

# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

## Keynotes

November 2023



I've recently talked with several people who have said something like this: "I'm scared. The world seems to be getting worse and worse." And by several, I mean at least a dozen. And they're right. It is a scary time to be alive, and it does seem like the world is descending into an abyss from which we can't return. We must name this reality and our experience of it if we want to live honestly in the world.

But we aren't just any group of people. We are St. Peter's Episcopal Church, an oasis of God's love, a part of the Church Universal which has weathered storm after storm. We are the baptized people of God, filled with the Spirit, made righteous and sanctified in the eyes of God. We are the ones who have been commanded to take the goodness of God into every darkened corner of the world. We are the ones who defiantly say to that scary world, "You will not break me."

So, how do we move through these feelings, to arrive on the other side of the shore? For starters, we can look ahead at what's coming around the corner. At the time of this writing, Thanksgiving is just a week away. It can be so much more than fried turkey and green bean casserole if we let it! Thanksgiving can remind us of all the good in the world we have right now, alongside our pain and terror. We take stock of our lives and offer thanks for, at the very least, the fact that we are still breathing. As someone said to me this morning, "It's always a good day when I'm seen and not viewed." There's a deep truth here. To be alive is its own gift, and we should cherish this, especially when we feel that fear threatening to convince us that everything is ending and nothing is beautiful any longer.

Then we move towards Christmas, first navigating Advent. Here's a season where we name the gloom we see and experience while boldly (and stubbornly) praying and believing that Jesus really does have the power to make a difference in our world. Finally, we radiate joy as we celebrate the Christ Child in the manger. We are empowered by this most wonderful feast, and we are sent out into the world to cure it with the medicine of Jesus of Nazareth. We carry the message that we have not been abandoned by a distant, indifferent God. Rather, we are joined here in our pain by the One who has already conquered death, hell, and the grave. Through this joining, we have been made more than the sum of our humanity. We are living vessels of the energy that called creation into being and brought new life out of the tomb.

Yes, my friends. The world is scary, and it seems like we are heading towards the point of no return. But together, let us push back against that fear, push back against the despair that says hope is a fool's errand. Let's be foolish together, and resist with joy the powers and principalities of darkness. Let's offer Thanksgiving, and then worship the Christ Child, and go out and change the world.

-Chris



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](mailto:johnsabertjr@gmail.com)  
Jr. Warden

**2024 Pledge Card Reminder.** Please remember to turn in your 2024 Pledge Card to the church office as soon as possible. If for some reason you have not received one or have misplaced it, please call or email Jennifer at the church office and she will be glad to help you. Also, 2023 Pledge Balances are available by calling or emailing Jennifer. (946-8151 or [jennifer@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:jennifer@saintpetersnc.org))



**CHILDREN'S**  
*Sunday School*

**Meets at 11:15am**  
**Upstairs in the Youth Room**



Our faithful BPB committee is currently delivering healthy weekend food for 15 Eastern Elementary students. If you want to help feed these needy children and assist in improving their school performance and general well-being, please consider making a donation. Please make checks out to SPC with "BPB" on the memo line and bring or mail to the church.

*Proverbs 22:9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://saintpetersnc.org).



**Office Hours**  
Mon-Thurs 8:30am-3pm  
Fri 8:30am-12pm

## Saint Peter's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Christopher Adams, Rector  
252-946-8151  
[chris@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:chris@saintpetersnc.org)

The Reverend Dr. Katherine Mitchell,  
Associate Rector  
617-721-6614  
[katherine@saintpetersnc.org](mailto:katherine@saintpetersnc.org)

The Venerable Janet Sueiro Rodman  
252-943-1259  
[gjrodman@yahoo.com](mailto: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:** **Cris Blalock**-friend of Brennan Toliver, **Eric Bonpain**-son-in-law of Bet & Tom Archie, **Tracie Bowen**-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, **Chris Burnett**-friend of Bernice Marle, **Tim Cashion**-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, **Terry & Sallie Cutts**-friends of Joffre Fisher, **JoAnn & Allen Dean Foster**-friends of Joffre Fisher, **Margaret Harris**-friend of Joffre Fisher, **Vanessa Hernandez**-member, **William Earl Hopkins**-friend of Monica St. Onge, **Christine LeCompte**-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, **Katherine Mitchell**-member, **Loren Mumford**-member, **Tim Nicholson**-brother of Katherine Mitchell, **Julie Edwards O'Lynn**-Goddaughter of Clay Carter, **Tom Payne**-member, **Ann Peters**-member, **Larry Smithwick**-friend of St. Peter's, **Jennifer Steenbergen**-niece of Betty & Bill Cochran, **Monica St. Onge**-member, **Steve St. Onge**-uncle of Monica St. Onge, **Leta Thompson**-member.

"You are never more like Jesus than when you pray for others." (Max Lucado) We have a dedicated prayer team at Saint Peters. If you want to be "one that prays for others," please join our team. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or for someone else, you can call Roxanne Holloman at 252-944-4951 and know that prayer will begin in "real time." All of these requests are confidential and we are on call 24/7.



Scan to donate

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.



All gifts must be new and unwrapped, but you can provide wrapping paper if you wish.

Please attach the Angel tag on the outside of the bag with the gifts, and place it in the box near the church office by **December 4th.**



We are looking for help with Sunday morning snacks for Sunday School and 11:15am coffee hour. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the church office. Nothing fancy needed! Please have food in All Saints' Hall by 8:45am and bring on plate(s) that can be left for the 11:15am coffee hour. Doughnuts, fruit, cheese and breads are popular. . .Call Judy for questions at 252 367-5419

*Thanks to everyone who participated in our Art Walk on October 29th! It was a fine time celebrating friendship and God-given talents on a Fall day. Several artists donated all or part of their earnings to help those seeking financial assistance. God bless you!*



The **Blessing Box** needs fruits, vegetables, canned meats, and ready to eat meals. Please look for the cans/containers with pull rings/pull top lids for convenience. Bottled waters and juices are also appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!





**Help us decorate for Christmas!**

We are now receiving monetary contributions to cover the cost of wreaths, poinsettias and other decorations for the church.

You may give these gifts in memory or honor of a loved one. Please send in your contributions and information by Friday, December 15th.

(Saint Peter's, PO Box 985, Washington, NC 27889)



*All Women of  
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
are invited to a Christmas Tea  
Wednesday  
the sixth of December  
half past ten o'clock in the  
morning  
Rena B. Harding Room*



**IT'S TOYS FOR TOTS TIME AGAIN!!!** And, as usual, we will need lots of help to make it happen. Distribution day this year will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4pm. Morning shifts (8:30am-12pm) and afternoon shifts (12pm-4pm) will be available. We will also need help counting, sorting and pre-packing the week prior to distribution. If you'd like to help, sign up on the sheets outside of Jennifer's office, and someone will contact you to discuss where your help is most needed. **THANK YOU!**



12/3 Lilly Dudley, Buffa Powell

12/4 Kris Smith, Adelaide Stiles

12/7 Joffre Fisher, Mary Wesley Harvey

12/12 Barbara Francisco

12/13 Cindy Cochran, Picott Harrington, John Hudson, Catherine Powell

12/14 Janet Sueiro Rodman

12/15 Charles Phillips

12/16 Maria Tellez Ramirez

12/17 Judy Young

12/18 Nannette Smyre, Dorretta Waite

12/20 Sandy Arballo, Steve Barnes

12/21 Claire Harrington

12/22 Finn Johnston

12/24 Katherine Mitchell

12/26 Jude Adams, Brad Rawls, IV

12/27 Grace Bonner, Walker Lynch

12/29 Beth Sloan, Howard Smith

12/30 Jim Pagnani

## Join us for Worship & Christian Education

### Sundays

8am Worship in the Church (English)

9am Adult Christian Education

10am Worship in the Church (English).

11:15am Children's Christian Education & Adult Coffee Hour

12pm Worship in the Chapel (Spanish)

### Wednesdays

7am and 11am Worship in the Chapel



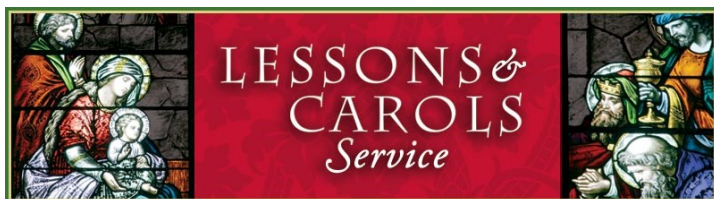
The very popular Christmas Honor Card Program has returned to Saint Peter's! This program provides an opportunity for Saint Peter's members to donate to one or more designated local, non-profit agencies.

For each minimum donation of \$5.00, participants will receive a beautiful "honor card" featuring the chosen agency, which can be given to family members or friends as a Christmas gift. This is a convenient way to do one-stop Christmas shopping and support needy agencies in our community.

This year, our local agency options are: **Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center, St. Peter's Financial Assistance Program, Back Pack Buddies Program, Eagle's Wings, Open Door Community Center and Zion Soup Kitchen & Shelter.** (All cards are available in Spanish upon request.)

Look for The Christmas Honor Card Program table in the atrium on Sundays now through December 17th! If you want cards on a weekday, just call or stop by the church office.





Sunday, December 10, 2023

10am



Washington Women's Bible Study invites you~  
To a Celebration of the True Meaning of Christmas

Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
First Methodist Church Washington—Wesley Hall  
9:00-11:30am

Join us for a time of fellowship, refreshments, worship, and learning!

Dive Into the Historical and Cultural Context of Christmas

A Virtual Event with Kristi McLelland,  
Worship with Laura Cooksey



Join Kristi McLelland for the Prepare Him Room Virtual Event, an invitation to intentionally make space to seek Jesus amid the season. Discover that the Christmas story is better than we've ever known as you dive into its historical and cultural context.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and embrace the true meaning of Christmas. Prepare Him room this season—your heart will never be the same.

*\*This is a free event gifted by Washington Women's Bible Study. Registration is not required.\**



# Heart to Heart Women's Conference 2024

Harvest Church - Washington, NC

**Jan 26 & Jan 27**  
7-9 pm      9am-noon

featuring  
**Kristi McLelland**



Kristi is a speaker, teacher, and college professor at Williamson College. Since completing her Masters of Arts in Christian Education at Dallas Theological Seminary, she has dedicated her life to discipleship, and to teaching people how to study the Bible for themselves. As a Biblical culturalist, Kristi writes about how God is better than we ever knew by explaining the Bible through a Middle Eastern Lens. Kristi's great desire is for people to truly experience the love of God in a personal way. This desire birthed a ministry in which she leads Biblical study trips to Israel, Turkey, Greece, and Italy. Kristi has taught and shepherded thousands, and has studied under Dr. Jim Martin, Rabbi Ken Alpren and world-renowned Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabi Barkay. Kristi is the best selling author of Jesus and Women and The Gospel on the Ground. She is also the host of the popular Pearls podcast.

& special music by  
**Laura Cooksey**

Laura has been a full-time session singer, worship artist, touring background singer and featured soloist for 15 years. She has toured as a worship leader for national conferences including Women of Faith and EWomen. She has also toured singing background vocals and as a featured soloist for artists including Mandisa, Natalie Grant, Nicole C Mullen, Matthew West, Michael W Smith and Amy Grant. Her voice can also be heard as a featured soloist in every Disney Park worldwide. Laura lives in Franklin, IN with her husband of 16 years, Kyle, and her 3 children, De'Aysha, Shamarion, and Corey.



Cut on the dotted line and mail the form below OR register online on our website:

[hearttoheartconference.org](http://hearttoheartconference.org) | Please print legibly! Your email will be used to confirm your registration.

Registrations are non-refundable but are transferable.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CARPOOL!**

No childcare available. We will gladly take donations with your registration to help offset the cost of the conference.

Bring a sweater. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the event.

Please include \$30 payment with registration form.

Make checks payable to FIRST METHODIST CHURCH and mail to:

HEART TO HEART c/o DAVEY FULMER 117 S. REED DRIVE WASHINGTON, NC 27889