
John 1:4-5 NRSV***



There is so much stress in peoples lives this time of year that it can easily taint the holidays. The “manufactured joy” of our culture can add to our stress level. Idyllic images of the holidays stir up strong emotions in us and can compel us to believe that somehow we are missing out if our lives are not like them. The belief associated with this kind of promised joy is that if we follow the suggestions of “do this, buy that” you will be happy and loved by others. Of course this is rarely true.

In stark contrast to these promises are the other images we are presented with daily. Video footage of bombed out cities in Syria, mass shootings, racial conflict, and continued controversy over our past elections. Sometimes it feels to me like we are ping-pong balls being played in a match between two determined competitors vying for control over us.

Thank God, the scriptures tell us a different story, such as these verses from the Christmas liturgy in John's Gospel. I am reminded that our times are not really much different from times past. Our forms of media have changed, but people haven't. The world has never really been at peace. Has there ever been a time when people haven't oppressed or exploited other people?

These verses in the prologue to John's gospel tell me no. There has always been a darkness in this world that just doesn't get what life is about, and frankly, doesn't really want to. In my opinion, it finds delight in trying to rob us of true joy, and never tires of offering a cheap imitation. It digs itself deeply in every area of our world, every culture, all commerce and even religions. It is a mindset against God and God's creation. John often refers to this evil as, “the world.” By world or even “flesh”, John does not mean people. He means a force or evil that is prevalent in sin that blankets and darkens all of creation exerting its power over us.

I find hope in these two verses because the light shed on our human dilemma is that God has not left us to our own devices or desires. The true light, the light of the whole world (the human race), has entered our creation and become one of us. He has brought real life and with that life true joy. His name is Jesus, and he is also called Immanuel, “God with us.”

So let us this Christmas season draw closely to the true joy giver. Regardless of the battle we must fight with the darkness that fills our world, be it; oppression, racism, poverty, loneliness or fear. Let us call upon Jesus and gather in his name. Let us encourage one another joining with angels and archangels and all of God's children around the world this Christmas to let God's light shine brightly through us.

Faithfully,

Fr. Jim

2016 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.

Only income from this fund may be used to protect the capital assets of Saint Peter's in an emergency when the church's regular income is inadequate to meet the emergency. The principal of this fund remains inviolate and may never be spent. All funds must be invested in high grade stocks and bonds paying reasonable interest and dividends and having a ready market.

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>November 30, 2015</u>	<u>November 2016</u>
All Souls' Memorial Fund	\$320,484.49	\$328,516.43
All Souls' Emergency Fund	154,902.95	124,275.98
All Souls' Investment Account	<u>1,156.91</u>	<u>1,642.68</u>
Total	\$476,544.35	\$454,435.09

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

All Souls' Memorial Fund (Principal)

\$ 70,116.87 Nicolaus & Co., Money Market Funds, 0.03% est. yield
198,876.91 Corporate/Government Bonds, 3.08% est. yield
59,522.65 Equities, 2.01% estimated yield
\$328,516.43 Total, 2.23% est. yield

All Souls' Emergency Fund (Interest from Memorial Fund)

\$ 19,053.84 Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Money Market Fund, 0.03% est. yield
105,222.14 Corporate/Government Bonds, 3.16% estimated yield
\$124,275.98 Total, 2.68% est. yield

All Souls' Memorial Fund Investment Account

\$1,642.68 Select Bank and Trust Checking Account

In 2016 the Trustees approved the Vestry's request for the following emergency expenditures:

January - \$7,350. Replace five-ton heat pump and related work for Day School area.

March - \$5,863. Repair recurring leaking in Gardner Hall roof.

November - \$27,850. Replace all controls for HVAC system for sanctuary. Existing controls were outdated and difficult to replace.

Total emergency expenditures in 2016 from All Souls: \$41,063.

Since 1954, \$318,821.76 has been spent from All Souls' Emergency Fund.

Monthly financial reports are given to the church treasurer. Timely and year end reviews are held with a financial advisor. Further investments will be made to the above amounts this month.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cochran, Treasurer
December 7, 2016

2016 Stained Glass Windows Fund Annual Report

This is the 2016 Annual Report of the \$76,648.48 that remained in 2011 after the restoration of the stained glass windows in Saint Peter's Episcopal Church.

Pursuant to a Vestry resolution, the principal of this fund is inviolate and may never be spent. 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>November 30, 2015</u>	<u>November 30, 2016</u>
Replacement and Repair Fund	\$77,318.21	\$76,513.86
Disbursement Fund	<u>- 7,543.38</u>	<u>9,473.73</u>
Total	\$84,861.59	\$85,987.59

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

\$17,728.48 Stifel Nicolaus & Co., Money Market Funds, 0.03% est. yield
58,785.38 Corporate/Government Bonds, 3.01% est. yield
\$76,513.86 Total, 2.32% est. yield

2. Stained Glass Windows Disbursement Fund (Income)

\$6,495.09 Stifel Nicolaus, Co. Money Market Funds, 0.03% est. yield
2,978.64 Corporate/Government Bonds, 2.88% est. yield
\$9,473.73 Total, 0.93% est. yield

No funds are spent without a request of the Vestry by resolution and approval by the Fund's Trustees. All funds must be invested in high quality U. S. and U. S. Government agency bonds paying reasonable dividends/interest and having a ready market.

Monthly financial reports are given to the church treasurer. Timely and year end reviews are held with the Financial Advisor. Further investments will be made to the above amounts before year end.

No funds were spent in 2016.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cochran, Trustee
December 9, 2016



Sunday School Teachers

St. Peter's is blessed to have some individuals who stepped up to teach Sunday School as soon

as they knew that our biggest wish was to get the Sunday School up and running to serve the youth of this parish. We are so thankful for their willingness to act as role models for our youngest parishioners. Roses to Jamie Keel, Brian Miller, Paul Keel and Sonia Armstrong, our substitute.

It is our prayer that some others will come forward to help with this very important ministry in the months ahead. When this occurs, we will be able to add more classes for our children. Ideally, we need at least 3-5 people who will help us at the beginning of the New Year. When we recite the Baptismal Covenant, we pledge that we will support those being baptized "with God's help." It is not only the parents and godparents who have a part in their religious growth. We as fellow disciples also have a part in the development of our young ones. We need individuals to teach who will love them and help them grow in their faith.

Please consider stepping forward to help us in our mission. If enough people agree to act as teachers/facilitators, we will only ask you to serve for 4-5 Sundays. You do not have to be a trained teacher to participate- the curriculum is self-explanatory. Just remember that a teacher is a learner! All that is required is a love for children/youth and a positive spirit.

We are covered until the eighth of January. Call me so that we can utilize you in the coming semester! Ann Bustard

#946-8151 or email ann@saintpetersnc.org

Church Attendance

December 4: 8:00/53 10:15/140 Chapel: NA

December 11: 8:00/41 10:15/117 Chapel: 85

Building Loan Balance



As of December 14, 2016, the balance of the building loan was \$142,819.24.

ALTAR GREENERY FOR DECEMBER



December 4: The greenery on the altar is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Patrick Harris Cochran by his family.

December 11: 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 18: The greenery on the altar is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lucy Bowers & Jimmy Johnston, Ruby King & 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.

ADVENT WREATH

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



2017 Camp Trinity Applications

Applications are now available on
the kiosk outside Jennifer's office.

Adult Education will adjourn until January 8,
2017. We will be continuing
with the book of John.



Dear church family,

Our deepest gratitude to all of our church family who showed such generosity, love, and support towards us in our disaster following hurricane Matthew. Thank you, especially, to Ann Peters, who found us a home and so many who offered to help us in every way. We still have a long journey, but our load has been lightened by the concern and help from so many."

Sincerely, Gayle Nadel and Michael Beachler

Parishwide Phone Calls



Recently, we have made more use of our parishwide phone call system! Several phone messages have been sent to all households regarding the cancellation/alteration of scheduled events. If you have not been receiving these messages or you wish for future messages to be sent to another phone number, please email jennifer@saintpetersnc.org or call 946-8151 with the appropriate information. Thank you for your patience as we continue to learn how to use the system.

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

Ann Bustard Children/Youth Ed
946-8151
ann@saintpetersnc.org

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



Vestry Organization

Tom Archie-Senior Warden
Swanson Graves-Junior Warden
Maria Gachuz-Hispanic Ministry
Barbara Grimes-Worship
Hodges Hackney-Administration
Nancy Hamblin-Pastoral Care
Mark Henley-Outreach
Emma Holscher-Christian Education
Marcus Jones-Stewardship
Patrick Nash-Buildings & Grounds
Don Stroud-Clerk
Hank Van Dorp-Parish Life



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: Tom Causby–friend of Ann Peters, Nancy Chaffee–member, Courtenay Rianhard Chavez–daughter of Bill & Anna Rianhard, Sam Cutler–brother of Lois McLaughlin, Susan Gerard–friend of St. Peter’s, Aubrey & Myra Gibbs–friends of Sonia Privette, The Rev. Jim Horton–friend of St. Peter’s, David Jones–member, Carol Keech–friend of Cindy & William Cochran, Sarah Thompson Kelley–daughter of John & Leta Thompson, Nancy Kreisher–friend of St. Peter’s, Cyndi Kvalevog–friend of Cindy & William Cochran & aunt of Samantha Baldree, Julia Litchfield–member, Jay Marle–member, Ginni Nickell–member, Stephen Palmer–son of Mary Dennis, Jimmy Peaks–friend of Crane & Kathleen Couch, Betty Perez–friend of John & Leta Thompson, Hilda Privette–mother of Sonia Privette, Dr. Raeford Pugh–father of Laura Bliley, Tania Rossi–daughter of Barbara & Reg Smith, Barbara Rumley–friend of Leslie Whitehurst, Jeanne Rutledge and Family–friends of Pam Hodges, Acra Samuels–daughter of Hodges & Marsha Hackney, Warren Smith–son of Reg & Barbara Smith, Betsy Stowell–sister of Aynn Hadley, Linda Strader–mother of Stacey Lynch, Krista Sutton–friend of Leslie Whitehurst, Paul Thompson–friend of St. Peter’s, Paul Wesley Thompson–brother of Randy Thompson, Sis Thornburgh–member, Avis Wainwright–friend of Pam Hodges, Aughtry Williford–member, Pat Windley–friend of Pam Hodges.



Our condolences are extended to Val Johnson and his family on the recent death of his mother and to Jackie Thompson and her family on the recent death of her mother.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life Everlasting.

UTO Fall Ingathering Report

At the fall ingathering for United Thank Offering, 45 thankful women (and a few men) presented blue envelopes filled with \$975.03.

ECW gratefully accepts these gifts of thanksgiving and will forward the \$975.03 to the Diocesan ECW chairperson.

If you have forgotten to turn in your envelope, it is not too late! We’ll just take it as a head start on the spring ingathering to be held in May!

Betty Cochran, UTO Chair





This picture appeared in a December 1970 edition of the Washington Daily News along with the following caption: The ladies of St. Peter's Episcopal Church have been busy for months creating the Christmas symbols that adorn this tree in the church. Each card on the tree is a symbol of the Christian message. The symbols are worked in jewels and sparkling colors. They include several symbols representing the cross, monograms, letters and ancient symbols of God.

The loose and undesignated offerings for all Christmas services will benefit the Open Door Community Services Women's Homeless Shelter here in Washington.

Heart to Heart Women's Conference with Lisa Harper

Join us for a weekend of laughter, fun, and incredible teaching with women throughout eastern NC at the 2017 Heart to Heart Women's Conference with Lisa Harper and Laura Cooksey [on January 27 and 28](#). Registration information can be found at: www.hearttoheartconference.org. You don't want to miss this incredible opportunity to fellowship with other women and grow in your faith!



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 18th at 9:15 am in the church. The Christmas pageant is Saturday, December 24th at 4:00pm. All are welcome! Please contact Lynn Harrington for more information. (919)215-1420

Our youngest parishioners will be telling the wondrous story of the Birth of Jesus on Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. in the chancel. This is truly a gift to watch our precious children, dressed in costumes, as they act out the story of this King born in a stable. Many children from both congregations will take part. We will see Mary, surprised by the angel Gabriel, who announced to her that she would have a baby who was to be called Jesus. She and Joseph, her future husband were required to report to Bethlehem to be registered. It was a long trip for them and when they arrived, they could not find lodgings. Mary and Joseph were offered the use of the stable as an inn. Here Jesus was born! His parents wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a feeding trough.

Shepherds who were tending their flocks in the fields were told by an angel about Jesus' birth. They hurried to see the baby and told others about this miraculous event. When the three wisemen, or magi glimpsed a new star shining brightly, they traveled a long distance to see this Messiah, promised by God. Each wiseman brought a gift to the Christ child to pay Him homage and to worship Him.

A special thank you goes out to Lynn Harrington for her fine direction and also to her helpers: Mariah Lynch and Lilly Jones. And, we must remember to thank our children for taking a role in this beautiful Christmas story.



ECW MEETING ON JANUARY 4TH

It is hard to believe that 2017 is almost here! We are happy to announce that the first speaker of the New Year will be Nancy Hamblin who will be following the theme of children in the Bible and the community. Nancy's subject will focus on Josiah who became a King at the age of eight.

The Christmas Tea where we honored our member over 80 years old was very successful and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed this special occasion.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

Put Christ back in Christmas!

A new, and exciting Christmas Gift-giving opportunity is coming to Saint Peter's this fall. **The Christmas Alternative Giving Program** is an opportunity for Saint Peter's members to donate to one or more of six local non-profit agencies during the Christmas season.

For each minimum donation of \$5.00 participants will receive a beautiful "honor card" featuring the chosen agency, which can be given to family members or friends as a Christmas gift. This is a convenient way to do one-stop Christmas shopping and help needy agencies in our community.

There is still time! Stop by the church office during regular office hours.

Questions: contact Gayle Nadel, Sonia Privette, Maria Gachuz, Amy Brewer, Catherine Partrick, Lynn Harrington, Michael Beachler or Rudy Burns.

End-of-Year Pledge Payments

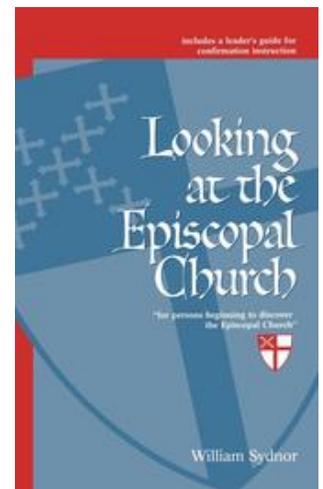
Please note the church office will be closed from December 26th through December 28th and again at noon on December 30th through January 2nd. You can place your payment in the offering plate during any of the services or simply mail your pledge payment to the church. (PO Box 985) If you wish to claim for 2016 tax purposes, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2016.

Reminder!



The Sunday snacks are back and are available after the 8:00 am worship service. Look for the snacks, coffee and tea in the hallway near the Library entrance. All are welcome to have a bite and enjoy some fellowship. If you are interested in providing the snacks, please sign up on the bulletin board.

Looking at the Episcopal Church, a class for adults beginning to discover the Episcopal Church will begin on January 18 and run consecutively on Wednesday for four weeks. The class meets from 6:00pm -7:30pm upstairs in the Rena B. Harding Room. Fr. Jim will lead it. Those who wish to attend the class need to let Jennifer know by Friday, January 13. We will be studying a book by the same name of the course written by William Sydnor. This class is especially appropriate for those who wish to be received by Bishop Skiving into church membership when he comes in April.



***Christmas wreaths and poinsettias have been given in
loving memory of:***

All those who rest in the Chapel Garden by Janet Bradbury & Sallie Scales

Lalla Bragaw by Sharon Johnston

Harold Brannan by the family

Patrick Harris Cochran by Bill and Betty Cochran

Patrick Harris Cochran by William, Cindy, Emily & Kyle Cochran

Lee M. Cooper by his family

Billy Edwards by Rosalyn Edwards

Charlie Griffin by Marcia, our children and grandchildren

Guy & Blanche Harding by Sharon Johnston

Henry & Dorothy Harding by Sharon Johnston

Beth & Ed Hodges, Sr. by Ed & Pam Hodges

Lucretia Hughes by Sharon Johnston

Paul & Ruth Jones by Robert & Peggy Jones

John & Mary Jo Lawson by their family

Homer & Nell Lewis by Robert & Peggy Jones

Ace & Sally Ann Mann by their family

Sue McLean by Kay Sharpe

Frank Privette by the family

Frederick Scales by the family

Erma Sharpe by Kay Sharpe

Lalla Hodges Sidbury by Ed & Pam Hodges

Philip Sterling by his family

Dr. Dave & Erin Tayloe by Fred, Sallie & Kendall Scales

Robert Tyndall by the family

Kathleen White by her family

Kathy Mann White by her family

Christmas wreaths and poinsettias have been given in honor of:

Ann Peters by Henry & Florette Moore

The Staff of Saint Peter's by Ann Peters

Sis Thornburgh by Rosalyn Edwards

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18th 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.

Everyone, including our children, will be blessed by the beautiful music of our wonderful choir. (There will be no Children's Chapel this Sunday.) We look forward to seeing you Sunday morning!



Christmas at Saint Peter's

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM Children's Pageant & Holy Eucharist

8:30 PM Festival of Music

9:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 28

No Services

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

The Church Office will be closed²December 26-28 and January 2nd.

