

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Keynotes

March 2023



Every year, as Easter nears, I find myself asking, “How do I proclaim a message of hope and life in a world still gripped by death?” I don’t ask this to be glib, as if I think I’m asking a profound question no other thinkers have wrestled with.

I ask this from a pastoral perspective. How does our Gospel of Life make sense to hurting people? And not just hurting people outside of the Church but within as well. You know this tension. How many Easter morning services have you been to that didn’t ring true? That didn’t instantly take away your pain, your anger, or your isolation. In other words, what have you done when Easter didn’t take away the hurt?

I don’t have an answer that will work for everybody, though that certainly would make my job as pastor easier! But here’s something that brings me back from an undue focus on my pain: the very first Easter didn’t take away death and horror. The world before the first Easter is largely the same as the world after Easter. What changed was the hearts of those who saw in the Resurrected Jesus an anchor of hope on the still stormy seas of life. They now knew that death wasn’t destined to have the final word...that a challenger to death’s throne had arisen. They found after the Resurrection a new way to relate to and engage with our death-soaked world. They didn’t deny death or the horror of the world. They simply grasped that, though death might still exist in the world, the Resurrection means that death hasn’t swallowed up life. They understood that life and hope now had a fighting chance to push back the darkness of death, a chance that they hadn’t encountered before the Resurrection.

This brings me to one of my tattoos. On my forearm, I have a skull & rose tattoo, and perched atop the skull is a raven. This is a visual representation of my own approach to life after Easter. The rose represents the beauty in life. The skull represents the horror. They’re placed together, one on top of another, because life is always lived alongside both beauty and horror. We never truly have one without the other, and we all have experiences that would confirm this. The raven represents the quest for wisdom. Put together with the skull and rose, and you have my basic philosophy on life: life is always full of beauty and horror, and it is our job to seek and find wisdom between those two poles.

When I feel lost or broken, I have to will myself to focus on beauty, even if that beauty is as tiny as a wildflower. I think the same applies to all of us. When we feel crushed by the weight of death, we must call ourselves to remember that the disciples felt this same weight, and yet they persevered in their preaching. Without their perseverance, we simply would not exist as a church. It would have been so easy for them to, after encountering their first pocket of resistance after the Resurrection, simply give up in frustration that nothing was changed. Yet, they pressed on, and we are all the better for it.

Sometimes I fear we look for Easter-life to be as spectacular as a body resurrected from the dead. Sometimes Easter-life is that tiny wildflower, or a simple smile from a stranger when we are having the worst day of our lives. Signs of life are everywhere if we would simply look. And maybe the signs of life and beauty you need have been hiding within you all along.

Like I said, the answer may not work for you. That’s okay! My prayer is that you find something that does instill feelings of hope, love, and joy within you. May that be a sign of Easter-life for you when everything else seems shrouded over by death.



We Need Your Skills!

With our beautiful, old facility there are always small projects and needed repairs. We're also blessed with talented folks. If you're willing to help on occasion, please let us know how you'd be willing to help. Reach out to me, and when something comes up, I'll get in touch. Thanks in advance!

John Thompson 252-947-0497 johnsabertjr@gmail.com
Jr. Warden



Check & Connect: There will be a mentorship “meet and greet” at John Small School on Friday, March 17 at 7:45 a.m. for those of you who participated in the program. We hope you can come!

CHILDREN'S *Sunday School*

**Children's Sunday School meets each Sunday at
11:15am Upstairs in the Youth Room.**

Just a quick note to remind everyone that if you receive a suspicious email or text from church clergy or staff asking for donations to purchase gift cards, send money to paypal, etc., please know that it is a scam. If you ever receive questionable communication which appears to be from the church or even fellow parishioners, please call the church office or contact the parishioner directly to verify BEFORE taking any action. 252-946-8151





Giving to Saint Peter's has never been easier!

*Automatic Credit/Debit Card Payments

*Gifts of Securities

*If you are over 70 1/2, consider directing all or a portion of your RMD from your IRA to the church.

Please check with your tax advisor to see if you would benefit from using any of these options.

*Also, to make pledge payments or to give for any reason, you can do so from our website via the online giving link at www.saintpetersnc.org or scan the QR code.

*Mail your payment to PO Box 985, Washington, NC 27889

If you need assistance with any of these options, email or call Jennifer Spivey at the church office. (946-8151, jennifer@saintpetersnc.org)



Our Financial Assistance Committee accepts requests from those in need of assistance with utilities and rent each Monday. Donations to the Financial Assistance Fund support these needs and are always welcome. Checks can be made payable to St. Peter's with "FAP" in the memo line. You can also donate online via the website at saintpetersnc.org.



Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8am-3pm
Fri 8am-12pm

Saint Peter's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Christopher Adams, Rector
252-946-8151
chris@saintpetersnc.org

The Reverend Dr. Katherine Mitchell,
Associate Rector
617-721-6614
katherine@saintpetersnc.org

The Venerable Janet Sueiro Rodman
252-943-1259
gjrodman@yahoo.com

Nell Anderson	Sexton
Sam Holt	Music Director/Organist
Ann Behar	Treasurer
Missy Parker	Day School Director
Catherine Partrick	Parish Secretary
Jennifer Spivey	Parish Administrator
Susie Taylor	Day School Director



Vestry

Lynn Harrington-Senior Warden/Christian Ed
John Thompson-Junior Warden
Sarah Bernart-Communications
Cathy Capogna-Clerk/Outreach
Joffre Fisher-Pastoral Care
Ed Hodges-Stewardship/Newcomers
Susan Hodges-Worship
Roberto Jimenez-Hispanic Congregation Liaison
Carol Nash-Endowment
Judy Van Dorp-Parish Life

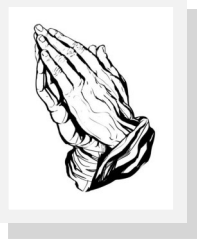


Please Pray For:



Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. The Book of Common Prayer.

Please Pray for: **Tracie Bowen**-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, **Tim Cashion**-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, **Joe Christian**-brother-in-law of Bettye Christian, **Stuart Dudley**-member, **Nicole Goodman**-friend of Monica St. Onge, **Pam Huss**-friend of Cathy & Roy Whichard, **Christine LeCompte**-friend of Mark Henley, **Patty Jackson**-friend of Pat & Fred Holscher, **Zach Martin**-friend of Joe Stringer, **Tim Nicholson**-brother of Katherine Mitchell, **Monica St. Onge**-friend of St. Peter's, **Betty Pruitt**-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, **Susannah & Alexa**-friends of Anna & Bill Rianard, **Jimi Southerland**-friend of Ed Hodges.



From the Rector: “One thing I love about Saint Peter’s is how willing we are to pray for those in need. We are indeed a prayerful people. A chief tool we use for this is the Prayer List found in our bulletins. Lately, I have noticed that our prayer list has gotten quite large, and when I’ve spoken to a few folks on the list, they didn’t realize their names were still there. To make the labor of our prayers more efficient, we are adapting how we maintain the Prayer List. To start, we are removing the names of those who have been on the list for more than 30 days. Going forward, when a name is added to the list, it will remain there for 4 weeks. If we haven’t received an update, or there hasn’t been a request to keep the name on the list, we will remove that name at the conclusion of those 4 weeks. By keeping the Prayer List more up-to-date, the staff are able to more effectively keep track of ongoing pastoral needs. Thank you all for your faithfulness in prayer, especially for those in such desperate need of love.”
Peace, Chris

St. Peter’s has supported the **Zion Shelter and Soup Kitchen** since its inception more than 30 years ago. In the beginning, men of our church spent the night welcoming the homeless men and sleeping there among them. Today we continue our support, monetarily. In addition, we supply lunches on the first Friday of each month to the shelter occupants on the weekend. Fifteen lunches are packed and delivered by St. Peter’s volunteers. Detailed instructions and a sign-up sheet may be found on the bulletin board by Jennifer’s office. Stop by and check it out. Consider joining this lunch bag ministry, helping to continue our support of Washington’s homeless.





Feeling left out during the offering since you didn't bring cash?
Never fear! Simply scan this code with your smartphone and
you can donate safely and
securely through our Online Giving platform.

ECW would like to thank all of the women who have made donations so far totaling \$3,345. At our March board meetings we were able to send contributions to Back Pack Buddies, the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, the Diocese of East Carolina ECW, The Dominican Republic School Scholarship, Eagles Wings, Episcopal Farm Workers, the Financial Assistance Program, Open Door Community Center, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, Salvation Army, Trinity Center, and Zion Shelter & Soup Kitchen. Our allocations added up to \$4,675. These diverse groups are all so appreciative of our support. ECW welcomes donations at any time to serve our outreach ministries. Remember, all women who belong to St. Peter's are members of ECW whether you are able to attend our meetings or not. We would love to have you join us the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in the Music Suite.



Parish Directory Update

We have many new faces amongst us! Some folks have moved, changed email addresses or have new phone numbers.

Please make sure to stop by the table just outside Jennifer's office to review and confirm your contact information on the master list. Thanks for helping us keep in touch with one another!





- 4/1 Christopher Adame, Yesenia Gachuz, Mac Hudson, Kimberly Tellez
- 4/2 Cynthia Cota
- 4/4 Davis Lee
- 4/6 Tom Archie
- 4/7 Bet Archie, Jim Smith
- 4/8 Megan Huettmann
- 4/9 Richard Pfeiffer, Olivia Roberson
- 4/12 Mauricio Tellez
- 4/13 Dick Babcock, Tiana Harris, Anna Sizemore, Alex Tellez, Gustavo Tellez
- 4/14 Maria Arballo, Roxanne Holloman
- 4/16 Hodges Hackney
- 4/19 Barbara Walker
- 4/20 Clarissa Phillips
- 4/21 Arely Monter, Adan Tellez
- 4/22 Marsha Hackney
- 4/24 Mavis Burns, Sharon Yakubowski
- 4/26 Pat Holscher, Will Roberson
- 4/28 Laura Bliley
- 4/29 Neal Partrick
- 4/30 Jaime Chavez, Catalina Hernandez

An Invitation to join the chancel and handbell choirs!

If you would like to play handbells and or sing in the chancel choir, you are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings! Bell practice is from 5:30-6:30 in the sanctuary balcony and choir rehearsal is from 6:30- 8:00 in the music suite. Our focus is on learning and rehearsing music to lead and to enhance worship each Sunday. Please consider committing to singing in the choir or playing bells as one of many forms of stewardship!

Please feel free to email, text or call me if you have questions or would like more information. Thank you!

Sam (samuelh1353@gmail.com, 704-438-1252)



There are 14 weeks left in this school year!! SPC is currently providing weekend food for 22 small friends at Eastern Elementary School. The cost of food, as you know, has gone up at an alarming rate. We want to continue to “fill the tummies” of these kindergartners. If you are able to help, please give/send a check to St. Peter’s Church, with “BPB” on the memo line. Any amount will be greatly appreciated and properly used to buy nutritious food for our buddies. Thank you!



BACKPACK
BUDDIES

Altar Guild Notice



We will be making palm crosses in the kitchen on Thursday, March 30 from 10am-11am. Please come and help. **Spring cleanup** will be Saturday, April 1 from 10am-12pm and Sunday, April 2 from 1pm-3pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help with these projects.



You're invited to Eastern Carolina Cursillo #102!

Please prayerfully consider spending a weekend of faith, fellowship and fun at the beautiful Trinity Center in Pine Knolls from April 27th to the 30th. Cursillo, a ministry of the Episcopal Church, is a spiritual journey designed to help Christians learn and live within our faith. For more information and application forms, please visit:



<https://www.cursillodec.org/> or contact the Hadleys:
Aynn (252) 394-4028 or Ken (252) 940-8249.

Holy Week at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

The Sunday of the Passion:

Palm Sunday, April 2, 8 & 10 AM in the Church (English)

12 Noon in the Chapel (Spanish)

The Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist



Holy Eucharist, April 5 at 7 AM and 11 AM in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 PM

Service in the Church (Bilingual)

Holy Eucharist, Washing of Feet, Stripping the Altar



Good Friday, April 7

12 Noon (English) Solemn Reading of John's Gospel, Veneration of the Cross

5 pm (Spanish) Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 8, 5 PM in the Church (Bilingual)

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 8, 8 PM in the Church (Bilingual)



The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 9

8 AM, Holy Eucharist in the Church (English)

10 AM, Holy Eucharist and the Flowering of the Cross in the Church (English)

(Remember to bring fresh cut flowers!)

12 Noon, Holy Eucharist in the Chapel (Spanish)

Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard following the 10 AM Service

& prior to the 12 Noon Service.

(Remember to bring your Easter basket!)



BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY



Beloved Community is the practical image of the world we pray for when we say, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” We dream of communities where all people may experience dignity and abundant life, and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. We pray for communities that labor so that the flourishing of every person (and all creation) is seen as the hope of each. Conceived this way, Beloved Community provides a deeply faithful paradigm for transformation, formation, organizing, advocacy, and witness. The Episcopal Church, Becoming Beloved Community, p. 5

Please join with other parishioners to learn about the importance of engaging “Becoming Beloved Community: Understanding Systemic Racism.” Rev. Katherine will facilitate the five-week video program, produced by ChurchNext, which will include discussion and conversation that acknowledges and addresses systemic racism and its negative effects. Participants will learn about the racism inherent to our nation’s structures, the effects of racist policies, existing barriers, the need to change and repair their negative effects, as well as the next steps congregations and individuals may take in Becoming Beloved Community. The program will meet each Tuesday morning, beginning April 18th - May 16 at 10 a.m. in the Woolard Room. The first program will last about two hours with remaining programs taking 60 to 75 minutes. Come and See!

The “Challenge of Jesus” is a Lenten study by John Dominic Crossan that will change forever the way you read and hear the New Testament.

Why is it important to know the world in which Jesus lived and died?

How did Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, relate to those in his historical context?

What difference did it make that he lived and died in a nation constantly in rebellion against the Empire of this time?

Who in his culture did he champion? Why?

Join us for new insights and lively discussion on Sundays at 9am in All Saints’ Hall.

Facilitated by The Rev. Polk Culpepper.





LENTEN REFLECTION

Sponsored by
The Daughters of The King

Please join us for a morning of Reflection
as we celebrate the season of Lent

The Journey Within: Self-Examination as a Spiritual Discipline

Led by Father Chris Adams
Rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

When: **Saturday, March 18, 2023**

Where: **Zion Episcopal Church**
7322 Hwy. 264, Washington, NC

Registration: **9:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

Program: **10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

- o Coffee, tea, and light snacks provided
- o Dress casually, bring a Bible, note pad and pen/pencil

For more information, please contact:
Roxanne Holloman, 252-944-4951
Betty Eschenbauch, 252-945-1711
Vicki Paul, 252-943-8900

March 1st through March 31st **Children's Book Drive**

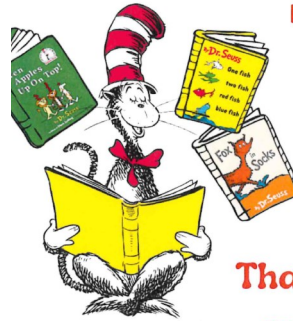
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday (March 2nd), Beaufort-Hyde Partnership for Children is collecting new and gently-used books for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school-aged children.

We are asking the community to join us in providing reading opportunities for children and their families in Beaufort and Hyde counties!

Books will be placed in literacy rich waiting areas for businesses and organizations, little libraries, summer feeding program sites, and our local community events.

You can help by donating new or gently-used books for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary-aged children!



**PLEASE DROP BOOKS IN THE
"BOOK COLLECTION BIN"**

THE BIN IS LOCATED:

outside the church office

**Thank you for
your help!**



Beaufort-Hyde
PARTNERSHIP
for CHILDREN
979 Washington Square Mall
Washington, NC 27889
Phone: 252.975.4647
bhckids.org



Dear St. Peter's parish,
Thank you all for
your generous donation
of supplies for the clothes
and hygiene party at
John Small School. We
appreciate all your support.
You are a wonderful Bright
Futures partner!

Sincerely,
Robin McKeetha

