

DECEMBER 2019

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

St. Peter's Church was organized in 1885 and the cornerstone was dedicated September 5th, 1886. This structure still stands on Brown Avenue in Norfolk. The first worship service at our present site was in the parish hall on Christmas Eve, 1959. All existing construction was completed in 1965.

1st	.....	St Nicholas visits. Staff meeting, 11:30am
3rd	.....	Prayer Shawl group, 7pm
9th	.....	Ladies lunch, 12:30 Plaza Azteka
12th	.....	Finance meeting, 7pm
13th	.....	Staff/Vestry Christmas Party, 6:30om
15th	.....	Vestry meeting, 11:30am
16th	.....	Day School Christmas Program, 7:30pm
20th	.....	Day School Christmas Party, 6:30pm
22nd	.....	Children & Youth Christmas Pageant, 10am
24th	.....	Christ Child for Children, 4pm Carol singing and Eucharist, 10:30pm
29th	.....	Lessons & Carols 10AM
31st	.....	New Year's Eve. Cookies & Cocoa 10:30pm Holy Eucharist 11pm

“Celebrating and Proclaiming our Life in Jesus Christ!”

“THE CALL”

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

224 S. Military Highway
Norfolk, VA 23502
Phone: 757-466-9392



DECEMBER 2019

Join us for Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on the 1st Sunday of the month

Happy Birthday

Diane Wicker	1st
Ron Monte	3rd
Michael Kallestad	7th
Todd Eidam	9th
Howard Belote	11th
Megan Whitehorne	12th
Brandy Gibson	12th
Jimmy Eller	12th
Steve Belote	13th
Patsi Walton	13th
Scott Walton	14th
Isabel Nowland	15th
Ella Spruill	18th
Buddy Spruill	22nd
Vel Shreve	23rd
Jessica Fry	23rd
Carole Price	25th
Sebastian Plucinski	26th
Justin Pickurel	28th
Charles Bolding	31st

Happy Anniversary

Charlie & Peggy Pfeifer	12/19/71
Tom & Diane Wicker	12/07/
Al & Millie Coward	12/29/88
Bob & Kathy Vanderslice	12/30/92

ST.PETER'S CHURCH STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Jay Magness
Rector	The Rev. John M. Eidam
Secretary	Vel Shreve
Organist	Elizabeth Miller
Treasurer	Carolyn King
Sexton	Kevin Bates

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden:	Bonnie Rennick	('19)	
Jr. Warden:	Charlie Pfeifer	('20)	
Kimberly Truxell	('19)	Robert Olliges	('20)
Rob Truxell	('19)	Linsey Shreve	('20)
Jim Jimeno	('19)	Howard Belote	('21)
		Susan Sigler	('21)

ALTAR FLOWERS If you would like to give altar flowers any Sunday through the year, sign the flower chart in the vestibule, beside the Sunday you wish to give.

The flowers are \$60, or \$30 when two people give on the same Sunday.



A REMINDER... St. Peter's Youth Group is collecting spare change to help support the homeless in Norfolk. Please use the jar on the information table in the parish hall to make your donations.

The Youth thank you for being so faithful and generous in your giving.



The deadline for articles for the January issue of The Call is:
December 15th
Send articles to :
vel@stpeters-norfolk.org
or call the church office at 466-9392

GOD BLESS OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” (Ephesians 6:10-11)

Joey
David
Kyle
Christopher
Jared
Chloe

Bucky
Bob
Mike
Jennifer
Courtney
Michael

Jarod
Mario
Allan
Frank
Jonathan
Aaron



SUPPORT OUR VETERANS The Veteran’s Administration in Hampton is accepting the following items for the veterans: **Toiletries, clothing, candy, games, etc.** Please bring your donations to church and Bill Weissner will deliver them to the hospital. **Toiletries are needed the most.** Donated items may be placed in the container in the parish hall. Thank you!



All types of clothing is needed at the Veteran's Hospital

Please donate your gently used clothing to the **VET's**. Bring them to church and place in the container provided in the parish hall. Thank you!

Due to a family emergency, “Blankets for the Homeless” will not be collecting items until further notice.

Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts off the Angel Tree will be accepted as usual.

Thank you all for your support with this ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED If you enjoy caring for children and have the desire to help them grow in their faith, please contact John or Linsey. No previous experience is necessary, just a love for children! Call Linsey Shreve 581-1123 or the church office 466-9392 for more information.

Please keep these people in your prayers

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study– Tuesday mornings at 7:30AM. The men are studying the Book of Psalms. Bring your Bible and bring a friend!

The Intercessory Prayer Group Meet Sunday mornings at 9AM in the Diffenbaugh Library. If you are unable to attend any Sunday, you may request the group pray for you or your loved one by writing on a prayer card and placing it in the Prayer Box on the table in the parish hall or in the Narthex. All prayers are kept confidential within the group.

Men's & Women's Cursillo Group meet at 6:15pm in the Diffenbaugh Library.

Cursillo Grouping for Women the group will not meet in November or December but will resume in January 2020. They meet at the Whitehorne's home every Monday at 1pm.

Co-ed Bible Study Group meet Wednesdays in the Diffenbaugh Library at 7PM. They are studying both the Old and New Testaments. They are currently studying 1 Peter. Bring your Bibles and bring a friend!

June Faye	Joan	Charlie
BJ	Hazel	June
Lois	Sebastian	Jacob
Tom & Family	Rick	Wayne
Xander & Family	John	Audrey
Johnny & Nancy	Debra	Vickie
Debbie & Kenny	Christine	Karen
Donald & Teresa	Niko	Bob
The Benn Family	Cheryl	Teresa
Al & Millie	Jessica	Rachel
Clay & Wanda	Daniel	Faye
Maurice & Joyce	Bonnie	Ruth
Bert & Ann	Clay	Corey
The Preston Family	Leslie	Patsi
The Long Family	Josephine	Dawn
Florence & Howard	Penny	Ella
Chris & Family	Fidelma	Joy
Nancy & David	Tommy	Kathie
Karen & David	Kerry	Matt
The Kuppireddy Family	Peggy E.	Jess
Stacey, Connie & Charlie	Henry	Billy

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Our Day School is still collecting Box Tops for Education until they expire. . You will be able to use your cell phone now when collecting box tops by using the app on your phone. Thank you for your continued support.



THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The Prayer Shawl Group meet on the first Tuesday of the month. They meet next on

December 3, at 7PM in the Diffenbaugh Library. The ladies make prayer shawls, that are given to our sick and shut in members. Hats and scarves for the homeless, baby hats, sweaters, scarves and hats for World Vision. For more information contact Millie Coward at 455-5887.

If you have any yarn at home that you don't need please consider donating it to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Thank you!

Thank you!

OCTOBER LADIES LUNCH

This month, the group will meet for lunch Monday, December 9th, at 12:30PM. They meet at "Plaza Azteca" on Providence Road in Virginia Beach.

Please sign the list in the parish hall if you plan on attending or call Millie Coward at 455-5887.



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9am Intercessory Prayer 10am Holy Eucharist Rite II Children's Chapel/Christian Ed. St. Nicholas visits 11:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Pageant practice	2	3 7:30AM Men's Bible Study 7PM Prayer Shawl 8PM AA meeting	4 Cursillo Grouping 6:15pm Co-Ed Bible Study 7PM	5	6	7 Parish Hall rented
8 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9am Intercessory Prayer 10am Holy Eucharist Rite II Children's Chapel/Christian Ed. 11:30am Pageant practice	9 Ladies Lunch 12:30pm Plaza Azteca, Providence Rd in Va Beach	10 7:30AM Men's Bible Study 8PM AA meeting	11 Cursillo Grouping 6:15pm Co-Ed Bible Study 7PM	12 Finance Committee meeting 7PM	13 Staff/Vestry Christmas Party 6:30PM	14 Parish Hall rented
15 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9am Intercessory Prayer 10am Holy Eucharist Rite II Children's Chapel/Christian Ed. 11:30am Vestry meeting 11:30am Pageant practice	16 Day School Christmas Program 7:30pm	17 7:30AM Men's Bible Study 8PM AA meeting	18 Cursillo Grouping 6:15pm Co-Ed Bible Study 7PM	19	20 Day School Christmas Party 6:30PM	21 Parish Hall rented
22 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9am Intercessory Prayer 10am Holy Eucharist Rite II Children's Chapel/Christian Ed. 10AM Christmas Pageant	23	24 4pm Christ Child for Children 10:30pm Christmas Eucharist	25	26	27	28
29 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9am Intercessory Prayer 10am Lessons & Carols Children's Chapel/Christian Ed. 11:30am School Board meet	30	31 New Year's Eve 10:30pm Cookies & Cocoa 11pm Holy Eucharist Rite II				

ASSIGNMENTS

Dec 1 —21st Sunday of Advent

Acolytes	Gabi McGinty, Olivia McGinty
Ushers	Coach Sigler, Jim Jimeno
Lector at 8AM	Tony Antonik
LEM at 8AM	Maurice Caldwell
Lector at 10AM	Janet Chauncey
LEMS at 10AM	Jason Nowland, Debbie Whitehorne
Altar Guild Duty	Millie Coward, Vel Shreve
Nursery Attendants	Wendy Glaeser, Yvonne Authement

Dec. 8—2nd Sunday of Advent

Acolytes	Nancy Comfort, Bruce Comfort
Ushers	Steve Kakol, Susan Sigler
Lector at 8AM	Vivien Valentine
LEM at 8AM	Charlie Pfeifer
Lector at 10AM	Larry Shreve
LEMS at 10AM	Kimberly Truxell, James Benn
Altar Guild Duty	Bobbi Bowery, Vel Shreve
Nursery Attendants	Karen Kakol, Yvonne Authement

Dec. 15—3rd Sunday of Advent

Acolytes	Bronwyn Shreve, Corrie King
Ushers	Coach Sigler, Larry Shreve
Lector at 8AM	Drew Midgette
LEM at 8AM	James Benn
Lector at 10AM	Tony Forstall
LEMS at 10AM	Nancy Comfort, Bruce Comfort
Altar Guild Duty	Nancy Comfort, Jessica Trochanowski
Nursery Attendants	Amanda Keller, Yvonne Authement

Dec. 22 —4th Sunday of Advent

Acolytes	Judy Eller, Nancy Comfort
Ushers	Sean McGinty, Vicky Martin
Lector at 8AM	Tony Antonik
LEM at 8AM	Maurice Caldwell
Lector at 10AM	Judy Eller
LEMS at 10AM	Bonnie Rennick, Charlie Pfeifer
Altar Guild Duty	Bonnie Rennick, Judy Eller
Nursery Attendants	Debbie Whitehorne, Wendy Glaeser

Dec. 24 —Christmas Eve

Acolytes	Christine Truxell, Kimberly Truxell
Ushers	Jim Jimeno, Coach Sigler, Susan Sigler, Larry Shreve
Lector	Kimberly Truxell
LEMS	Bruce Comfort, Nancy Comfort
Altar Duty	Millie Coward, Dot Pierce, Bobbi Bowery, Vel Shreve

ASSIGNMENTS continued

Dec. 29 –Lessons & Carols

Acolytes

Olivia McGinty, Gabi McGinty

Ushers

Larry Shreve, Steve Kakol

Lectors

Assigned

Altar Guild Duty

Jessica Trochanowski, Vel Shreve

Nursery Attendants

Yvonne Authement, Amanda Keller



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Please place your spare change in the jar on the table in the parish hall. All donations are used to help the homeless in Norfolk. Thank you!

Our Youth Group attendance has increased, but there is always room for more!

Please encourage your children/grandchildren or neighborhood kids to come to church and join our Youth Group! We have a great time!

We thank everyone in church for supporting us and for their generosity with donations. Thank you all!

St. Peter's Children's Ministry

December 2019



Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve

By Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.
"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.
I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.
I will visit each household before the first light,
I'll cover the world and all in one night.
With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.
To get in the house is the difficult part,
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.
My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.
I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.
I can do all these things Lord, only through You,
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.
All this is to honor the birth of the One,
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.
So to all of my friends, least Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job."

Don't forget!

**Christmas Pageant Practice
following church each Sunday in
December**

Important Dates

- ❖ Dec 1st - Advent 1: Matthew 24: 36-44; *The Day and Hour Unknown*
St. Nicholas Visits the Children
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!
- ❖ Dec 8th - Advent 2: Matthew 3: 1-12; *John the Baptist Prepares the Way*
- ❖ Dec 15th - Advent 3: Matthew 11: 2-11; *Jesus and John the Baptist*
- ❖ Dec 22nd - Advent 4: Matthew 1: 18-25; *Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son*

****How the Grinch Found the Christ in Christmas****
Christmas Play at 10:00 service
- ❖ Dec 29th - Christmas 1: John 1: 1-18; *The Word Became Flesh*

Happy Birthday!

Isabel Nowland (December 15th)



St. Peter's Children's Ministry

December 2019



FROM THE RECTOR

Vestry Highlights: At their November 17th meeting, the Vestry:

* Approved the October Financial Report which included-

In October, our income was \$3,350 more than budgeted.

In October, our expenses were \$1,804 less than budgeted.

Thus far, for 2019, we are \$19,212 under budget

+ The Staff and Vestry Retreat is scheduled for Feb. 7-8, 2020 at Chanco.
The Rev. Roy Hoffman (Diocesan Staff) will attend the retreat to review Diocesan policies pertaining to a Rector search process.

- + Approved increasing diocesan pledge from \$5,000 to \$7,200 for 2020
- + A discussion about Building Rental fees was tabled.
- + More help is needed for clean up on Sunday mornings
- + Staff and Vestry Christmas Party will be held on Dec.13th (John's+ Home)
- + The 2020 Vestry Meeting Schedule was distributed
- + Four nominations have been received thus far for the 2020 Vestry Election

Rector's Prayer List- Please join me in praying for:

- + Our Interim Bishop, The Rt. Rev Jay Magness
- + Our new Bishop-elect, The Rev. Susan Haynes
- + Our Presiding Bishop, *The Most Rev. Michael Curry*
- + More registrations for our Day School- especially kindergarten.
- + A good start to our 2020 Stewardship Campaign.
- + Our Angel Tree Recipients.
- + Our Youth Christmas Stocking Project- lots of stocking stuffers donated.
- + Well attended services during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.
- + Those delivering monologues on the 4 Sundays in Advent.
- + The people and clergy of our neighborhood churches.
- + Our friends at St. James Holiness Church.
- + The leaders of our nation, our state, and our local governments.

Answered Prayers- Please join me in giving thanks to God for:

- + My incredibly talented *Church Staff!*
- + The ministries of our church members and their leaders.
- + Those good deeds "*known and unknown*" to us and done by our church members.
- + Those who have made commitments of time, talent, and treasure to our church.
- + To Almighty God, for all the ways He has blessed our church family.

RECTOR'S LETTER

Emmanuel- God Is With Us!

You have no doubt seen by now the brochure describing the many worship and ministry opportunities available to you for the Season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. There is something for everyone-regardless of age, gender, or life experience. I hope you have taken the time to read the brochure carefully and have prayerfully decided to participate in a number of these events. It's so easy to get wrapped up (excuse the pun) in secular Christmas activities and chores and neglect the spiritual side of Christmas. But remember- Jesus is the **"Reason for the Season!"** And besides, the Church still calls it **"Christmas"**, not the **"Winter Holiday."**

The prologue to the Gospel of John contains these words- **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."**(John 1:1, 14) These are, I believe, two of the most powerful sentences in Scripture. They take us both back to the beginning and far into the future.

We are all familiar with the Christmas stories from Matthew's and Luke's Gospels. We know the characters well- there is Mary and Joseph, the angels and the shepherds, and the star and the magi. These are some of the best known and most beloved stories in the Bible. And as beautiful as they are, and as loved as they are, they are still no match for the power of John's prologue because John explains the meaning of all that happened in the other Gospels.

Our God is not One who is remote and far away in some distant realm. He is near (more than that) He is **Emmanuel- He is with us**. God coming to us in the flesh (Jesus) strengthens us and comforts us. By becoming a human being, God knows our every weakness, our every failing, our every grief, as well as our every joy, our every happiness, and our every contentment.

Whatever your situation in life, whether crisis or thanksgiving, God knows what you are going through. Jesus Christ, though fully Divine, was also fully human as any of us and experienced the whole rich range of human emotion. The Good News of Christmas is that no matter what lies ahead for us in the coming year or coming years, **God is with us-** through Jesus Christ. **"The Word has become flesh and dwells among us...."** Thanks be to God!

Peace and love,

John+