



Jim's Corner

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Presiding Bishop:

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Diocesan Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
STAFF

Interim Rector:
The Rev. Dr. James W. Hunter

Secretary:
Laura Kallestad

Organist:
Elizabeth Miller

Treasurer:
Charlie Pfeifer



ne of the secular gods with which we have to deal is not a god at all.

Agnosticism is more of an intellectual argument. The word is derived from the Greek word for knowledge *gnosis*. The etymology of *a-gnostic* is “a” [as a prefix to a word meaning without or not] + *gnosis* [knowledge] or no knowledge of God. The agnostic, thus, believes that there is no proof of the existence of God but does not deny the possibility that God exists. The word was first coined in 1869 by Thomas Huxley, famous scientist and humanist and grandfather of author Aldous Huxley. To Huxley, only the senses could give us accurate knowledge, or, said another way, our senses provide for us our only way of knowing. It was, therefore, impossible to know whether things beyond the senses are true or false. Since we cannot smell, taste, touch, hear, or see

God, we cannot know that God exists.

For the agnostic this means that one must live in a state of perpetual indecision about the truth or falsehood of religious claims. We simply cannot know. The agnostic's challenge to the Christian believer is that Christianity makes impossible claims to knowledge which simply cannot be proven. We cannot know God's will any more than we can know God. Ironically, the agnostic's position is just as dogmatic as is the Christian position to which he or she objects. Agnostics claim to be open-minded about divine revelation but, without evidence, how can one know that anything has been revealed?

It would seem that, from the point of view of the agnostic, the choice of approaching the evidence of the resurrection is between subjecting reported

historical accounts to an understanding of natural law that forbids the possibility of miracles or the possibility that unique historical events might change our ideas about natural laws. So, for instance, Peter Moore offers the choice as, “did evolution happen because natural law determined that it would? Or did evolution happen merely as a series of historical events that lead us to deduce certain laws from what probably took place? In other words, do natural laws follow from and summarize historical events, or do they determine them in advance?”¹

But, there is a third alternative that the agnostic probably would not accept. That is that “Natural law does not operate apart from God to determine history. Nor does history operate as an absolute apart from God. Both natural law and history operate under God’s sovereignty. This not only makes possible the resurrection, but it gives us its primary meaning as well.”² This third way assumes a world in which not every event has an empirically verifiable cause – a world in which miracles are possible.³

So, what is the evidence for the truth of the events depicted in the Bible? There is a principle of verification of historical events called “multiple attestation.” We might think of this as multiple witnesses to the historical event. The resurrection has four witnesses; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Why would they have written their accounts if it didn’t happen? Paul would be a fifth witness, meeting the resurrected Christ on the Road to Damascus. Each of the Evangelists record that the body of Jesus was missing from the tomb. Their accounts differ enough to determine that they did not plagiarize from each other. Then, within weeks, the disciples were proclaiming the resurrection in the streets of Jerusalem, a recorded fact.

Though it is theoretically possible that Jesus’ followers could have stolen the body, is it probable? No, as Moore questions, “How many people would go to death as martyrs preaching with passion a message they knew to be false? Yet most of them risked their lives for their message. Does it seem logical that these men would go through the rest of their lives tenaciously preaching in public that Jesus was alive when they knew all along that his body was decomposing in a Christian hideaway somewhere?”⁴

¹Peter Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods: How to Talk So Skeptics Will Listen* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1989), 145.

²Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods: How to Talk So Skeptics Will Listen*, 145.

³Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods: How to Talk So Skeptics Will Listen*, 145.

⁴Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods: How to Talk So Skeptics Will Listen*, 148.

Contemporary Docetists [from the Greek word *dokeō*, 'to seem'] (those who believed that Jesus only seemed to suffer and die but actually did not) might argue that Jesus survived the cross. This is certainly not likely as Moore points out, "[Jesus] had suffered a 48-hour ordeal of three trials and scourging by the deadly cat-o-nine-tails (people have been known to die from that alone). He had received no nourishment and undergone an excruciating crucifixion which included a deadly wound to his side. Then he had been wrapped in tight grave cloths. Are we to believe that, even with assistance, he could have endured all that, gotten through a two-thousand-pound slab door, breaking its Roman seal, and walked past the highly trained and disciplined Roman guard to stumble into Jerusalem and convince his followers that he had risen to a new and glorious life?"⁵

The second line of evidence is the transformation that took place among Jesus' followers. "Within a few short weeks, eleven dispirited men, crushed by the loss of their teacher and ready to go back to their former professions, suddenly become avid, enthusiastic, utterly unshakable advocates of a resurrected Lord. It makes you wonder."⁶

"Then when these sincere Jews fundamentally alter their approach to sacred traditions, you see the impact of the resurrection on their entire world view. Within a few years they had changed their holy day from Saturday to Sunday – the day he rose. Their worship in synagogue and Temple now became a fellowship meal in which their risen Master was claimed to be present in a special way. Their initiation rite changed from circumcision to baptism in which new believers ceremonially die and rise again with Christ. Would these changes have happened if these men and women had not become unshakably convinced that Jesus was alive again?"

Ultimately whether or not one believes that Jesus rose from the dead and is God the Son is dependent on the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the individual. It depends on faith. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, said, "I believe in order to understand" and several centuries later St. Anselm of Canterbury said, "I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand." They both echo Hebrews 11:3 "By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear" (RSV). The agnostic has it backward, wanting to understand before believing.

⁵Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods: How to Talk So Skeptics Will Listen*, 149.

⁶Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods: How to Talk So Skeptics Will Listen*, 151.



Specialized Safe Church Training

To Register: Access the
Diocesan website at

<https://diosova.org/safe-church/>

See Laura if you need help
registering.

DATE: Saturday November 18, 2023 9:00 A.M.- 12:30 P.M. and Sunday November 19, 2023 1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Specialized Safe Church Training via Zoom

ABOUT

This is a 2-day Zoom Safe Church Specialized Training workshop. The two sessions are Saturday 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Attendance at both sessions is required for certification. **This will be the final Specialized Safe Church Training Workshop scheduled for the year.**

After registering, you will receive an email which will contain a link to two videos (each video runs approximately 25-29 minutes) and documents that will be used during the training. In order to participate in the training it is essential that you watch the two videos prior to Saturday's session. The majority of the discussion on Saturday will be based on the videos - therefore, if you have not watched the videos you should not attend the training.

PowerPoint slides will be used for the training so you should plan to join via computer so that the slides will be visible to you.



Universal Safe Church Training

To Register: Access the
Diocesan website at

<https://diosova.org/safe-church/>

See Laura if you need help
registering.

DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Universal Safe Church Training via Zoom

ABOUT

This is a 90-minute Zoom Safe Church Universal Training workshop. **It will be the final Universal Safe Church Training Workshop scheduled for the year.**

PowerPoint slides will be used for the training so you should plan to join via computer so that the slides will be visible to you.



November 2023

Thank You, LORD!

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Cursillo Small Groups- 6:00 P.M. ALL SAINTS DAY Genesis Bible Study 7:00 P.M.	2 ALL SOULS DAY Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	3	4
5 8:00 A.M. - Rite I 10:00 A.M.-Rite II 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Daylight Saving Time Ends	6	7 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	8 Cursillo Small Groups- 6:00 P.M. Genesis Bible Study 7:00 P.M.	9 Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	10	11
12 8:00 A.M. - Rite I 10:00 A.M.-Rite II 24th Sunday after Pentecost	13 Ladies Luncheon @ Azalea Inn, 2344 E. Little Creek Road- 12:30 P.M. Vestry Meeting - 7:00 P.M.	14 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	15 Cursillo Small Groups - 6:00 P.M. Genesis Bible Study 7:00 P.M.	16 Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	17	18
19 8:00 A.M. - Rite I 10:00 A.M.-Rite II 25th Sunday after Pentecost Commitment Sunday - Brunch after 10:00 A.M. Service.	20 Day School Board Meeting - 7:00 P.M.	21 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	22 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">HAPPY THANKSGIVING - HOLIDAY</div>	23	24	25
26 8:00 A.M. - Rite I 10:00 A.M.-Rite II Last Sunday after Pentecost - Christ the King	27	28 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	29 Cursillo Small Groups- 6:00 P.M. Genesis Bible Study 7:00 P.M.	30 END-OF-YEAR MINISTRY REPORTS DUE		

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

NOVEMBER 5 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

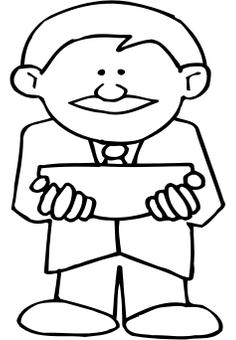
Acolyte: Magdalena Kress

Ushers: Vicky Martin, Susan Sigler

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

LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Judy Eller

Altar Guild Duty: Millie Coward, Judy Eller



NOVEMBER 12 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

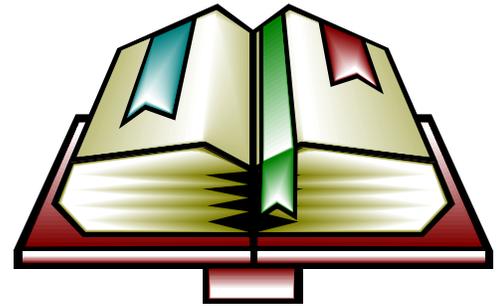
Acolyte: Eric Evans

Ushers: Greg Evans, Howard Belote

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

LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Judy Eller

Altar Guild Duty: Elizabeth Miller, Jessica Trochanowski



NOVEMBER 19 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost

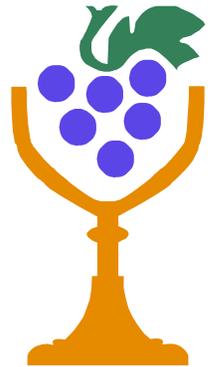
Acolyte: Carys Shreve

Ushers: Susan Sigler, Larry Shreve

Lector: 8:00 - Bruce Comfort; 10:00 - Bronwyn Shreve

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

Altar Guild Duty: Millie Coward, Judy Eller



NOVEMBER 26 - Last Sunday after Pentecost -

Acolyte: Kimberly Truxell

Ushers: Jim Jimeno, Vicky Martin

Lector: 8:00 Charlotte Corbett; 10:00 - Linsey Shreve

LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Judy Eller

Altar Guild Duty: Vel Shreve, Jessica Trochanowski



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY REPORTS: Annual Ministry reports are requested to be in the office by **November 30, 2023.**



The ladies of St. Peter's meet on the second Monday of each month for lunch and fellowship. Please join us on November 13th, 12:30 P.M. at the Azalea Inn, 2344 E. Little Creek Rd. Norfolk. If you plan to attend, please sign the list on the bulletin board in the parish hall. For more information, contact Millie Coward cell (757) 469-5887/m.jlc@verizon.net.

The Altar Guild – We need your help!!!! We are looking for any man, woman, or young person that is confirmed in the Episcopal Church to join this ministry. We welcome you to join our team to help prepare the altar for celebrations of worship such as weddings, baptisms, funerals, and Sunday services. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Millie Coward cell (757)469-5887/m.jlc@verizon.net. Please consider joining this very critically needed ministry of St. Peter's.



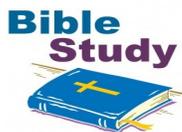
The Prayer Shawl Ministry- We continue to knit, crochet, and loom for various organizations. In October we completed 5 prayer shawls for St. Peter's, 11 washcloths and soap sacs for Judeo Christian Outreach Center, 11 chemo hats for Virginia Oncology, 21 premie hats and 6 infant hats for area hospitals. If you would like to help us supply these much needed items or learn how to knit, crochet, or loom, please join us November 7th at 10 A.M. in the Diffenbaugh Library. We have expert teachers and all the supplies you will need to practice. For more specifics please contact Millie Coward, cell (757) 469-5887/ m.jlc@verizon.net



We are already planning for our Sunday School Christmas Play to be held on Sunday, December 17th during the 10:00 A.M. service. The theme this year is "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song and will be directed by Ms. Linsey Shreve.

The weeks fly by at this time of year and we would like to get an early start. If you would like your child to participate in the program, it will be important that you bring them to church each Sunday, (as you are able), for practice so they are comfortable with their parts.

We always look forward to seeing your children and are excited about presenting this program to our congregation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to one of us.



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.

NOVEMBER

Birthday 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

If we missed your anniversary this month we are very sorry! Please let the office know so we may correct our mistake.

Bruce Baker	7 th
Ricki Wright	15 th
Sandi Nash	24 th
Edward Klaus	30 th

A 2023 Flower Chart is located in the vestibule as you enter the parish hall.

It is ONE way to order flowers for a special Sunday.

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

The website eliminates mistakes that could hinder the ordering of flowers.

The price stays the same, \$72 per Sunday or \$36 if two people give on the same day.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

6" Pot - \$10.50 each

8" Pot - \$21.00 each

10" Pot - \$31.50 each

Because of limited supply, please place your order as soon as possible!

All articles for the next issue of "The Call" are due by the 15th of the month previous.

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

The Angel Tree will be in the parish hall on Sunday, November 26th. We are supporting the "For Kids" organization again this year. Please choose an angel. You don't have to wrap it. Just bring it to church by Sunday, December 10th.

CHILDREN'S LESSONS



November 2023

November 5 Debbie Whitehorne, Wendy Glaeser

The Battle of Jericho – Joshua 6:1-20

November 12 Debbie Whitehorne, Yvonne Authement

David is Chosen – 1st Samuel 16:1-13

November 19 Linsey Shreve, Bronwyn Shreve

Solomon Builds the Temple – 1st Kings 6

November 26 Yvonne Authement, Wendy Glaeser

Queen Esther – Esther 2:5-18, 3:1-6, 8:1-17



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, Chloe, Hannah Comfort-Tarbell, David, Courtney, Frank, Kyle, Michael, Allan, Mario, Roger Riffle, Chris Trochanowski



The Veterans are always in need of:



Please keep these people in your prayers

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

Kimberly Truxell, Sr. Warden - ('23)
Bruce Comfort, Jr. Warden— ('23)

Vel Shreve ('23), Judy Eller ('24), Charlie Pfeifer ('24), Debbie Whitehorne ('24), Linsey Shreve ('25) Liz Kress ('25), Peggy Pfeifer ('25)

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.

Charlie D.	Scott Hart	BJ Neaves
Rick Daniels	Niko Miyashiro	Lois Deloatch
Chris Alexander	Brea Hart	Patsi Walton
Wayne Radford	Ashlyn Hart	Kathy Vanderslice
Roland Jones	Rich Hart	John Eidam
Nancy Evans	Kathleen Spudes	Dewey Radford
Luanne Cattley	Mary Robson	Roger Bowser
Sarah Kakol	Charlotte Corbett	Howard Belote
Susan Sigler	Elma Hagemeyer	Nancy Davis
Dot Pierce	Mary Horkey	Josie C
Megan C	Val Powell	Debbie Hollister
Joan Crowther	Denise McCue	JoAnne Stone
Johnny & Nancy	Bruce & Nancy Comfort	
Clay & Wanda Smith	Charlie & Leslie Pereira	
Jack & Dianne McKnight	Myles & Family	
Brian & Brenda Hallman	Jodi & Sean McGinty	
Kathy & Tim Sarver	Paul & Lee Nelson	

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023

Opening: The St. Peter's Vestry met together in the Diffenbaugh Library on September 11, 2023. Attending the meeting were Fr. Jim Hunter, Kimberly Truxell, Debbie Whitehorne, Bruce Comfort, Vel Shreve, Charlie Pfeifer, Peggy Pfeifer. Absent from this meeting was Liz Kress, Judy Eller and Linsey Shreve

Fr. Jim opened the Finance Meeting with prayer at 6:34 P.M.

Agenda: Fr. Jim asked all to look at the agenda for the evening and see if any changes or additions needed to be made before starting. Fr. Jim added Kitchen to new business as well as floor waxing in Parish Hall and the required three days needed to dry. Peggy noted that the date for the next meeting was incorrect and should be changed to October 9th, 2023. Charlie motioned to accept the agenda as amended and Bruce seconded. Passed by acclamation.

August 2023 Minutes: Number 8 under Old Business needed to be changed to state the conflict involved the Vestry Retreat. Charlie motioned to accept the minutes as friendly amendment; Vel seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

July Financial Report: Charlie reported on the July Finance Report.

The Cash Account Balances for August 2023 are as follows:

Operating Account:\$46,660.17

Money Market Account\$40,073.06

Composite Fund: \$69,524.38

Total Net Assets:\$159,257.86

Kimberly motioned to accept the August Financial Report and Debbie seconded. It was approved by acclamation.

Rector's Report: Fr. Jim reported that he had 1 communion home visit in August, 2 successful hospital visits and 2 unsuccessful hospital visits. There was a Mutual Ministry Review and 1 formation event.

Senior Warden's Report: Nothing to report currently.

Junior Warden: Nothing to report currently

New Business:

Search Committee: Suggestion was made to investigate forming a committee now. A Parish Profile of the church needs to be started soon. The search committee can include members of the Transition Team, the Vestry or just parishioners. The size for our church should be about 5 – 7 members. Fr. Jim will provide a sample profile from St. Mary's.

Stewardship Campaign: Commitment Sunday – November 19th with brunch after the 10:00 service. The letter with a commitment card and an envelope should be sent out October 23rd, 2023. Reminders to those who had not pledged should be sent December 4th, 2023.

Kitchen: A suggestion has been made to name the kitchen the "Rennick-Comfort" kitchen. Vel made a motion to proceed with this acknowledgement of their work in bringing this kitchen up to date and city code. Debbie seconded. The recognition passed by acclamation.

Old Business:

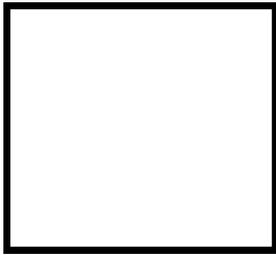
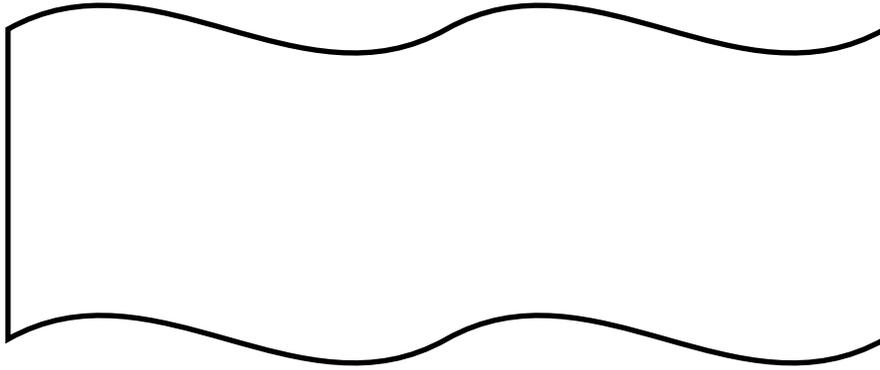
1. Mutual Ministry Review – Fr. Jim hadn't heard back from Lynn Farlin about this meeting. This provided a focus on the church.
2. Walkway Trip Hazard – Bruce has a meeting with a contractor to get a quote on fixing the walkway. If he gets a decent quote (\$300.00 - \$500.00) he will give the go-ahead.
3. Cleaners: Debbie let the Vestry know that the new cleaners were doing a much better job and focusing on what we need accomplished. The last three months of bills will be arriving as they held off on billing until we were satisfied with the results. The hallway and floors in the Day School looked wonderful. Now they will need to do the same with the hallways and parish hall. The timing of this will need to be addressed as they will need at least 2-3 days for the floors to dry. A meeting will need to be scheduled with Vyron to figure this out and make a schedule.
4. Interim Ministry Update: One meeting is completed – This is only one part of the four meetings for discernment. Kimberly did say that she did have a few people approach her with questions about what this meeting has to do with finding a new priest. Fr. Jim emphasized that this was all about learning what our Vision is. This is "What is God calling us to do?" This needs to be re-addressed to make it plainer for the parishioners. This provides a way to get the entire congregation involved in discerning our mission, which is only a small part of our Parish Profile and the search for a new Rector. Volunteers will be asked to provide food for the remaining meetings. A sign-up sheet will be available in the parish hall, and it will be added to the bulletin.
5. Trustees: Kimberly has finished the paperwork. Fr. Jim and Charlie will take the time to bring the documents to the courthouse. Kimberly will bring in these items on Sunday.
6. Bylaws: No progress has been made to draft bylaws for the church. The Diocese of Southern Virginia does not require churches to have bylaws. Fr. Jim feels strongly that we need our own bylaws. Charlie stated that the churches are expected to follow the Canons of the Diocese. The bylaws apply directly to the church and should be prepared by each church as well as following the Canons. Sample bylaws will be distributed and used as a reference in producing our own.

The next Vestry meeting will be October 9, 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the remainder of the Evening Prayer service and then adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kallestad
Registrar



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

THE CALL

“We celebrate our life in Jesus Christ, proclaim our faith in Him through word and deed, and create a loving and caring environment that draws people to Jesus and equips them for ministry.”

THE CALL - NOVEMBER 2023

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.

