

JANUARY 2021

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.

**The Rev. Jesse Lassiter
arrives at St. Peter's in
mid January!**

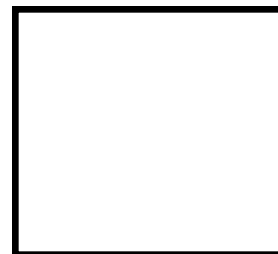
**Be sure to welcome him
and his wife Sophia**

“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



JANUARY 2021

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings , on the 1st Sunday of the month

Happy Anniversary

Michael Caldwell	1st
Robert Whitehorne	3rd
Marissa Weissner	3rd
Susie Johnson	10th
Larry Shreve	13th
Marissa McGinty	17th
Anna Kallestad	20th
Jordynne Wicker	20th
Floyd Parker III	22nd
Nancy Comfort	23rd
Linsey Shreve	26th
Judy Eller	29th

Dana & Brad Bolding	1/4/03
Ron & Hilda Monte	1/26/

ST. PETER'S CHURCH STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes
Rector	The Rev. Jesse R. Lassiter
Secretary	Vel Shreve
Organist	Elizabeth Miller
Treasurer	Carolyn King
Sexton	Kevin Bates

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Bruce Comfort ('22)

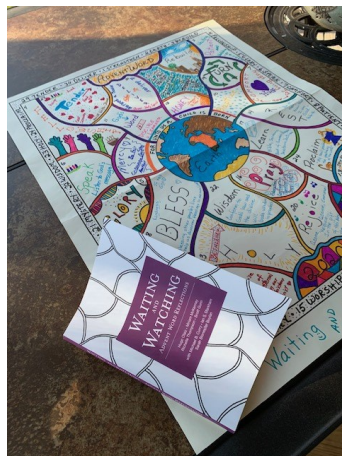
Howard Belote	('21)	Ana Nowland	('22)
Susan Sigler	('21)	Jason Nowland	('22)
Charlotte Corbett	('22)		

The Season of Advent has come and gone! Our children and youth were given Advent packages. The fun Advent poster was for coloring.

If you colored your poster, please bring it to church for us to display.

This is mine!

Ms. Nancy



The deadline for articles for the February issue of The Call is:
January 15th, 2021

Send articles to :

vel@stpeters-norfolk.org

or call the church office at 466-9392

What a wonderful blessing !

35

Communion Cups were distributed on Christmas Eve? Thanks to all who participated

LADIES LUNCH

Monday, January 11th, 12:30pm. They meet at the "Outback" Restaurant in the Kemps River Crossing Shopping Center in Va. Beach.



For more information or to RSVP, call Millie Coward at 455-5887

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study– Tuesday mornings at 7:30AM **if the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.** The men are studying the Minor Prophets. Bring your Bible and bring a friend!

The Intercessory Prayer Group Meet Sunday mornings at 9AM in the Dittenbach Library. They meet again once restrictions are lifted. 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 will meet again when the **Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.** They meet at 6:15PM

Co-ed Bible Study Group will resume Wednesdays when the **Covid 19 restrictions are lifted** They meet at 7PM. Bring your Bible and bring a friend!

Please keep these people in your prayers

June Faye & Joe	Joan	Charlie
BJ	Hazel	Niko
Lois	Sebastian	Jess
Audrey	Wayne	Josephine
Patsi	Vickie	Steve
Maurice & Joyce	Joy	Billy
Xander & Family	John	Kathie
Johnny & Nancy	Debra	Lisa
Debbie & Kenny	Christine	Karen
The Benn Family	Cheryl	Jessica
Florence & Howard	Kathy	Bonnie M.
Clay & Wanda	Daniel	Ruth
Bert & Ann	Mary	Chris
Katie	Tark	Teresa
Debbie H.	Bobbi	Vickie
Carol	Rosanna	Buddy
John & Sharon	Rod	

The church has purchased a **Zoom account** for use by our ministries. I would encourage all ministry leaders to consider contacting your group—**Sunday School, Bible studies, Acolytes, etc.** and connect using the Zoom meeting tool. Contact your Sr. Warden, Bruce Comfort to obtain details on using Zoom.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

There will be no more Prayer Shawl meetings until further notice. Hopefully restrictions will be lifted in the new year. We will keep you informed. Meanwhile keep on knitting, crocheting and looming. We are once again making hats for the homeless.

For more information on the Prayer Shawl ministry, call Millie Coward at 455-5887

MANY THANKS

To all those who continue to send their pledges and tithes to church. This helps us keep current with our bills and our expenses. Thank you!

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to give altar flowers any Sunday through the year, please call the church office 466-9392. We **are** allowed to have fresh flowers on the altar through the pandemic. The flowers are \$60 each week, or \$30 when two people give on the same Sunday.

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 for your support!

ALL TYPES OF CLOTHING Women's and Men's is needed at the Veterans 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!



A reminder...St. Peters Youth Group is still collecting loose change to help support the “4 Kids” organization. Please place any loose change in the jar provided in the parish hall and as always **THANKYOU** for supporting our youth!

Registrations for the 2020/21 school year at St. Peter’s Day School are currently being accepted. We teach 2,3,4 and Kindergarten age children. School began September 8th. Although class sizes are limited to small amounts this year, we are hoping class sizes will increase in the new year. Call now to reserve your spot. Please call the office 466-9392 for more information.



ASSIGNMENTS

January 3—Epiphany Sunday

Ushers

Jim Jimeno, Steve Kakol

Lector

Kimberly Truxell

Altar Guild Duty

Jessica Trochanowski, Vel Shreve

January 10—1st Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers

Coach Sigler, Susan Sigler

Lector

Charlie Pfeifer

Altar Guild Duty

Dot Pierce, Millie Coward

January 17th –2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers

Larry Shreve, Steve Kakol

Lector

Larry Shreve

Altar Guild Duty

Charlotte Corbett, Vel Shreve

January 24th—3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers

Vicky Martin, Jim Jimeno

Lector

Bruce Comfort

Altar Guild Duty

Vel Shreve, Nancy Comfort

January 31st—4th Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers

Susan Sigler, Sean McGinty

Lector

Jeffrey Pfeifer

Altar Guild Duty

Millie Coward, Jessica Trochanowski

Dear St. Peter's Family...

Thank you so much for the many cards and gifts I received over the Christmas season. I greatly appreciate your thoughts and generosity. I miss you all and pray for you daily.

I pray that each of you will have a happy, blessed and healthy new year.

Faithfully,

John+

St. Peter's Children's Ministry

January 2021



**Thank you St. Nicolas for visiting
St. Peter's on December 5!**



Who do you say I am?

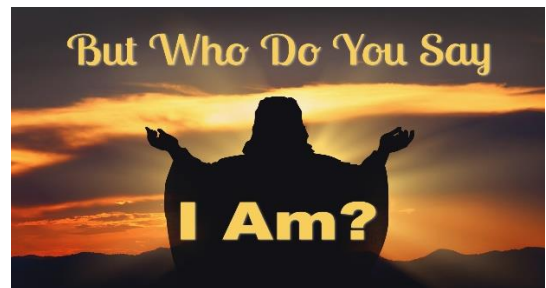
Jesus gave His disciples a little quiz, asking them who they thought He was. See, not everyone recognized Jesus right away, and some people were confused about interpreting prophecies and understanding. Jesus asked who the disciples thought He was, and got a variety of answers.

The disciples said that some people claimed He was a previous prophet or figure. But good old Peter spoke up and said that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. He recognized who Jesus was. This was important to the ministry of Jesus and His followers, even though He told them not to spread the word around too much.

But what about us? Do we know who He is? Do we understand and proclaim it? Sometimes, this side of the Resurrection, it's easy to become sort of used to this idea, and maybe even bored with it. This is critical and meaningful, though. Jesus wasn't just a neat person or a healer. He was the savior, the promised redeemer! He

came to save us, and fulfilled God's promises to us. We know that Jesus is God's son, and is one with God. You know what else? We don't keep that to ourselves. We want to share it!

Some people don't understand Jesus and God's love. They need people like us to explain and describe it! We know even more than Peter did. Jesus was and IS the Messiah. He died and came back to life, for US! We can't keep that amazing news to ourselves, but we are called to celebrate it and explain it to others, as well. Who do you think our savior is? It's more than just a "Sunday School answer"...it truly is all about Jesus!



Important Dates

- ❖ Jan 3rd - 2nd Sunday after Christmas: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23; *The Escape to Egypt*
- ❖ Jan 10th - 1st Sunday after Epiphany: Mark 1:4-11; *The Baptism of our Lord*
- ❖ Jan 17th - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany: Matthew 16:13-19; *Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah*
- ❖ Jan 24th - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany: Mark 1:14-20; *Jesus Announces the Good News*
- ❖ Jan 31st - 4th Sunday after Epiphany: Mark 1:21-28; *Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit*

Happy Birthday Marissa McGinty!
(Jan 17th)



St. Peter's Children's Ministry

January 2021



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wordsearch

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.



C	S	L	L	X	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R
A	Z	N	A	G	A	V	A	R	T	X	E	I	Q	I
G	G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G	W	Z	N	P	N
A	F	O	T	S	W	O	S	D	R	W	L	O	L	V
D	I	D	R	O	Z	T	H	G	I	N	D	I	M	I
H	R	T	A	H	F	Y	T	R	A	P	W	S	E	T
F	E	B	D	F	B	I	N	H	M	G	Y	E	U	A
N	W	Q	I	Q	A	Z	F	G	D	C	G	M	S	T
N	O	I	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	Q	A	J	I
L	R	M	I	Y	R	A	U	N	A	J	L	K	H	O
K	K	H	O	C	V	W	T	R	D	A	Q	E	J	N
I	S	K	N	X	V	J	O	I	B	U	E	R	Z	N
Y	Z	P	H	C	O	U	N	T	D	O	W	N	S	M
H	W	W	J	M	U	H	N	U	X	X	O	U	Q	R
L	F	A	A	H	S	E	Q	S	I	O	C	O	F	G

CELEBRATION

FIREWORKS

JANUARY

PARTY

COUNTDOWN

GATHERING

MIDNIGHT

RESOLUTION

EXTRAVAGANZA

INVITATION

NOISEMAKER

TRADITION



A Prayer during the Corona Virus Pandemic:

Heavenly Father, as our nation and our communities, and the whole world live in fear and anxiety as the COVID-19 Virus continues to spread; we pray that you would put your divine touch upon your creation and heal us completely in body, mind and spirit.

Give us the grace to seek your face and to seek your guidance and direction in all we do. Help us to draw strength from the faith you've given each of us, and protect us from all undue fear, anxiety and depression.

We pray for protection for, and give thanks for, all those who daily make themselves vulnerable and put their lives on the line to help us, heal us, and keep us safe: for all doctors, nurses and others who staff our hospitals and nursing homes and health care offices and facilities; for all first responders, for police officers, firefighters, National Guard units, and other military service people. For the employees of all food stores, home improvement centers, pharmacies, and restaurants that remain open to serve us in the midst of this crises.

For those around the world – the scientists and medical staffs who are working endless hours, using the knowledge and wisdom you have given them to find answers on how to stop the spread of this virus and to develop a vaccine to prevent it. Bless their efforts, Lord, and protect them.

For the leaders of the nations of the world, our country, and our communities; that they would look to you for guidance and direction as they make decisions about relaxing restrictions and how best to care for the people you've placed in their care.

Most of all, Lord, we pray that you would help us to remember that you are the Sovereign Lord of the universe and that you rule over heaven and earth and are in charge of all things, and that you have promised to walk with us each minute of each day. Help us to trust you and to find peace in that promise. **Amen.**

A Christmas to Remember... The memories of BJ Neaves

The first Christmas service at 'the new' St. Peter's was held in what is now our Parish Hall, on Christmas Eve, December 1959. My Mom and I had spent Christmas Eve day wrapping last minute gifts, cooking everyone's favorite food, and pacing back and forth to look out to check the weather. The day was very cold and rainy.

By the time 10:30PM rolled around we had made up our minds to leave for church. It had turned even colder and by the time we got to church we were anxious to get into the nice warm building. Well, what a surprise! When we walked in there were puddles of water standing on the rough concrete floors, rows of metal folding chairs to sit on (which did nothing to warm us up) and two 'stoves' which were actually big metal barrels piled high with flaming logs. We managed to get close enough to one of the barrels to feel a little warmth.

There was an altar set up at the front of the room and on the altar sat two burning candles. The candles cast a glow over the altar. It was beautiful. There was greenery adorning the windows, and poinsettia plants brightened the room.

The service started immediately with The Rt. Rev. George Gunn and the Rt. Rev. William Brown presiding over the service, and The Rev. Tony Diffenbaugh was the priest. Not many people attended, but I'm sure the ones who were there have never forgotten that beautiful service on that beautiful Christmas Eve so long ago.

BJ Neaves

BJ is the matriarch of St. Peter's, and has attended St. Peter's longer than any of us. She is a valuable asset to our church, constantly helping with office duties or anything that needs to be done in the church.

Thank you, BJ!

Letter from the Senior Warden

January 2021

One of the most central themes of our Christian formation is worship, in person worship to be specific. This pandemic has thrown a big curve ball into holding on to and building those spiritual relationships which are so important in maintaining our walk with Christ.

When I think of the word worship, I think of a place where I go to gather with fellow Christians to pray and sing, to listen to Gods word, and to share in communion. These last few months have made me reconsider what worship really means. I have realized that worship is not only about the where but also about the how. Am I worshiping with my whole being? Is my worship directed to God? Do I set aside my to-do lists and petty grievances to come to God with a contrite spirit and humble heart? Do I come to worship with reverence to God, offering my praise and thanksgivings? Or because I am separated from my Church family, I simply let it go. These Sundays without being in community has forced me to focus on my interior space, sort of a recalibration of sorts. Finding God in the places that make my heart leap for joy and bring me peace. I have Faith that we will return to in-person worship, because I believe God wants us to worship together in community, and when we do return to in-person services, it will be a sweet reunion indeed. And I hope and Pray that I will see you all there. But until then, I shall keep practicing on the how of worship, offering my whole self to God without reserve, and I pray you will do the same. Do not let this pandemic separate us from each other or God!

As we move into this new year with the coming of our new Priest, Rev. Jesse Lassiter and his wife Sophia, I hope and pray that each of us will strive to be present to God as he is present to us always. Stay strong, have Faith, and we will prevail. God has got this!

Bruce Comfort

P.S. there is an Advent letter from Father Jesse posted on the webpage, please take time to read it.