

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CONTENTS	PAGE
Fr. Jim's Corner	1
Staff/Vestry Greeting	4
New Altar Hangings	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries	6
Ministry Announcements	7
Special Events	8
Calendar	11
Ministry Assignments	12
Vestry Minutes	13
Prayer Requests	14



Jim's Corner

Advent and Christmas are the first two seasons in the Church calendar. How they were given these positions is a subject for another *Call* article. What I want to share with you this time is information about them so we can better understand their importance in the life of the Church.

period of six Sundays, and that the structure of Advent, with regard to its length, was modelled on Lent.... [Thus, the more sober, reflective tone of Advent.] In Spain, north-east Italy and south Italy, the season was shortened to five weeks. At Rome the logic of the invention of Advent had not been completely accepted. Eventually at Rome, Advent was reduced from five to four Sundays. As the Roman rite gradually triumphed over the native uses of the West, the four-Sunday Advent became the norm.

The word "Advent" is derived from a Latin root which means "coming" or "arrival," and the season was developed in the Western church as a preparation for the festival of the nativity, the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Councils held in Gaul [modern day France] in the sixth century refer to a penitential period of six weeks before Christmas. There was fasting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. But the season was already known to Gregory of Tours (c. 540-94) in the latter part of the century. It may be affirmed that fifth-century Gaul was the place of origin of the fully-organized

Advent has come to mark preparation for the coming of Christ in a double manner, first in his incarnation as the babe of Bethlehem, which is obvious, and in his second coming at the end of time, which is perhaps less so. Also involved is commemoration of the ministry of John the Baptist as Christ's forerunner and, for Anglicans and other followers of the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer, the place of Scripture in worship and life, because of the prayer book collect for the second Sunday of

ST. PETER'S CHURCH STAFF

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

Interim Rector:

The Rev. Dr. James W. Hunter

Secretary:

Laura Kallestad

Organist:

Elizabeth Miller

Treasurer:

Charlie Pfeifer

Jim's Corner, cont. from page 1

Advent: "Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets [including John the Baptist] to preach repentance...."²

The date of Christmas has a most interesting derivation. In Egypt in 1996 BC the calendar recorded the winter solstice as being on 6 January, but by the time Alexandria was founded in 331 BC the inaccuracy of the calendar meant that the solstice was on 25 December. The dates of the Christian festivals of Christmas and Epiphany are both linked with the winter solstice and were used by the Christians to evangelize the pagan culture of the time. It is at Rome in the early fourth century that we find firm evidence of the celebration of Christmas. In the year 274, the emperor Aurelian introduced in the imperial capital the festival of the Invincible Sun on 25 December. At some point before 336 the church must have established on this date the commemoration of the incarnation, the birth of the Son of Righteousness, [or the festival of the Invincible *Son*]. It was a common means of evangelization by the Church to use pagan dates and worship centers and Christianize them.

The evidence for this is contained in a martyrology written by Philocalus in 354 giving two lists of anniversaries, the one detailing the burial days of Roman bishops and the other those of martyrs. He based this work on and added to a list whose latest date was 335. Both lists are set out in the order of the months, and it is highly significant that the opening date in the first is 27 December, and

in the second 25 December, where the entry makes reference to the nativity. From this it is possible to conclude that by 336 Christmas was in existence in Rome and was the beginning of the liturgical year. Some scholars have argued that the identification of 25 December as the date of the birth of Christ predates this winter festival of the sun, and originates in circumstances unlikely to be influenced by it. It can be noted that both Hippolytus (c. 170 – c. 236) and Tertullian (c. 160 – c. 225) identify the date of the crucifixion as 25 March; if one adopts that as the date of the conception of Jesus as well, 25 December becomes the date of his birth. Be that as it may, there seems no doubt that the Christianization of the pagan festival of the sun gave the celebration of Christmas on that date an enormous boost even if it was not the original reason for it; the existence of an earlier tradition of celebrating the birth of Christ on this date would have made the transition [to use 25 December as Jesus' birth date] even easier.

By tradition, the Christmas season is regarded as consisting of twelve days, and ends with the Epiphany. The liturgies of this period are woven around the infancy narratives from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, together with all those passages that were seen to anticipate the incarnation in the Old Testament and expound its significance in the New. It remains the most widely observed of all Christian feasts, perhaps because this festival combines human need for a party to enliven the gloom of midwinter, the natural human response to child-birth, and the message of 'Immanuel' – 'God with us.' It was a stroke of sheer pastoral genius to Christianize the pagan mid-winter festival in this way. The

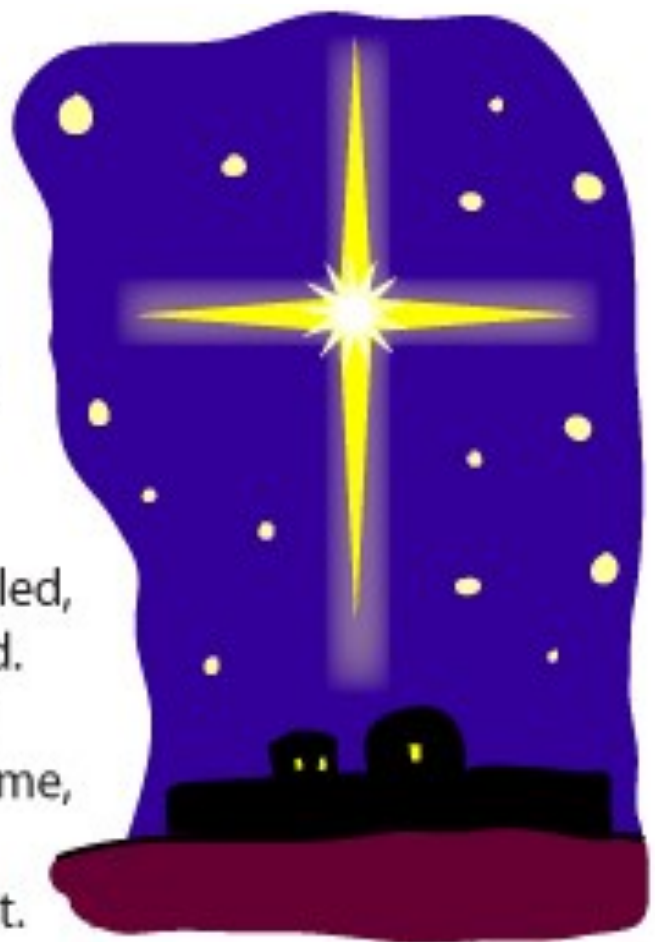
Jim's Corner cont. from page 2

midnight eucharist of Christmas is probably the most commonly attended of all liturgical observances. Too many folks get “wrapped around the axle” over the date of Christmas. Remember, historians in Jesus’ time were not concerned with the chronological progression of historical events as we are today. Their purpose was theological; to tell the importance of Jesus’ birth in relation to God’s plans for humanity. The important thing is that Jesus was really born, lived amongst us, died for us, and was raised to give us salvation from sin and eternal death. Stay focused on Jesus and enjoy the seasons.

¹R. F. Buxton, “Advent,” *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*, Edited by J. G. Davies (Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1986), 1-2.

²*The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979 (New York, NY: Church Publishing Incorporated, 1979), 211.

On a night, so long ago,
Bethlehem began to glow.
Our hope to break free from sin,
was born beside a shabby inn.
Darkness feared this tiny child,
with rage it drove the Devil wild!
He would kill this little one,
and not rest 'til he was done.
Thirty-three years he tried and failed,
'til on a cross, this child was nailed.
Satan thought he won the game,
but things would never be the same,
for that child became our light,
like on that dark, Bethlehem night.



Jesus
IS THE
REASON
FOR THE
Season

 Merry 
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
From your Staff and Vestry

Tr. Jim
Bruce Coffey
Charlie Papp
Charlotte Cook
Elizabeth Miller
Peggy Giege
Laural Hall
Debra Whitehorn
Kimberly Luvall
Barry L

Beautiful blue altar and lectern coverings for
Advent!



Sincere thanks to the families of Coach Sigler and Joe and June Faye Sanderlin for this most generous and thoughtful memorial gift.

DECEMBER

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings are performed on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Happy Anniversary!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Charlie & Peggy Pfeifer	12/19/71
Bob & Kathy Vanderslice	12/30/92

Diane Wicker	1 st
Ron Monte	3 rd
Michael Kallestad	7 th
Todd Eidam	9 th
Howard Belote	11 th
Patsi Walton	12 th
Scott Walton	14 th
Isabel Nowland	15 th
Vel Shreve	23 rd
Jessica Fry	23 rd
Sebastian Plucinski	26 th
Justin Pickurel	28 th
Charles Bolding	31 st



The deadline for articles for the January issue of 'The Call' is December 14th.

**Send articles to :
laura@stpeters-norfolk.org
or call the church office
757-466-9392.**

The 2022 Flower Chart is located in the vestibule as you enter the parish hall. If you would like to donate flowers to the church any Sunday through the year, in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving, sign the flower chart beside the Sunday you wish to give. The flowers are \$72 or \$36 if two people give on the same day.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



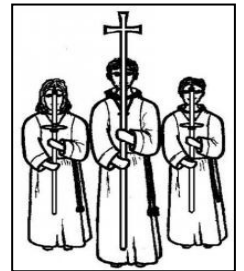
The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the first Tuesday of every month. We meet in the Diffenbaugh Library. Our next meeting is December 5th at 7:00 P.M. We are very busy knitting crocheting, and looming adult and baby hats, scarves, baby blankets, chemo caps, wash cloths, soap sacs and prayer shawls. We would love for you to join us. If you can not attend, please call or email Millie Coward for more specifics about what we are making and maybe you can help us by working at home. Millie Coward: (757)469-5887/m.jlc@verizon.net.

Christmas is coming! Need a gift? It's on Sale! We have a few beautiful white shawls that may be used for a baby blanket or lap cover, They are now \$30 each **for a limited time.** All proceeds go back to the Prayer Shawl Ministry to help cover the cost of yarn. If you are interested, please contact Millie Coward at (757)469-5887 or m.jlc@verizon.net.



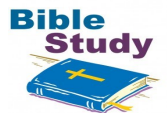
The Altar Guild is looking for new members. Any man or woman that is confirmed in the Episcopal Church is welcome to join the Altar Guild. We prepare the altar for celebrations of worship such as weddings, baptisms, and typical Sunday services. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Millie Coward at (757)469-5887 or m.jlc@verizon.net.

The Acolyte Ministry St. Peter's Acolytes' purpose is rooted in our love of God, our faithfulness is seen in our willingness to serve responsibly, and our loyalty is demonstrated in how carefully we carry out our duties. Love, faithfulness, and loyalty are the virtues we seek to perfect. We invite others to join us as we serve to the Glory of God.



St. Peter's Children's Ministry/Nursery will be closed January and most of February for the staff to take a hiatus and regroup for the season of Lent. Sunday School and the Nursery will reopen February 26th—the first Sunday in Lent. Please feel free to use the nursery equipment for diaper changing, feeding or resting.

Bible Study meeting is on Thursdays at 10:30A.M., in the Diffenbaugh Library. All are welcome! Bring a Bible and don't forget to bring a friend.



The ladies of St. Peter's meet on the second Monday of each month for lunch and fellowship. On December 12th, we will meet at 12:30 P.M. at the Macaroni Grill, 4574 Va. Beach Blvd near Pembroke Mall. If you plan to attend, please sign the list on the bulletin board in the parish hall. For more information please call Millie Coward (757)469-5887 or email: m.jlc@verizon.net.



Acts of Kindness Will Host A:

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Where: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
When: Saturday, January 28, 2023
5:00-7:00 PM

*Come and sit awhile at your table with family and friends,
enjoy an "Italian" atmosphere and meal for the evening!*

Adults \$8.00 each
Children's Plate 7-12 \$3.50 each
Children under 6 free

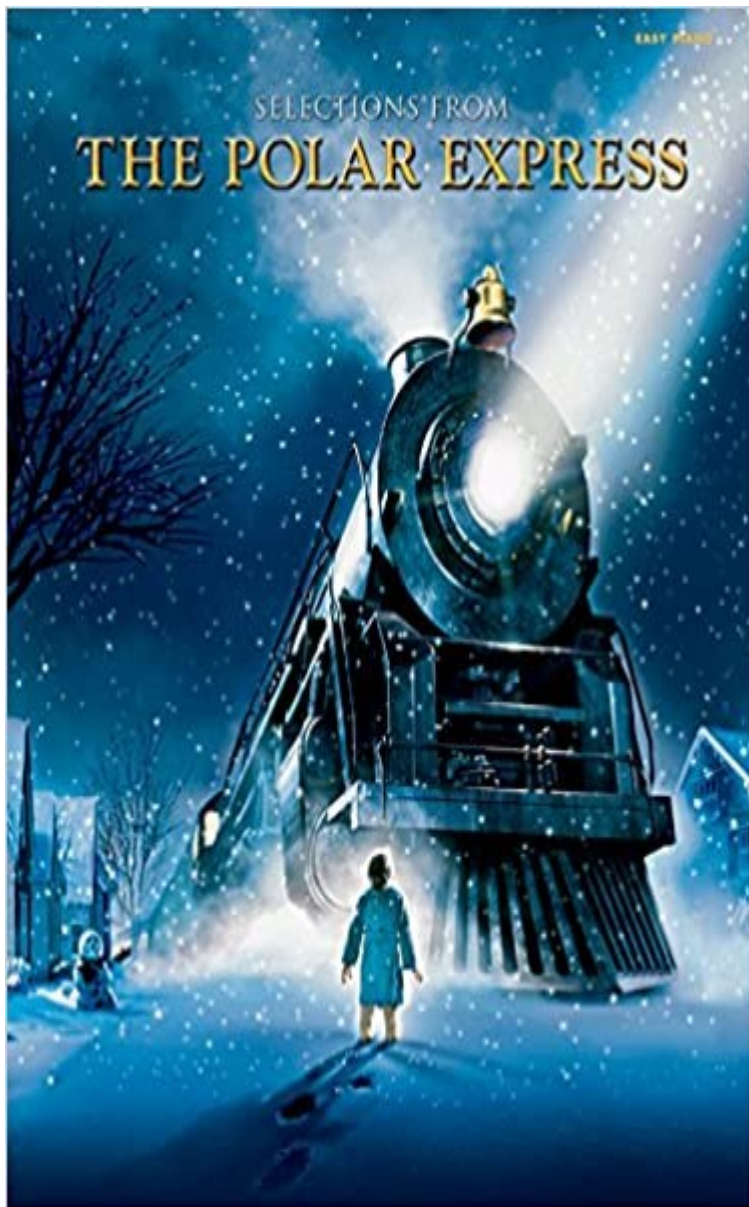


Menu: Spaghetti and Sauce,
Salad, Bread, Dessert, &
Beverages

Tickets sold in January 2023 after each service

Family Night at St. Peter's!

December 2, 2022



Hot Chocolate with marshmallows, cookies, cozy pajamas, a fun craft, a good book and a visit from Santa! Sounds like a wonderful start to the countdown to Christmas.

All this can be found at St. Peter's at 7:00 P.M. December 2nd when we host:

Polar Express Family Night!

The Day School and the Church will combine to have a wonderful, family oriented night together. The Day School is such an integral part of our church, but we never seem to come together and have some fun. *That is changing.* We need your support and company to make this a success. Other activities are being planned to help bring us together. Please join us and help support our Day School.

Children's tickets are \$5.00/per child, parents attend for free! Please see Laura for tickets.



POLAR EXPRESS FAMILY NIGHT

Hot Chocolate · Polar Express Story Time ·
Visit from Santa · Cookies · Craft

Where: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
224 S. Military Hwy
Norfolk, VA. 23502

When: December 2, 2022, 7pm – 8pm

Cost: Tickets are \$5 per child

Register quickly for this fun family night, space is limited:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Child(ren)s Names (age): _____

Special needs or accommodations: _____

Paid: _____ *Staff Signature:* _____

\$5.00 per child in advance to help cover cost of supplies

DECEMBER 2022

St. Peter's Episcopal Church &
Day School
224 S. Military Hwy
Norfolk, VA 23502
Office: (757) 466-9392
Fax: (757) 466-9414



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	2	3
4 8:00 A.M. - Rite I 10:00 A.M.-Rite II	5	6 Prayer Shawl Meeting—7:00 P.M. 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Day</i>	8 Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	9	10
11 8:00 A.M. - Rite I 10:00 A.M.-Rite II	12 Day School Christmas Program 7:30 P.M.	13 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	14 Finance and Ves- try Meeting 6:30/7:00 P.M.	15 Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	16 Day School Final Day In 2022	17
18 8:00 A.M. - Rite I 10:00 A.M.-Rite II Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends	19 Day School Board Meeting—7:00 P.M.	20 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	21	22 Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	23	24 Christmas Eve 10:30 P.M. Rite II
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 A.M.-Rite I	26 Happy Kwanzaa	27 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	28	29 Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	30	31

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

Dec. 4— 2nd Sunday of Advent

Acolyte: Magdalena Kress

Ushers: Vicky Martin, Larry Shreve

Lector: Larry Shreve

LEM: Charlie Pfeifer

Altar Guild Duty: Jessica Trochanowski, Nancy Comfort



Dec. 11—3rd Sunday of Advent

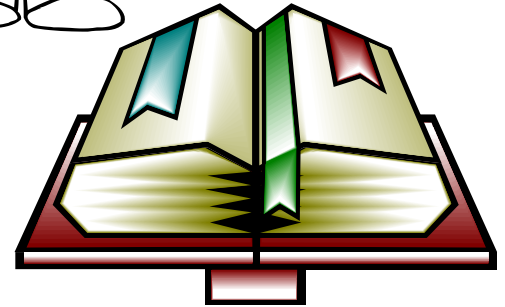
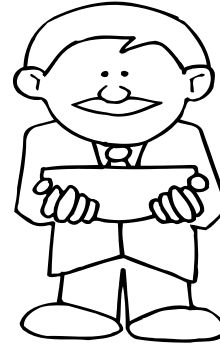
Acolytes: Carys Shreve, Nancy Comfort

Ushers: Jim Jimeno, Susan Sigler

Lector: Janet Chauncy

LEM: Judy Eller

Altar Guild Duty: Charlotte Corbett, Judy Eller



Dec. 18—4th Sunday of Advent

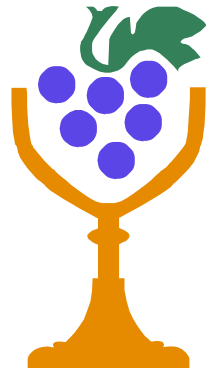
Acolyte: Bronwyn Shreve

Ushers: Larry Shreve Vicky Martin

Lector: Jeffrey Pfeifer

LEM: Kimberly Truxell

Altar Guild Duty: Dot Pierce, Vel Shreve



Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

Acolytes: C. Pfeifer, J. Eller, B. Shreve

Ushers: Steve Kakol, Larry Shreve

Lector: Bruce Comfort

LEMS: Nancy Comfort, Charlie Pfeifer

Altar Guild Duty: Dot Pierce, Vel Shreve, Ashley Pierce

Dec. 25—Christmas Day

Acolyte: Nancy Comfort

Ushers: Susan Sigler, Jim Jimeno

Lector: Bruce Comfort

LEM: Nancy Comfort

Altar Guild Duty: Millie Coward



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2022

The St. Peter's Vestry met in the Diffenbaugh Library on October 10, 2022. Attending the meeting were Father Jim, Kimberly Truxell, Susan Sigler, Debbie Whitehorne, Charlotte Corbett, and Bruce Comfort.

VESTRY MEETING OPENING: The Vestry Meeting was opened with the beginning of the service of Evening Prayer lead by Kimberly Truxell.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES: The September minutes were reviewed by the Vestry. Bruce Comfort made the motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Debbie Whitehorne. The minutes were approved.

FINANCE REPORT:

Operating Account:	\$25,882
Money Market Account	\$50,057.22
Composite Fund	\$65,767.11
Total Net Assets	\$145,116.45

Financial report reviewed with the vestry by Kimberly Truxell, motion to accept made by Bruce Comfort and seconded by Charlotte Corbett.

RECTOR'S REPORT: Father Jim made one visit for Holy Communion and two visits to the hospital.

SENIOR WARDEN: Father Jim's position as our interim rector has been approved by the diocese. Copies of the Agreement Papers given to Father Jim by the diocese were passed to the vestry and reviewed. Discussion followed concerning the need for the church to have a set of bylaws.

JUNIOR WARDEN: Storm water report was sent to Junior Warden from the City of Norfolk. There will be no charge for inspection concerning drainage issues. A new sidewalk sign has been made for the church to be placed at the elevation of the walk to the sanctuary. A yellow visible strip will be painted on the walk. The idea to install motion lights to illuminate the walks was discussed. A motion to install same was made by Charlotte Corbett, seconded by Debbie Whitehorne and passed. Bruce Comfort will head the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

A church security training is to be held at Galilee Church, November 7, 2022, "People and Guns," Father Jim and Debbie will go. Debbie will arrange signup.

We will communicate with Shelly Ann in Trinidad concerning specific needs of her church and how we could be of help; maybe a Lenten offering or diocese help. Charlie will be asked for his opinion on options.

The pledge campaign is at hand: how to encourage, Stewardship Sunday, testimonies. Bruce stated he and Nancy would speak. Laura will be asked for copy of previously-used letter.

The Call is to be online, with a hard copy on the parish hall bulletin board. Bob Vanderslice will be asked to adjust it so we can get it on e-mail. He will also be asked to activate our webpage, if possible. This was not put to a vote.

OLD BUSINESS: The day school AC unit is estimated to be installed November 7. Questions concerning the use of a crane have been raised.

The playground should be installed this month (October).

There being no further business, the Vestry Meeting was closed with the prayers portion of the Evening Prayers.

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)

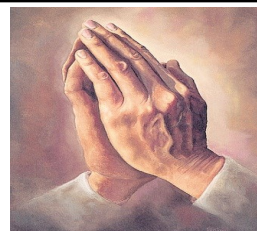
Joe - Michael - David - Mario - Kyle - Frank - Courtney - Hannah - Chris - Allan - Chloe



The Veterans are always in need of:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, new unopened packs of socks (men’s & women’s), new clothing (no used clothing at this time), tissues & handkerchiefs. No candy, food, or drinks right now.

Please bring your donations to church and place in the box provided in the parish hall. Thank you all for your continued support!



Please keep these people in your prayers

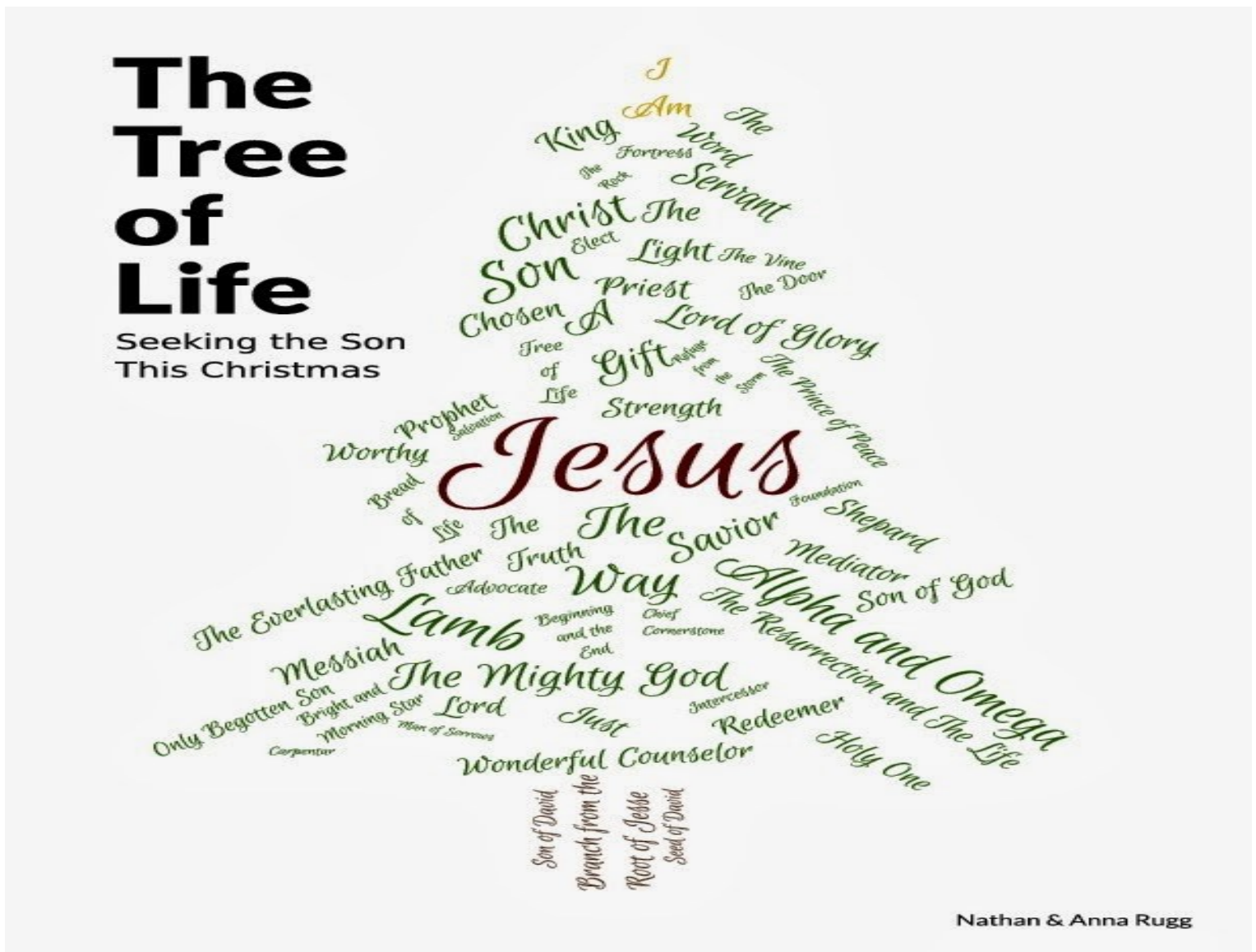
Joan	Charlie	Eddie
BJ	Niko	Lois
Sebastian	Jessica	Patsi
Wayne	Becky	Kathy
Bill	Laura	Johnny & Nancy
John	Kathie	Debbie & Kenny
Lisa	Brian H.	Clay & Wanda
Bob	Bert & Ann	Daniel
Dolores	Mary	Dylan
Eastin	Teresa	Robyn
Megan	Jonathan	Diane
Sarah	Myles & Family	Howard
Hannah	Evie Hill	Charles
Nancy	Gary	Charlotte
Elma	Jim & Nancy D.	Luanne
Perry & Mary	Charlie & Leslie	Toby & Debbie

VESTRY MEMBERS

Kimberly Truxell, Sr. Warden - ('23)
Debbie Whitehorne, Jr. Warden— ('24)

Susan Sigler ('22) Bruce Comfort ('22)
Charlotte Corbett ('22)
Register—Peggy Pfeifer

Holy Father, the navigator of our souls, hear us as we hold up before you our annual Vestry. Be with us as we chart a course together, inspired by the presence of your Spirit. Give courage to our clergy, our leaders and each of us, as we move forward with your blessing. For all we do, we do to your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen



“Celebrating and Proclaiming our Life in Jesus Christ!”

“THE CALL” - December, 2022

St. Peter's Episcopal Church &
Day School
224 S. Military Hwy
Norfolk, VA 23502

DECEMBER 2022

**St. Peter's Episcopal
Church &
Day School**
224 S. Military Hwy
Norfolk, VA 23502
Office: (757) 466-9392
Fax: (757) 466-9414

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.

