

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

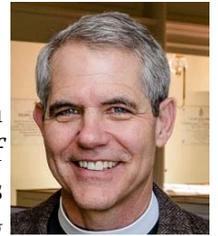
Keynotes

September 13, 2017



Dear Friends,

The other day I got a phone call from the wife of the man whom I worked for as an assistant pastor in my first church. At the age of 29, newly married and fresh out of seminary, I couldn't have had a finer mentor, and friend. He taught me many things about being a pastor. On the top of that list he taught me, by example, about being compassionate toward other people, especially the poor.



His wife called to let me know that at the age of 77 he had passed away after slipping on a rocky pier. He died a day after the fall on August 21.

I've been grieving his death this past week. I've thought about him as I've watched reports about the carnage left behind from Hurricane Irma in Florida and the other places she struck. They've reminded me of a Peanuts cartoon somebody gave me last year. In the cartoon, Charlie Brown and Snoopy are sitting on a dock looking out over a lake. Their backs are facing the reader and Charlie Brown says, "Some day, we will all die, Snoopy!" Snoopy says, "True, but on all the other days, we will not."

We do not know when or how we will die. The best we can do to face death is to live each day. Live each day to the fullest. Every day is a gift from God, even when it is a bad day. Hurricanes will come and go. Sometimes we might find ourselves in the middle of one. We can do our best to prepare for it. But worrying about it is a waste of time. It's like worrying about dying. The storm may come or it might just go in another direction.

My friend was struggling with Parkinson's disease. To my knowledge this is not a fatal disease, but it is debilitating. However, he had just spent that day with his wife swimming and picnicking at the beach. They decided to go for a walk, and it was then that he slipped and fell. Even though he had worked as an ordained minister for over 40 years, he continued to remain active in his local church teaching a men's bible study and helping out in the pulpit when needed. He enjoyed his retirement. He and his wife traveled and spent time visiting their sons and their families. Two weeks after his death, his 5th grandchild was baptized.

I guess what I'm trying to say, as we begin fall, is to encourage you to live this day and everyday with thankfulness and intent. Whatever it is you have to do, do it. If you have someone you love and have the opportunity to go for a walk, go. And if God has given you something to give, give it freely. Life is short and unpredictable. There isn't much sense in worrying about the day you will die for all the other days you have are for living.

Faithfully, *Fr. Jim*



Show me the Money

Stewardship season is here!! It's that time again to open your hearts to what the Lord is calling you to give to Saint Peter's Church. This season we will have two breakfast gatherings again. Sign-up sheets will be outside Jennifer's office. Both breakfasts this year are open to all age groups, and you are welcome to attend both gatherings. Our theme this year will be "Show me the Money", an in depth look into where your pledges and contributions go, and how many people and organizations they affect.

The breakfast gatherings will be in All Saints' Hall

10/22/17 9 – 10 am – Open to all

10/29/17 9 – 10 am – Open to all

Please send your RSVP to the event you will attend.

jennifer@saintpetersnc.org or 946-8151

or sign up outside the church office.

Acts 20:35

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children & Youth Sunday School

Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. on the second floor according to the grade level of the individual child. Kindergarten through 2nd grade will meet in Room 16 while Grades 3, 4 and 5 will meet in the Art Room. Youth will be in class approximately 40-45 minutes before entering the church at the time of the Peace in time for Eucharist.

Adult Sunday School

The first class will meet on September 17, 2017 at 9:15am in the Woolard room. We will be finishing up the Book of John this fall. Any questions call Diane Furlough at 757-272-6382 or e-mail at d_furlough@yahoo.com. Everyone is welcome. Come grab a cup of coffee and join us.



Online Giving

Good news! Saint Peter's is even more tech savvy! If you would like your pledge commitment to be paid online, email or call Jennifer Spivey at the church office. (946-8151, jennifer@saintpetersnc.org) Also, anytime you feel called to give for any reason, you can do so from our website via the online giving link. Visit www.saintpetersnc.org.

Saint Peter's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Jim Reed, Rector
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fr_jim@saintpetersnc.org

The Reverend Deacon Katherine Mitchell
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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

Marcus Jones-Senior Warden

Patrick Nash-Junior Warden

Mark Henley-English/Hispanic Ministries

Barbara Grimes-Worship

Hodges Hackney-Administration

Julie Howdy-Pastoral Care

Sarah Ninan-Outreach

Emma Holscher-Christian Education

Swanson Graves-Stewardship

Picott Harrington-Buildings & Grounds

Bonita Arvizu-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: Fred Beachler—nephew of Michael Beachler, Bill Bingham—friend of the Tayloes, Nancy Chaffee—member, Ed Clement—friend of Patrick & Carol Nash, Family of Betty Cochran in the Texas Flood, Greg Cooper—friend of William & Cindy Cochran, Mary Charles Coppage—mother of Lind Graves, Evan Cornelius—friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, Mark Eakes—friend of Ray & Suzanne Heath, Jim Gifford—friend of Mavis Burns, Mary Thompson Goss—sister of Randy Thompson, Barbara Grimes—member, Aynn Hadley—member, Katherine Hall—member, Judy Hayes—member, Patti Jackson—friend of Pat & Fred Holscher, Betty Jarvis—member, Pem Jenkins—friend of Patrick & Carol Nash, Virginia Koester—aunt of Ann Peters, Jay Marle—member, Eleanor May—member, Mary Maye—friend of Kathie Kriss, Henry & Florette Moore—members, Peggy Moore—member, Pat Pate—friend of Ann Peters, Jimmy Pendergast—son of Kathie Kriss, Acra Samuels—daughter of Hodges & Marsha Hackney, Jan Silverman—friend of Kathleen Couch, Joe Sleeper—friend of Fr. Jim Reed, Elwood Sprouse—friend of Saint Peter’s, Betsy Stowell—sister of Aynn Hadley, Linda Strader—mother of Stacey Lynch, Paul Thompson—friend of Saint Peter’s, Paul Wesley Thompson—brother of Randy Thompson, Sis Thornburgh—member, Cathy Waters—member, Jeff Williams—nephew of Michael Beachler.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER



September 3: The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carolyn & Sam Mallison, Jr. by the family.

September 10: The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of James S. Hill, Jr., Inda Paul & James S. Hill and Clarissa Bonner Hill by the family.

September 17: The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Gerard A. & Muriel G. Roy and Martin P. Roy by David, Julie, Jennifer & Kati Howdy.

and

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Gertrude B. Nelson and Leonard D. Nelson by their four children.

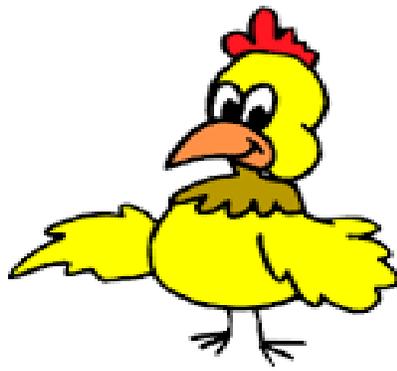
September 24: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Bennett Griffin, III by Marcia, our children and grandchildren.

Sisters in Christ Bible Study



Sisters in Christ -- THIS is for you... Please join us in a 16-week evening Bible study class, to study together God’s abundant promises, exploring women’s Biblical historical importance, especially in today’s economy, and to share testimonies of God’s mercy and love for us throughout the Bible. Most importantly, to demonstrate “... *But the first fruit of the Spirit is Love (Matthew 4:19)*” for each other, together bonded as Sisters, in Christ, and as the women of Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church. You are welcome to bring a

relative and/or another friend. Our bible study class is open to all women abroad, in any age or stage of life. Classes will meet at Saint Peter’s in the Youth Room on the 2nd & 4th Monday night of the month, beginning Monday, 11 September 2017. Light snacks 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Let’s share God’s word together...I praise God for your help. Conoley Blake (252) 947-0578



Chicken Plate Outreach Fundraiser

Sunday, September 24th

Pick-Up from 10:45am until 12:30pm

Cost is priceless....donations welcome at time of pick up!

Plates include 1/2 chicken and all the fixins.

**All Proceeds benefit Open Door Community Center
Women's Shelter.**

Reservations are required. Sign up today!

Spread the word....get one for your neighbor!

***Sign-up list on the bulletin board near the Main
Street Entrance**

***Call the church office at 946-8151**

***Email the church office at
jennifer@saintpetersnc.org**

(Interested in helping in the kitchen on Saturday September 23rd or serving on Sunday, September 24th, please call Sarah Ninan 252-721-0112.)

Musically Speaking

The offertory anthem this past Sunday is one of my personal favorites. The music was composed by British composer Lionel Bourne. I am quite fond of the melody. It has an almost folk-like quality. The lyrics are by David Adam.

David Adam, who is a retired priest in the Anglican Church was born in Northumberland in 1936. He dropped out of school at age 15 and worked as a miner for 3 years before entering seminary. After his ordination he served at North Yorkshire, Lindisfarne, and was appointed Canon of York Minster. He is known for his compositions in the Celtic pattern. The text for the anthem we sang, "Thou art God", is taken from his book "Edge of Glory", which is a collection of reflections and meditations. The lyrics follow: "Thou art the peace of all things calm, Thou art the place to hide from harm, Thou art the light that shines in dark, Thou art the heart's eternal spark, Thou art the door that's open wide, Thou art the guest who waits inside, Thou art the stranger at the door, Thou art the calling of the poor.

Thou art my Lord and with me still, Thou art my love, keep me from ill, Thou art the light, the truth, the way. Thou art my savior this very day."

I hope you enjoyed it! Doug



ECW MEETING ON OCTOBER 4TH IN THE MUSIC ROOM AT 9:30 A.M.

We are very excited to announce that our October speaker will be Ann Bustard who is the director of Children's Christian Education here at Saint Peter's. Ann's enthusiasm is, as you know, infectious and we are sure she will have a joyous presentation with some amusing remarks. We look forward to a well supported meeting and a fun time on October 4th.



The Lay Eucharistic Ministers remind the parish that if a member is unable to attend services, the gift of communion can be brought to them. To request this ministry, please call the church office. A reminder, also, that if you or a loved one is entering the hospital or nursing home, please let the church office know. Too often it is assumed someone else has called, and the clergy are late to learn of the situation. Too many calls are better than none at all!



Building Loan Balance

As of September 13, 2017, the balance of the building loan was \$127,582.

Need assistance daily for a loved one or extended family?

Conoley Blake serves as a private caregiver to assist with daily living. She is currently available. If interested, please contact Conoley at 252-947-0578 for further information. Thank you.



Parish Life Ready to Leave the Station

All aboard! You don't want to miss this great ride through the fall with Parish Life. Jump on the food train for great fellowship and delicious eats!

The first event will be Wednesday, September 27 at 6:00. We will gather in ASH for a Chicken Enchilada Dinner with the yummy sides.

All you need to do is let us know you are coming. Sign up on the bulletin board so the cooks can roll one up with your name on it. We need to hear from you no later than **September 24**. (email jennifer@saintpetersnc.org or call 946-8151)

Just to let you know, there is more: October 18 will be delicious and fun because Keith Hardt is in charge. Then on November 15, Swanson Graves is related to someone who knows a lot about some yummy eats and will share with us. There have to be some secrets; so we will just keep you in suspense!

Don't forget to get on board by signing up for the first dinner on September 27. Nothing better than having a meal in the dining car with your church family and not having to cook!

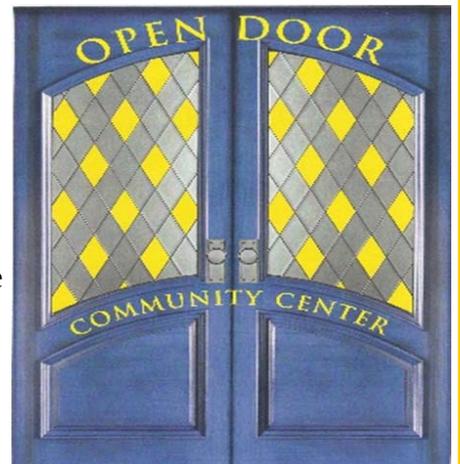
See you at the depot!!

Open Door Community Center update

For all of you that so graciously signed up to volunteer to help with the center, I just want you to know I have not forgotten you!!! We are still actively looking for a location. We thought we had found it, but unfortunately it did not work out. It is really a complicated process but with your prayers and support I know we will find just the right property. Please know I still have all your names and information in my file and will let you know when your talents are needed!!! In the meantime, I welcome any others who are interested in helping to please let me know and I will add you to my list. Our fundraising campaign will start soon and I plan on having a speaker come to our church so please stay tuned.

Remember to buy a chicken plate at St. Peter's outreach fundraiser on September 24th as all the donations will go to ODCC.

Thank you so much, Julie Howdy

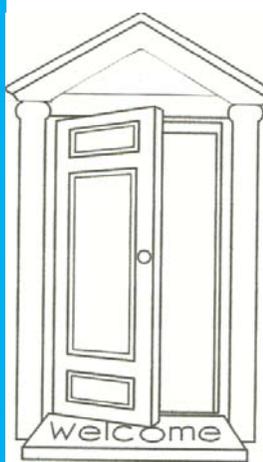




Literacy Volunteers Fundraiser

Please join us for the 10th annual Game/Card party Fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers. This year's event will be held at the Washington Yacht and Country Club on September 28, 2017 from 11:00-4:00 pm with lunch served at noon followed by the game of one's choice. The cost is \$25.00 per person and reservations must be completed by Sept. 22nd. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 drawing.

Trinity Center has a few rooms open on the weekend of September 29-October 1 for those of you who are looking for a late summer/early fall getaway to the beach. Help us fill up the space by calling Mickie Whitley at 1-888-874-6287 ext.11 to reserve a room for yourself or your family. Costs are now the off season rate of \$45 per room per night. Meals are separate.



Foyer is happening once again!

Do any of these comments sound familiar?

1. I would love to get to know those folks better.
2. I am new to Saint Peter's and really don't know anyone very well.
3. I see them every Sunday, but I really don't know them.
4. Do you know that person? They sit on the left side, about middle way.

Foyer may be the answer!

Foyer fellowship groups are made up of Saint Peter's adults who meet in groups of 6-8 folks about four times a year to share dinner in one another's homes. The host family provides the entrée, with the others bringing vegetables, dessert, etc., as requested. Both couples and singles are encouraged to participate.

Your foyer group sets your own time, location and rules! The evening is social with no program or agenda other than a blessing liturgy before eating. It's a great way to get to know folks better in a home environment.

If you are interested in joining a foyer group for fun, food, and fellowship, please submit your name and contact information to Delores Darden (946-4606 or wdarden@nc.rr.com) or the church office (jennifer@saintpetersnc.org).

Fill Your Blue Box

In 1889, a new funding for mission was begun in the Episcopal Church. This new mission was called United Offering. Then, in 1891, the Blue Box was patented, and Episcopal women, men, and children began using the Blue Box to collect coins and bills to reflect the thanksgivings of the givers. Since that time, millions of dollars have been in support of missions, both local and foreign. In 1953, when Bishop Gordon of Alaska was awarded a grant to help purchase an airplane in order to reach his parishes, he named the plane "Blue Box."

Today this mission, using the Blue Box, is known as United Thank Offering. Its motto is

Our Change Changes Lives

In our own area, Ruth's House got its start, in part, from a generous gift from the United Thank Offering.

Putting coins and bills into the blue box enables us to practice thanksgiving. When your child brings home a good report card, drop a coin into your Blue Box. If you make a hole in one in your golf outing, drop a coin into your Blue Box. If you get a good medical report, drop a coin into your Blue Box. In short, practice the art of thanksgiving.

On Sunday, November 19, we will have the Fall Ingathering of UTO contributions. On that day, you may bring your Blue Box, an envelope with cash or a check, and drop it into the blue basket to add your thank offering to the thank offerings of others throughout the church.

Experience the blessings that came from giving thanks.
Blue boxes can be found on tables throughout the church.
Get your Blue Box and start practicing the art of thankfulness by dropping coins and bills into your Blue Box today.
Remember: Our change changes lives.



Betty Cochran

UTO Chair

Food Lion Gift Cards



As we all gear up for a new church year, let me call to your attention a “painless” way to help retire the church debt. It is both painless and simple: support the ECW sales of Food Lion gift cards by purchasing at least one \$100 Food Lion gift card per month, and use it when you shop at Food Lion.

Since 2006, ECW has, through the sale of Food Lion gift cards, contributed **\$10,201.75** to help retire Saint Peter’s debt from the construction of All Saints’ Hall. For every \$100 gift card sold, \$5 has been earned to help reduce the debt. Purchasing a gift card is a gift to yourself.

Think about it. By supporting the Food Lion gift card sales, you can be a part of helping to reduce Saint Peter’s \$127,582 debt to \$0!

The Blessing of Animals

William Stringfellow, a fellow Episcopalian once wrote, “Being holy . . . does not mean being perfect but being whole; it does not mean being exceptionally religious or being religious at all; it means being liberated from religiosity and religious pietism of any sort; it does not mean being morally better, it means being exemplary; it does not mean being godly, but rather being truly human.” We human beings live an extremely circumscribed existence which diminishes us and deprives us of being realized as God made us. Yet, in our lives we are blessed with profound examples of authenticity and love in the form of our animal companions, both those who live in our homes, and those outside of them who share the earth, our island home in BCP parlance. Animals show us who they are and always let us know how they feel about us. Animals bless us every day, so on 7 October 2017 at 3 pm we will be blessing them. Please join us for the Blessing of the Animals, whether you happen to be a guardian to one or not. For in some way or another, you too will be blessed. *Fr. Fred*



RESPONDING TO HURRICANES



Credit NOAA

It has been a devastating hurricane season. While Hurricane Harvey battered communities in Texas and Louisiana, Hurricane Irma has caused destruction across the U.S. and the Caribbean.

Episcopal Relief & Development invites you to join us in prayer and support for communities affected by these terrible storms.

In partnership with the Episcopal dioceses of Texas and West Texas, we continue to respond to urgent needs in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Katie Mears, Director of the US Disaster Program, traveled to Texas to collaborate with church partners to assess damage and needs, check on current relief work and map out a strategy for impacted areas in both dioceses.

Episcopal Relief & Development is also in touch with Church partners affected by Hurricane Irma, to best support responses.

"We have been in regular contact with our partners in the affected areas," said Abigail Nelson, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Vice President of Programs. "Even as we face enormous communication challenges in some areas, we know our church partners have a deep presence in their communities which allows them to quickly and effectively respond and care for people. We are supporting them in this critical work."

Your contribution to the Hurricane Relief Fund helps Episcopal Relief & Development support Church and other local partners as they provide critical emergency assistance for those affected by Hurricane Irma and future storms.

To help care for those affected, please fill out the coupon below and mail it in with your check or credit card information. You can also contribute online at support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief.

Thank you for your compassion and prayers. With your partnership, we are healing a hurting world.

Enclosed is my gift to the Hurricane Relief Fund to assist those who are in need.

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
Episcopal Relief & Development.
Mail to P.O. Box 7058
Merrifield VA 22116-7058.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Your email address _____

Phone Number _____



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Healing a hurting world

www.episcopalrelief.org
1.855.312.HEAL (4325)

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Please charge my gift to my:

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 AMEX Discover

Name of your church _____ City _____

Account number _____ Expiration date _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

All gifts are tax-deductible.

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Checks can also be made payable to St. Peter's Episcopal Church with a memo of Hurricane Relief and submitted to the church office.

The Blessing of Being the Church

The world is filled with all sorts of clubs and organizations to which so many people belong. Often these bodies are held together by some social or cultural commonality; their hallmarks may be a mission or purpose which provides a common path. When we are part of these organizations, we often manage to fit in and we may acquire some skills or knowledge by engaging what they have to offer; or we tire and leave them. The world's organizations are often a natural fit and we spend much of our lives learning to build and live in them. In many ways the institutional church is like one of these organizations: it rises and falls with the ebbs and flows of the world. Yet there is still another Church that is fundamentally more than a mere institution, and its hallmark is Love: a Love learned from Love of neighbor, a Love in which we are able to grow. In the parable of the Good Samaritan found in the Gospel of Luke, the lawyer who questions Jesus, seeking to justify himself asks Jesus "who is my neighbor?" What is often lost to modern readers in this passage is that the Samaritan is one who is utterly different from the respectable Jewish lawyer asking the question. As such, in many ways those who are most different from ourselves are those who will be the neighbor from whom and with whom we can learn to Love. The hallmark of the neighbor is difference, and the greater the difference the greater the Love. We live in a world with an institutional church and we have the Church which Jesus instituted. Whether or not the two churches meld depends on whether or not we choose to Love and embody Love by reaching out. That difference that calls us to Love may appear in our families as we find ourselves unable to understand the younger generation; that difference may appear at our doorstep where we have a choice of whether to engage those who are different or not. But when we choose Love, that difference will appear in our midst just as that Good Samaritan appeared to the dying man and saved him.



Fr. Fred



What a wonderful time we all had this past Sunday - Kick-Off Sunday with the Blessing of the Backpacks, the return of the choir, and the start of the Christian Formation program for our young children and youth followed by a delicious array of foods at our annual picnic! The weather cooperated, so many sat outside while others chose to sit inside. The hit of the activities for children was the breaking open of the pinata which was filled with all kinds of candy. (In case there is anyone who did not receive a backpack tag, there are still some available.)

For our first Sunday, all children met in the Children's Chapel for a beginning program before returning to church at the time of the Peace. Next Sunday, September 17, the young people will meet upstairs in their Sunday School classes. Kindergarten through 2nd Grade will meet on the second floor in Room 16 while 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will meet in the Art Room. Look for the yellow signs outside the doors.

We are blessed to have Jamie Keel and Georgia Sanders shepherding the younger group, and Sonia Armstrong along with Sandy and Carla Arballo teaching the older group. Please thank them for their unselfish service to our youth.

Good News for Youth! Plans are in the works to start a Youth group in October for our teens. As soon as we have a beginning date, we will let you know!