

JULY 2020

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.



“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



PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Please keep these people in your prayers

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 Diffenbaugh 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!

June Faye & Joe	Joan	Charlie
BJ	Hazel	Niko
Lois	Sebastian	Jess
Audrey	Wayne	Josephine
Patsi	Vickie	Penny
Rick	Joy	Fidelma
Xander & Family	John	Kathie
Johnny & Nancy	Debra	Peggy E.
Debbie & Kenny	Christine	Karen
The Benn Family	Cheryl	Billy
Al & Millie	Jessica	Kathy
Clay & Wanda	Daniel	Ruth
Maurice & Joyce	Mary	Steve
Bert & Ann	Katie	Bonnie M.
Florence & Howard		

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The Prayer Shawl Group meet on the first Tuesday of the month. They meet again when the **Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.** They meet 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, and sweaters. For more information contact Millie Coward at 455-5887. Each month the Prayer Shawl Ministry publish the items made the previous month. In February/March we made 3 infant hats, 25 preemie hats, 1 hat for the homeless, and 13 chemo hats. We also had a donation of 26 baby shawls. We are selling these beautiful shawls for \$40. Please call Millie or the church office if you would like one.

If you are interested in this ministry please come join us. If you know of anyone who would like to have a 'one of a kind' cap, please let us know.

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



JULY 2020

Happy Birthday

John Eidam	1st
Lucas Mikulka	6th
Gabi & Olivia McGinty	7th
Kathy Galford	13th
Millie Coward	16 th
Christopher Wicker	18th
Catherine Price	20th
Michelle Wicker	23rd
Mary Laine	24th
Kristina Sigler	25th
Taylor Glaeser	26th

Happy Anniversary

Vel & Larry Shreve	7/6/68
Joyce & Bruce Baker	7/8/78
Nancy & Bruce Comfort	7/25/70
Joyce & Maurice Caldwell	7/27/13

ST. PETER'S CHURCH STAFF

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

CONGRATULATIONS to our GRADUATES!!!!

Christine Truxell graduated from Great Bridge High School and will be studying Graphic Design at James Madison University in the fall.



Allison Truxell graduated from Slippery Rock University in PA. with a BA degree in Math. Allison will be student teaching, and working toward her Masters Degree at Slippery Rock University.

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden:	Bruce Comfort	('22)	
Jr. Warden:	Linsey Shreve	('20)	
Jim Jimeno	('19)	James Benn	('22)
Robert Olliges	('20)	Nancy Comfort	('22)
Charlie Pfeifer	('20)	Charlotte Corbett	('22)
Howard Belote	('21)	Ana Nowland	('22)
Susan Sigler	('21)	Jason Nowland	('22)

**The deadline for articles for the
August issue of The Call is:
July 15th**

Send articles to :

**vel@stpeters-norfolk.org
or call the church office at 466-9392**

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

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!

LADIES LUNCHEES TO BE DETERMINED

We will notify you when the next lunch is scheduled, Hopefully soon!



HAPPY JULY 4th



**UNTIL SERVICES RESUME IN OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH, PLEASE
CONTINUE TO WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM
ON FACEBOOK.**

ON OUR WEBSITE: stpeters-norfolk.org

THERE IS A LINK ON HOW TO GET TO THE SERVICE ON FACEBOOK.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The Youth have not met since the Covid 19 outbreak but meetings will resume once the restrictions are lifted.

The youth will be cleaning up the church grounds, getting rid of trash and debris once they are able. As always if there is anything you need from the youth, please let me or my great partner, Carolyn King, know.

We will begin studying the Book of Romans in our Sunday School time.

God will continue to provide and continue to bless this Youth Group with the help of our St. Peter's Family.

**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!**

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

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

In God's love,

James Benn

ALTAR FLOWERS If you would like to give altar flowers any Sunday through the year, please sign the flower chart beside the Sunday you wish to give. The flower chart can be found in the vestibule between the parish hall and the church.

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



KITCHEN NEWS Anyone who works with food in the church kitchen is required to take a **Food Handling class**. You can take it on site or on line. If you decide to take the class on line there is a link below which will take you to the page for the class. The cost is \$15 and takes approximately 90 minutes. Once finished you will be able to print your card. Please provide a copy to Vel for church record keeping.

If you want to attend the class, the cost is \$10 and is held at the Dept. of Public Health in downtown Norfolk.

<https://www.norfolk.gov/index.aspx?NID=157>

ASSIGNMENTS

July 5th—5th Sunday after Pentecost

Lector at 10AM

John's last Sunday!

Bruce Comfort, Charlie Pfeifer

July 12—6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lector at 10AM

Debbie Whitehorne

July 19—7th Sunday after Pentecost


Lector at 10AM

Jeffrey Pfeifer

July 26—8th Sunday after Pentecost

Lector at 10AM

Kimberly Truxell



Honoring John on his retirement:

GOD BLESS YOU TODAY AND ALWAYS!

We recognize your twenty three years of
priestly ministry service to the Lord,
your friendship and the difference
you have made in the lives of so many,
as Preacher, Teacher, Counselor and Friend.
You will always be remembered.

Now, as the day dawns on the
next chapter in your life,
may the Lord's blessing be upon you
as you follow in His way.
May you find joy and peace as He inspires
you every day.

**With Great Affection and Gratitude
from Your Parish Family**



St. Peter's Children's Ministry

July 2020



**Wishing you all a great summer!
Stay safe enjoy the freedom that comes
with living in America!**

The Parable of the Sower



This lesson teaches us about salvation using the parable of the sower. Jesus used parables to teach his disciples about The Kingdom of God.

Do you know what a seed does? That is right, a seed is what grows into a plant, but a seed needs certain conditions to help it grow. A seed needs lots of light, a seed needs enough water, and a seed needs good soil. Do you know what soil is? Soil is the ground that a seed grows in. Jesus told a story about the wrong types of soil, let's read it together.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds

came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear." (Matthew 13:1-9, ESV)

This story is called a parable because although it talks about seeds it is really talking about a message. The message is that anybody who believes in Jesus will be saved, but not everybody does believe in Jesus. The people who do not believe in Jesus will not enter God's Kingdom, but everybody who does believe will enter God's Kingdom.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving each one of us. Help us to know you and always follow in your way. We trust you Jesus in everything! Help us to have fun in Sunday school today and to learn lots. Amen.

Happy Retirement Papa John!

Thank you Papa John+ for your dedication, attention, love, support, friendship, but most of all thank you for being a great Christian example to all of us! We love you and we will miss you. Our best wishes and blessings on your retirement!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 7th - Olivia McGinty
July 7th - Gabi McGinty



St. Peter's Children's Ministry

July 2020



FROM THE RECTOR

Vestry Highlights: At its June 9th meeting, the Vestry:

Approved the Financial Report:

Our income for May was \$1,288 less than budgeted

Our expenses for May were \$2,198 more than budgeted

Thus far in 2019, we are \$4,571 under budget

Decided not to replace the electrical line to the light pole near the Day School.

Discussed participation in the Feed the Hungry program at St. James- June 22nd.

Discussed our participation in the annual Community Picnic- June 22nd.

Discussed this year's Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist service (keeping it in-house)

The Rennicks will donate funds necessary to replace damaged window shutters

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

- + Our Diocese and our Bishop search process.
- + Our Interim Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Jay Magness
- + Our Presiding Bishop, *The Most Rev. Michael Curry*
- + 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.
- + Safe travel for those on vacation
- + Our Day School Summer Camp Program and Staff
- + Lots of Vacation Bible School registrations.
- + Our VBS volunteers!

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.
- + Our beautiful new kitchen!
- + Another successful Day School year

RECTOR'S LETTER

Saying Goodbye

It's hard for me to believe, but this is my last letter for *The Call*. As you know, my retirement takes effect this month. My last Sunday is July 5th, and then I'll be in and out of the office until July 9th, my final day.

I've thought long and hard for a while now about what to say in this limited space. I have so many thoughts and so many things I want to say. I will miss all of you! You have been so important to me and have been my second family for the past 23 years. Words cannot express all the emotions I'm feeling right now. I know that none of us could have predicted my last two months here would look this way. July 5th will look nothing like you and I had hoped. But I take comfort in Bishop Haynes' assurance that when we are able to gather again for public worship safely, we can have that last celebration of our 23 years of mutual ministry together. And I look forward to that day.

I may not see any of you on a regular basis anymore, but I will cherish the memories....I have so many memories! Memories of parish family picnics including "Dunk the Monk", Pie eating Contests, and Corn Hole Tournaments; pancake suppers, Seders, Tenebrae services, Services of Lessons and Carols, Staff and Vestry Retreats, Work trips to Aruba, the Virgin islands, and Belize, and our auction.

I have wonderful memories of Glorious Christmas Eve, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday services and, in particular, Easter Sunday last year when our organist, Elizabeth Miller, thrilled us with her playing of *Toccata* by Charles-Marie Widor. I will always remember and cherish that faithful small group of 10-15 people who showed up each New Year's Eve for our worship service (I lovingly called them "*the losers*" who couldn't get invited to a party). And I will always remember and cherish those with whom I journeyed the *Way of the Cross* each year on Good Friday.

I have fond memories of the little (sometimes comical) things. Like Charlie Pfeifer, at the beginning of one of his Advent monologues announcing that he was a shepherd, when he was really playing the role of an angel. Watching Joyce Baker dash across the front of the church before the service started because she had forgotten to "*spring ahead*" an hour, and of course, our office "*intercom*" system- which consisted of Vel shouting across the hall, "*John, it's the Bishop for you!*"

I Thank God for His calling me to serve as your rector for the past 23 years. You are a church family full of so many wonderful, accepting, and loving Christian people and you have been gracious to me.

I came to St. Peter's having never served as a rector. And it was your acts of grace, kindness, and patience that allowed me to make mistakes (and I made them) and give me the time to learn my new role as chief priest and shepherd of this wonderful flock.

You welcomed me into your homes and into some of the most important, poignant, and personal times of your life and the lives of your families through births, baptisms, weddings, deaths, memorial services. You shared with me your hopes, your dreams, your challenges and disappointments, and your faith. You helped form me as a priest. And many of you were there to help and support me through prayer and listening as I experienced some challenging events and experiences in my life. And for that, I will be forever grateful.

I have been privileged and blessed over the years to work alongside many faithful and talented vestries and other lay leaders, some whom have passed on to larger life. I will miss our planning sessions and the joy we shared when something we had planned actually worked! And while these individuals may have looked to me for guidance and direction, little did they know that I was learning about leadership from them, as well.

And God has blessed me richly with so many incredible staff members (past and present) with which to share His ministry. I have been blessed to serve alongside so many wonderful and talented people who have sacrificed so much to help make St. Peter's an active, healthy, friendly, and welcoming church "family" and a wonderful place to worship and learn.

And I just have to say that one of things I will most of all is that voice with a slight Welsh accent that I've heard almost every day for 23 years saying, as she answered the phone. "Good mornning, St. Petahs! Vel Shreve....you are the best!"

There is so much more to say, so many thoughts and memories to share; and perhaps I'll have opportunities in the future to share them. But please know that I will always cherish my time as your rector and the myriad ways in which you supported me over the past 23 years. And I will hold you all in my prayers daily as we seek to discern God's will in this next chapter of our lives. God loves you, and so do I

Peace and love always,

John+