

DECEMBER

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From the Sr. Warden

Christmas—a Season to Love, Serve, and Forgive One Another
By Cristina B. Franco
Second Counselor in the Primary General Presidency

I love seeing children's excitement and anticipation throughout the Christmas season! I remember my own anticipation as a Primary child growing up in Argentina. One year, our Primary teachers asked us to clean our old toys, wash our dolls' hair, and repair their dresses so we could donate them to little boys and girls who had to spend Christmas day in the hospital. During the week as I was cleaning my old dolls, my mom asked me what I was doing with them. I explained what our Primary teachers had asked us to do, and she replied, "You should also give one of your nice toys to the children." To that I responded, "Why would I do that?" Then she said something that has remained with me all these years. She said, "Cris, it is really good to give something that we truly like, something that's hard to give because we are fond of it, something that would be a sacrifice. That is what our

Heavenly Father's gift for us was. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ—not just any son. He sent His Beloved and perfect Son so we can go back to live with Him once again." That year, as I gave one of my favorite toys, I understood a little better our Heavenly Father's gift to us—His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who lovingly and selflessly gave His life for us. Every year, as part of our Christmas celebration, my dad would read out of the scriptures the beautiful account of Luke: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ... "And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; ...

Presiding Bishop:

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe

Diocesan Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

ST. PETER'S CHURCH STAFF

Parish Administrator:

Laura Kallestad

Organist:

Elizabeth Miller

Treasurer:

Charlie Pfeifer

“To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Brothers and sisters, how can we today enjoy this same peace and good will toward men?

As I have pondered this question for the last several weeks, having in mind that Christmas is the season to give, three actions—actually three gifts we can each give—came to mind. We, of course, give these gifts throughout the year, but at the wonderful season of Christmas, we remember the Father’s gift of His Son and consider how we might follow Their example as we increase in our individual ability and desire to give.

1. Christmas is the season to give love.

Our Father in Heaven and our Savior, Jesus Christ, are the greatest example of love. A beloved scripture teaches, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Our Savior taught us by example to love everyone. He also taught us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Elder John A. Widtsoe explained:

“The full and essential nature of love we may not understand, but there are tests by which it may be recognized.

“Love is always founded in truth. ... Lies and deceit, or any other violation of the moral law, are proofs of love’s absence. Love perishes in the midst of untruth. ... Thus, ... [he] who falsifies to his loved one, or offers her any act contrary to truth, does not really love her.

“Further, love does not offend or hurt or injure the loved one. ... Cruelty is as absent from love ... as truth is from untruth. ...

“Love is a positive active force. It helps the loved one. If there is need, love tries to supply it. If there is weakness, love supplants it with strength. ... Love that does not help is a faked or transient love.

“Good as these tests are, there is a greater one. True love sacrifices for the loved one. ... That is the final test. Christ gave of Himself, gave His life, for us, and thereby proclaimed the reality of his love for his mortal brethren and sisters.”

Our Father in Heaven invites us all, His children, to give of and sacrifice for this love. “Give,” the Savior said, “and it shall be given unto you.” “Freely ye have received, freely give.”

2. Christmas is the season to give service.

Our Lord and Savior ministered personally to the people, lifting the oppressed, giving hope to the discouraged, and seeking out the lost. He gave sight to the blind, healed the sick and the lame so they could walk, and raised the dead.

At Christmastime, I think of the missionaries—elders, sisters, senior missionaries, and mission presidents throughout the world—who, as representatives of Jesus Christ, give freely of their time and service to all mankind. I think of all the brothers and sisters who spend many hours serving faithfully in their callings. Also at this time, I think of all the men and women serving in the military to ensure our safety. Thank you for your service!

But even if we are not serving the Lord or our country in full-time service, our opportunities to serve are limitless. Kind words and deeds can lift burdens and cheer up hearts! Our Father in Heaven invites us all to give service. And when we do, “the King shall answer and say unto [us], Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

3. Christmas is the season to give forgiveness.

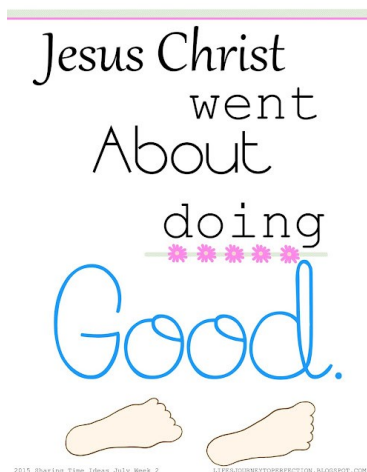
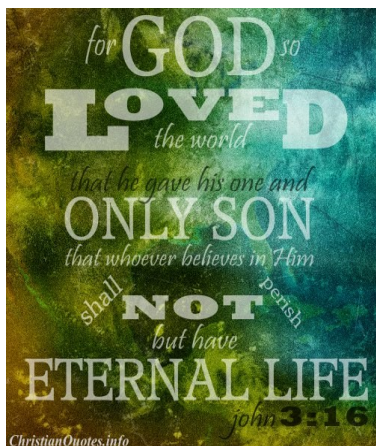
Forgiving others brings peace and joy to our lives. President Heber J. Grant taught: “There is nothing that will bring us more of the Spirit of God than to ... be kind, considerate, charitable, long-suffering and forgiving. There is nothing that will bring more joy to us than to be ready and willing to forgive the trespasses of our neighbors against us, and there is nothing that will bring more condemnation to us than to harden our hearts and to be bitter and vindictive in our feelings towards those by whom we are surrounded.”

In order to receive forgiveness for our sins, we need to forgive others.

Forgiving others allows us to overcome feelings of anger, bitterness, or revenge. And who wants to feel those feelings at Christmas? Forgiveness can also heal spiritual wounds and bring the peace and love that only God can give.

Our Father in Heaven wants us to repent and forgive everyone—including ourselves. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said: “However late you think you are, however many chances you think you have missed, however many mistakes you feel you have made or talents you think you don’t have, or however far from home and family and God you feel you have traveled, I testify that you have *not* traveled beyond the reach of divine love. It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ’s Atonement shines.”

Brothers and sisters, at this Christmas season, let us all give the best gifts. Let us sacrifice with grateful hearts our favorite toys—not the ones we’ve worn out. And let us give the gift of love, the gift of service to those around us, and the true gift of forgiveness. For as we repent, the Holy One of Israel forgives us. I testify that He lives. He is the King of kings, the Prince of Peace, our Savior, our Redeemer, and our Friend. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



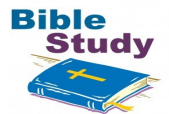
The Ladies Luncheon-The ladies of St. Peter's meet at a different restaurant on the second Monday of each month for lunch and fellowship. We will be enjoying lunch at 12:30 PM on December 9th at Park Lane Tavern, Kemps River Crossing, 1250 Fordham Dr., Va. Beach. Please join us and bring a friend. If you plan to attend, please sign the list on the bulletin board in the parish hall so we have an accurate number for reservations. For more information contact Millie Coward cell (757) 469-5887/m.jlc@cox.net.

The Altar Guild is looking for help!! There are currently openings, for both men and women, in this ministry that need filling as soon as possible. You will be fully trained, at your convenience, and work with an experienced member. Only requirement for placement in the Altar Guild is that you are confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Benefits are unlimited, e.g. working with a great team, pride in knowing that you had a hand in helping to make the Altar beautiful and pleasing for our church family, and most of all the joy you will experience knowing that you are serving the Lord by preparing the Altar at St. Peter's for celebrations of worship for Sunday services, Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals. Please prayerfully consider applying for this critical ministry job today! Contact Millie Coward 757 469-5887/m.jlc@cox.net.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry- We welcome new members to join us to knit, crochet, and loom for various organizations. The following items were made in November for distribution- 3 chemo caps, 2 adult hats, 21 preemie blankets, and 8 washcloths. If you would like to help us supply these much needed items or learn how to knit, crochet, or loom, please join us at our next meeting December 3rd at 10:00 A.M. in the Diffenbaugh Library. We have expert teachers and all the supplies you will need to practice. Or if you prefer, you may supply items from the comfort of your home. Just call, email or text me and I will be happy to pick them up for distribution. Please consider joining us not only to share your talents but for fellowship as well. For more specifics, please contact Millie Coward, (757) 469-5887/m.jlc@cox.net

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



Acts of Kindness Ministry- To our Parish Family and Friends - we would like to express a deep appreciation for everyone's support for our recent fundraising efforts. Your generosity overflowed with your donations of money and bake sale items. We raised \$539.00 which will provide much for the community and our parish in the year 2025. Acts of Kindness will meet soon to see where Christ is leading us in serving His people throughout the next year. If anyone would like to join this ministry, please contact Nancy Comfort.



Cursillo - So, you think your faith is strong and you don't need **anyone** to **make** it a deeper relationship? You are right, no one can **make** you but, a Cursillo weekend will entice you to go deeper and more fully than you could imagine possible. Men's and women's small group meetings are held in the library and meeting room every Wednesday evening at 6:00 P.M. Anyone can attend these meetings, and whatever might be said in the meetings, stays in the meeting for **our privacy**. We can and will answer all the questions you may have regarding Cursillo and the weekends. It is **not** a secret society, and we do **not** have any "rituals" that can't be talked about. The weekend is Christians coming together for 3 days, 3 nights and delving deeper into our relationship and walk with and for Christ. We are called to be His hands and feet in this world! The next weekend is May 15th - 18th, 2025 and our own **Ana Nowland** is the Lay Rector.



The Search Committee continues their search for a new rector for our parish. We remain positive in thinking "the right man for the job" is out there somewhere! We will keep you informed on our progress in The Call and the Sunday bulletin. Please keep St. Peter's in your prayers as we continue our search.



Blessings,

4

Vel Shreve

Search Committee Chair

DECEMBER

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
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<p>1 HOPE Holy Eucharist 8:00 A.M. Rite I 10:00 A.M. Rite II</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent Decorate the Tree</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Cursillo Small Groups 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>5 Bible Study - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 PEACE Holy Eucharist 8:00 A.M. Rite I 10:00 A.M. Rite II</p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent St. Nicholas Visits - Vestry Meeting - 11:30</p>	<p>9 Ladies Luncheon - 12:30 P.M.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>11 Cursillo Small Groups 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>12 Bible Study - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Wreath Laying at the Albert G. Horton Memorial Veterans Cemetery</p>
<p>15 JOY Holy Eucharist 8:00 A.M. Rite I 10:00 A.M. Rite II</p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent Children's Pageant - 10:00</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>18 Cursillo Small Groups 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>19 Bible Study - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 LOVE Lessons and Carols 9:00 A.M. Service</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Service 10:30 P.M. - Holy Eucharist</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26 No Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Morning Prayer 8:00 A.M. Rite I 10:00 A.M. Rite II</p> <p>First Sunday after Christmas Day</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>AA Meeting 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Happy New Year To All</p>	<p>2 Bible Study - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

DECEMBER 1 -

Acolyte: Nancy Comfort

Ushers: Larry Shreve

Lector: 8:00 - Susan Sigler; 10:00 - Larry Shreve

LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Bruce Comfort

Altar Guild: Millie Coward, Vel Shreve

Flower Guild: Nancy Comfort

DECEMBER 8 -

Acolyte: Greg Evans

Ushers: Vicky Martin

Lector: 8:00-Susan Sigler; 10:00 - Susan Sigler

LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Kimberly Truxell

Altar Guild: Dot Pierce, Millie Coward

Flower Guild: Dot Pierce



DECEMBER 15 -

Acolyte: Judy Eller

Usher: Steve Kakol, Larry Shreve

Lector: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Janet Chauncey

LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Charlie Pfeifer

Altar Guild: Charlotte Corbett, Ashley Pierce

Flower Guild: Jessica Trochanowski

DECEMBER 22 - Lessons and Carols - 9:00 A.M.

Acolyte: Magdalena Kress

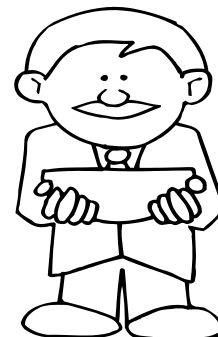
Ushers: Jim Jimeno

Lector: 9:00 Assigned Readers

Worship Leader: 9:00 - Linsey Shreve

Altar Guild: Hilda Monte, Millie Coward

Flower Guild: Hilda Monte



DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve - 10:30 P.M.

Acolytes: Carys Shreve, Bronwyn Shreve

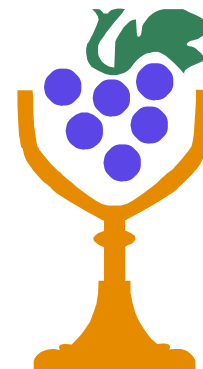
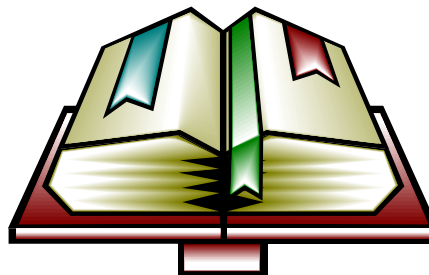
Ushers: Larry Shreve, Steve Kakol

Lector: 10:00 - Larry Shreve

LEM: 10:00 - Kimberly Truxell

Altar Guild: Vel Shreve, Judy Eller

Flower Guild: Poinsettias



DECEMBER 29 -

Acolyte: Eric Evans

Ushers: Jim Jimeno, Vicky Martin

Lector: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Jeffrey Pfeifer

Worship Leader: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Bruce Comfort

Altar Guild: Millie Coward, Dot Pierce

Flower Guild: Poinsettias





December 2024

December 1 Yvonne Authement, Wendy Glaeser
“The Angel’s Visits to Mary and Joseph”

December 8 Debbie Whitehorne, Samantha Whitehorne
“Jesus is Born”

December 15 **Children’s Christmas** Program
“A Shepherd’s Story”



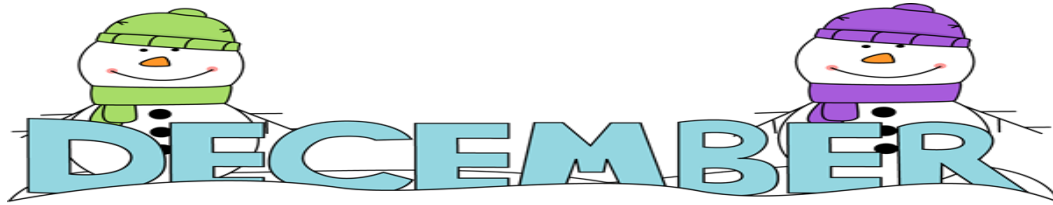
Sunday School **will not** be held the remainder of December.

We will begin again in **January 2025**.

Wishing all a truly joyous Christmas!!!

from your Christian Ed Staff





DECEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversary Blessings are on the 1st Sunday of the month at both the 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. services.

**happy
birthday**

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

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

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

If we missed your special date, we are very sorry. Please take some time to let the office know so we can update our records. (757) 466-9392 or laura@stpeters-norfolk.org

Please visit our website for online ordering if you would like to donate flowers in memory, thanksgiving, or celebration of a loved one or an event.

The website **eliminates mistakes** that would hinder the ordering of flowers, and the Flower Guild can personalize the arrangements easier.

The price is \$50 per Sunday or \$25 if two people share the date.



The deadline for articles in 'The Call' is the fifteenth of each month.

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

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)



**Joe, Michael, Matt, David, Mario, Kyle, Frank, Courtney,
Hannah, Chris, Chloe, Allan, Roger**



*Please keep these people in your prayers.
Notify the office to remove from or add to
these lists. Thank you.*

The Veterans are always in need of:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, tissues & handkerchiefs (new unopened). No candy, food, or drinks right now. They **are** accepting used clothing items again.

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



VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden - Linsey Shreve ('25)

Jr. Warden - Debbie Whitehorne ('24)

Judy Eller ('24), Charlie Pfeifer ('24), Liz Kress ('25), Peggy Pfeifer ('25), Vel Shreve ('26), and Charlotte Corbett ('26)

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.

Edward Klaus III	BJ Neaves	Karen Kakol
Niko Miyashiro	Lois Deloatche	Haley G.
Jessica T.	Patsi Walton	Mary Johnston
Wayne Radford	Kathy Vanderslice	John Eidam
Karleen Smith	Dewey Radford	Barbara LaDue
Luanne Cattley	Mary Robson	Robyn Klaus
Roger Bowser	Sarah Kakol	Charlotte Corbett
Howard Belote	Susan Sigler	Eddie Klaus II
Nancy Davis	Dot Pierce	Joyce Caldwell
Mary Horkey	Josie C	Megan C
Val Powell	Debbie Hollister	Joan Crowther
Denise McCue	Shelly-Ann Tenia	Bert Truxell
Teri Stephenson	The Rev. Canon Ross Wright	
Christine Alexander	Krista Itzen	Pam Standish
Temperance Robinson	Holly Robinson	James Boyd
Rachael McIntosh	Tom Lambert	Susie Manning
Bob Alford	Dan Smith	Betty Hayden
Joan Wilson	John Miller	Sharon Dashiell
Megan (Whitehorne) Daniels		Marlena Spiva
Eddie & Lisa Stanfield	Paul & Lee Nelson	
Bruce & Nancy Comfort	Clay & Wanda Smith	
Leslie & Charlie Pereira	Debbie & Kenny	
Jack & Dianne McKnight	Myles & Family	
Brian & Brenda Hallman	Jodi & Sean McGinty	
Kathy & Tim Sarver	Mary & Larry Laine	
Dee & Glen Smith	Wade & Karen Freidt	
Sheila & Tom Lambert		

St. Peter's Episcopal Church -- Vestry Minutes -- October 21, 2024

Opening: The St. Peter's Vestry met together in the Diffenbaugh Library on October 14, 2024. Attending the meeting were Linsey Shreve, Judy Eller, Vel Shreve, Debbie Whitehorne, Charlie Pfeifer, and Peggy Pfeifer. This meeting began with a meditation at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes: The minutes from September 23, 2024, were approved with a motion from Charlie Pfeifer and seconded by Debbie Whitehorne. It was passed by acclamation.

Financial Report: Charlie presented September's Financial Report. A motion from Judy Eller to accept the financial report was made and seconded by Vel Shreve. It was passed by acclamation.

Charlie and Linsey presented to the Vestry the need to begin our stewardship campaign. Charlie will adjust the last year's letter and email it to all Vestry members for approval. The initial letter should be sent in time to have "Giving Sunday" before Halloween.

Senior Warden's Report: Linsey Shreve reported that Rev. Brion will be returning on the 20th but she is the only one currently scheduled. Linsey emailed the other supply priests again. One contact said his son would be available and Linsey will reconnect with him. She has emailed the Bishop of Trinidad to get approval for Rev. Dr. Shelly Ann Tenia for at least Christmas/Christmas Eve services.

Linsey received an email from Laura Kallestad regarding the purchase of an A.E.D. at the discounted amount of \$799.00, which is a good and affordable price. Charlie and Peggy Pfeifer agreed that the Pfeifer Memorial will supplement the purchase of this item for the church. Thank you! Laura will order and charge the church card which will then be reimbursed by the fund.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 11, 2024. As this is a holiday, it was agreed that we should change the monthly meeting date to Sunday November 10, 2024. It was also discussed and agreed that for convenience's sake, we will go back to having Vestry meetings on the 2nd Sunday of each month following the 10:00 A.M. service. The next meeting is November 10th following the 10:00 service.

Junior Warden:

Shrubs/bushes around the Church have been removed. The roots and any additional growth still needs removal and the area leveled/seeded. Debbie will try to get someone to do this. The Day School shrubs have been taken out as well as Bob Vanderslice could do, with some roots remaining. Jessica Trochanowski's boys, Kostek and Zeke, are willing to help with this project to earn some additional funds (\$150.00).

The carpet in the alcove to the Narthex needs replacing. The approximate cost will be \$47.00 for the carpet plus other supplies that may be needed to secure it properly. All agreed she should continue with this project.

Hutton Electrical has declined bidding on the electrical issues. Austin Electric is still interested, but the original bid has increased by \$2000.00. Another company, All Trade, has looked at the problem also. Charlie will be meeting with Judy Dobson at the Diocese on Thursday to present the Austin Electric bid for grant assistance.

If we go ahead with the electrical work, the electricity will be turned off for approximately 2 days. During this time, the wood on the fascia above the electrical lines needs repair and painting. Bids will be sought for this work.

New Business:

The Angel "Gabriel" Tree will, this year, sponsor the Boys Home.

We will have 3 members rolling off the vestry this year: Debbie Whitehorne, Judy Eller, and Charlie Pfeifer. Laura will include information in *The Call*. Vestry nomination forms will be put out in both the Narthex and Parish Hall.

Old Business:

Search Committee – Vel Shreve is continuing to keep in contact with Canon Thorpe.

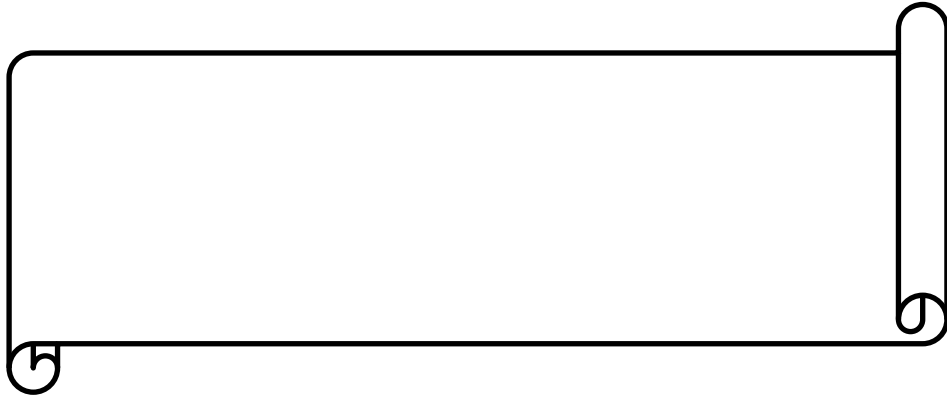
The next Vestry meeting will be November 10, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kallestad

Registrar



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

“THE CALL”

We *celebrate* the love of Christ and *proclaim* our faith by *welcoming* and *serving* all.

DECEMBER 2024

**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 October 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.

