

# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

## Keynotes

December 2020



Dear Friends,

No doubt about it, Christmas will be different this year! Our memories will have to sustain the time-honored traditions of parties, family gatherings, and sacred rituals that make us so aware of the Christmas season. There will be no pageant with little shepherds and angels for us to delight in. Nor will there be a candlelight Eucharist that brings the Saint Peter's community together to worship the newborn king. But Christmas will still happen. Christ has come and continues to come into our hearts every day. We are not alone. God is with us!

Earlier today, along with the choir, Father Jim, Whit Stroud, and I gathered to video tape our Christmas Eve service that will be available to you on Christmas Eve afternoon. As usual, I read the Gospel of Luke telling the well-known birth narrative of Jesus' birth.

I was particularly struck by the words of the angel of the Lord to the terrified shepherds as they stood guard while tending to their sheep. The angel told them, "Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." Those shepherds had every right to be fearful because they could not understand what was happening to them.

For the past nine months, we have all been living in a troubled, if not an unprecedented time for most of us. We are contending with an uncertain future that will likely affect each of us in some fashion. The uncaring, yet to be tamed COVID-19 will touch our families, our health, our economy, and our nation in small and large ways. However, what the world is experiencing now is nothing new! Strife and uncertainty have been and will always be a part of human existence.

More than two millennium ago the baby Jesus came. Because Jesus came, we can depend on those comforting words the angel spoke, "Do not be afraid." We need not be afraid because God promises through the birth of the Messiah, his son Jesus, that we have been given the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. The calamities of life will cease to be so significant because God will be right with us, loving and caring for us, his people.

So yes, Christmas will be different but it will still happen. You are invited to join with members and friends of Saint Peter's together in spirit and truth and maybe even hear the Christmas story anew as you watch our Christmas Eve service. This Christmas, open your heart in love knowing that the light that guided the shepherds, even today leads us to the manger in Bethlehem to meet the newborn king, God's son.

Merry Christmas and may Almighty God, who has poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word; Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)

Your friend,  
Deacon Katherine





Online Christmas Eve  
December 24th

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Online Sunday, December 20th

*Service links will be sent out via email and posted on the church's webpage  
and Facebook page for both of these services.*

The Christmas Offering will go to support the Saint Peter's Financial Assistance Program.



### ***Advent Wreath***

*The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God in Praise and Thanksgiving for the continued healing of our beloved daughter, Acra Hackney Samuels, by Hodges and Marsha Hackney.*

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

*All Churchwomen of St. Peter's who have died in 2020 by the ECW*

*Patrick H. Cochran by Bill and Betty Cochran*

*Florence & Frank Cole by Ed & Pam Hodges*

*Douglas Cutler by Tom & Bet Archie*

*Douglas Cutler by the Spivey Family*

*Lois Gore Francisco by Dr. Josh & Carol Tayloe*

*Charlie Griffin by his family*

*Lily & Junius Grimes by Barbara & Sam Grimes*

*Beth & Ed Hodges by Ed & Pam Hodges*

*Mary Jo & John Lawson by Becky & Dick Leach*

*Colin McCauley by Nancy Hamblin*

*Colin McCauley, Jr. by Nancy Hamblin*

*Lalla Hodges Sidbury by Ed & Pam Hodges*

*Barbara Winfield by Dr. Josh & Carol Tayloe*



## Giving to Saint Peter's has never been easier!

\*Automatic Credit/Debit Card Payments

\*Gifts of Securities

\*If you are over 70 1/2, consider directing all or a portion of your RMD from your IRA to the church. Please check with your tax advisor to see if you would benefit from using any of these options.

\*Also, to make pledge payments or to give for any reason, you can do so from our website via the online giving link at [www.saintpetersnc.org](http://www.saintpetersnc.org).

\*Mail your payment to PO Box 985, Washington, NC 27889

If you need assistance with any of these options, email or call Jennifer Spivey at the church office. (946-8151, [jennifer@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:jennifer@saintpetersnc.org))

Our Financial Assistance Committee accepts requests from those in need of assistance with utilities and rent each Monday. Donations to the Financial Assistance Fund support these needs and are always welcome. Checks can be made payable to St. Peter's with "FAP" in the memo line. You can also donate online via the website at [saintpetersnc.org](http://saintpetersnc.org).

\*\*Note: the Financial Assistance Committee has continued to help those in need during this pandemic. The community needs are great, and our committee is still working!



### Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 8am-3pm, Fri 8am-12pm

Note that church office hours vary right now, but you may always leave a message (252-946-8151) and it will be returned as soon as possible.

### Saint Peter's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Jim Horton, Priest  
252-802-0216  
[horton.james64@gmail.com](mailto:horton.james64@gmail.com)

The Reverend Deacon Katherine Mitchell  
617-721-6614  
[katherine@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:katherine@saintpetersnc.org)

The Rev. Fred Clarkson, Priest Spanish Congregation  
252-940-1623  
[fclarkson@diocese-eastcarolina.org](mailto:fclarkson@diocese-eastcarolina.org)

Vincent Holliday	Sexton
Sam Holt	Music Director/Organist
Lex Mann	Treasurer
Catherine Partrick	Parish Secretary
Jennifer Spivey	Parish Administrator
Susie Taylor	Day School Director



### Vestry Organization

Swanson Graves-Senior Warden  
 Richard Andrews-Junior Warden  
 Laura Bliley-Pastoral Care  
 Michael Behar-Stewardship  
 Ken Hadley-Clerk  
 Rachael Miller-Education  
 Carol Nash-Rector Search Liaison  
 Catherine Pfeiffer-Outreach  
 Katherine Tate-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:** Ryley Alderman and family-friends of St. Peter's, Ryan Alligood-family of Heather & Ray Williams, Annie-friend of Katherine Mitchell, David Barillaro-friend of Kathie Kriss, Maria Bonitez-friend of Ann Peters, Charlotte Grace Buckner-granddaughter of Bruce & JJ Jarvah, Matthew Burns-friend of Kathie Kriss, Mavis & Rudy Burns-members, Charles Cantwell-friend of the Marles, Megan Carpenter-granddaughter of Leslie Whitehurst, Shirley Causby-friend of Ann Peters, Patricia Coffie-daughter of Terry Young, Calvin Cooks-friend of Sarah Ninan, Dwayne Davis-nephew of Betty & Bill Cochran, Diane Furlough-member, Camden Green-friend of Janet Bradbury, Sam Grimes-member, Shelby Harris-member, Fred Holscher-member, Maryann Jenkins-friend of Sharon Yakubowski, Jay Marle-member, Kim Moulden-friend of Sharon & Rick Yakubowski, Gayle Nadel-friend of St. Peter's, Joyce Nelson-friend of Delores Darden, Helen Nicholson-sister-in-law of Katherine Mitchell, Zoph Potts-friend of the Archies, Angela Powers-cousin of Ann Peters, Charlotte Reynolds-friend of Jean Sterling, Phil Ryals-friend of Cathy Whichard, Acra Samuels-daughter of Hodges & Marsha Hackney, Amy Sasnett-sister-in-law of Bonita Arvizu, Grover & Carol Sawyer-friends of Leslie Whitehurst, Jennie Singleton-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, Larry Smithwick-friend of Cindy & William Cochran; Raymond Spencer-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, Jennifer Spruill-friend of St. Peter's, David Steenbergen & Family-nephew of Bill & Betty Cochran, Douglas & Myra Steppe-friends of Diane Furlough; Rick Stevens-friend of Roy & Cathy Whichard, Gary Strang-member, Dr. Marshall Taylor-friend of Dr. Josh & Carol Tayloe, Carolyn Thomas-member, Troy Whitehurst & family- son of Leslie Whitehurst, David Woolard-friend of Ed & Pam Hodges.

"You are never more like Jesus than when you pray for others." (Max Lucado) We have a dedicated prayer team at Saint Peters. If you want to be "one that prays for others," please join our team. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or for someone else, you can call Laura Bliley at 252-495-3008 and know that prayer will begin in "real time." All of these requests are confidential and we are on call 24/7.



It works like this:

- a. We receive a prayer request from someone in our church to my number.
- b. A text message is sent to the team with the request.
- c. The team members respond back that they have received the request and that they will be praying.
- d. If the requesting person provides follow-up that they would like to share with the team, I will provide that.

We all know that prayer can have powerful results and to pray for others provides growth in Him.



### End of Year Pledge Payments

Please note the church office will be closed from December 24th through December 28th and again on January 1st. 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 2020 tax purposes, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2020.

### *Sunday, December 27*

*A service link will be sent out via email and posted on the church's webpage and Facebook page.*

*The Church Office will be closed December 24-28 and January 1.*

### *A Prayer for New Rector Search*

*God of patient and gentle strength, who knows our needs before we ask, may your loving presence guide us as we seek the next rector for St Peter's. Give us an open spirit, discerning hearts and clear minds, that we may trust your will for us and become ever more united in your son our Savior, Jesus Christ. Inspire our conversation, deepen our prayer, and make us a community of humility and grace. Raise up for us, we pray, a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion. Amen*



Help us keep in touch with you!

Please make sure and contact the church office if you have moved, changed your phone number or have a new email address.

Send updated information to [jennifer@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:jennifer@saintpetersnc.org) or call 946-8151.



A HUGE thank you goes out to all who organized, helped and contributed to these programs this year! Without you, it would not have been possible.



**Update:** We are presently feeding 7 little students at Eastern Elementary! We are happy to be of service again. Everything is a little different, of course, but our committee is working hard to purchase, stock, bag and deliver nutritious foods to our friends each week, beginning December 3. If you would like to help, please send donations to SPC with "*BPB*" on the memo line. If you'd prefer to buy food yourself, please buy individual portions and arrange a time with us for delivery at church (946-8151). Thank you for your inquiries and your support!!

### Sack Lunch Ministry

If you are interested in providing 15 lunches for Zion Shelter visitors, please sign up on the sheet posted outside Jennifer's office. St. Peter's is responsible for the first Saturday of each month. Lunches are delivered to the shelter on the preceding Friday morning. Easy-to-follow instructions are posted as well. You may also email [communications@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:communications@saintpetersnc.org) to sign up.



Just a quick note to remind everyone that if you receive a suspicious email or text from church clergy or staff asking for donations to purchase gift cards, send money to paypal, etc., please know that it is a scam. If you ever receive questionable communication which appears to be from the church or even fellow parishioners, please call the church office or contact the parishioner directly to verify BEFORE taking any action. 252-946-8151



Thank you for supporting UTO. We collected \$637.45 during our Fall Ingathering.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) has been a ministry of the Episcopal Church for over 125 years. UTO encourages all of us to be aware of the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering.





# January

Jan. 1	Sam Cox, Felix Correa, Maribel Tellez
Jan. 2	Mere Espinoza, Karen Adame, Ulises Correa
Jan. 5	Swanson Graves, Rick Yakubowski
Jan. 6	Taylor Whichard, Juan Adame, Manuela Tavera
Jan. 8	Susan Murrell
Jan. 12	Mike Behar, Sarah Scott Woolard
Jan. 13	Elizabeth Propst
Jan. 14	Lois McLaughlin
Jan. 16	Gray Hodges, Jim Skillen, Daniel Ramirez
Jan. 17	Bill McLaughlin, Carol Mann, Amy Brewer, Mary Emma Holscher
Jan. 18	Stuart Dudley, Jr., Carla Arballo
Jan. 20	Miller Spruill
Jan. 21	Toddy Warren, Mickie Johnston, Caden Blake
Jan. 23	Tom Jardone, Joshua Stiles
Jan. 25	Sam Grimes
Jan. 26	Judy Van Dorp
Jan. 27	Leslie Whitehurst
Jan. 28	Mayhew Cox, Brynn Ward
Jan. 30	Bob Diefendorf, Teimy Tavera, Christopher Eatman
Jan 31	Sam Keel



## THERE IS STILL TIME!!!!

**The Christmas Honor Card Program** has returned to Saint Peter's this holiday season. This program provides an opportunity for Saint Peter's members to donate to one or more designated local, non-profit agencies.

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 support needy agencies in our community.

This year, our local agency options are: **Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center, Ruth's House, St. Peter's Discretionary Fund, and Zion Soup Kitchen & Shelter.**

You may call the church office (946-8151) to place your order. Catherine or Jennifer will be happy to help you. Indicate which agency(ies) and how many of each you would like to support, and arrange a pick-up time (curbside) suitable for you when you bring your payment.

We look forward to your continuing support of this important ministry.

*Our condolences are extended to:*

*The family of Linda Strader, mother of Stacey Lynch*

*The family of Barbara Winfield*

*The family of Lois Francisco, mother of David Francisco*

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



The Zion Shelter & Soup Kitchen needs meat! Packaged, uncooked pork, beef, or chicken are accepted and appreciated. You may take meat products to the shelter Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Someone will be there to accept your delivery. (252) 975-1978, located at 114 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, next to the Agape Clinic.

*Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*