St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Keynotes

October 2026

There's a phrase spoken often in polite company: "We don't talk about politics or religion." I've heard that so many times in my life, but only half of it seems true. We are a culture that talks about politics far more than anything else. That might not be entirely true, but it feels true, and that matters to how we perceive the world and move through it. Our political climate has placed us into camps of winners and losers, which makes us feel the need to always be ready to attack or defend. Meaning, we talk politics a lot.

But what about religion? Oh, sure, we talk about religion a lot…inside of the church. We talk a lot about religion…as we say our quick prayers of thanksgiving over dinner. But we don't really feel comfortable sharing perspectives on faith and spirituality with even the closest of friends, let alone a stranger on the street corner.

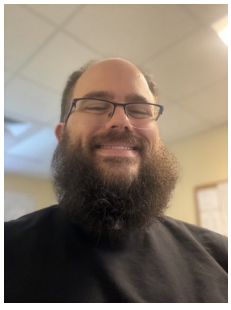
As a professional Christian, I don't have a problem talking about my faith, which means I can't fully understand those who find it difficult to invite others to worship, or to share about an upcoming event that might get them into the doors. But I know that many people believe such invitataions and conversations to be far less attractive than a screaming match about which political animal is best, elephant or donkey!

Sharing our faith can be scary, and it feels vulnerable. So much of what is called evangelism is saturated with guilt, power, and control. Like our political discourse, our culture has turned spirituality into a game of winners and losers. So, religious conversations become about who is right, whose God is more powerful, and which holy book is more accurately reflective of the mind of God.

Yet, there are other ways, other approaches, that aren't saturated by guilt, power, or control. Picture in your mind what you love most about Jesus Christ, spirituality, or St. Peter's. What brings you here every week? What has kept you engaged with Christianity despite its many problems? When you have that answer, an answer brimming with positive vibrations, take a few minutes to turn that into a five sentence invitation. Or a four sentence. Heck, anything will do. Flex the same muscles we use when we talk about a sports team we love, or a piece of music that moved us to tears. Focus on the positives in your life that have sprung up because of Christ and the Church. Then simply invite others to join that oasis of love.

The Early Church grew because of faithful action and faithful proclamation. The same goes for Saint Peter's. Find what proclamation looks like in your life, in your context, and then put some invitations out and see what happens!

-Chris





St. Peter's will observe All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1st. You are invited to share the names of your departed loved ones to be read on this day. For convenience, you may email jennifer@saintpetersnc.org or call the church office (946-8151) with your names by Monday, October 26th.



Help us spread the word!
St. Peter's Dayschool has openings in the 3 & 4 year old classes!
Call Beth Trgovic to schedule a tour.
(336) 467-8398

Donations to the Dayschool are always welcome. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter's and designated "Dayschool" in the memo line.

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





The church directory is **always** being updated. If you'd like a current copy, come by the office and get the latest version. Please let us know if any of your contact information has changed.

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

BUILDING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST
THERE IS ROOM HERE FOR YOU

Giving to Saint Peter's has never been easier!

*Automatic Credit/Debit Card Payments
*If you are 73 or older, 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 this option.
*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)

Scan to donate

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.





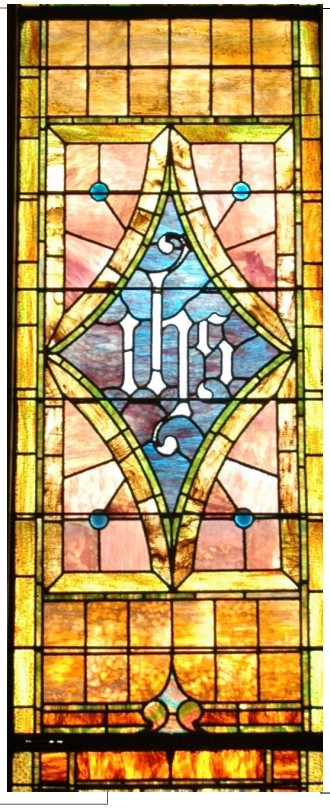
Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:30am-3pm
Fri 8:30am-12pm

Saint Peter's Clergy & Staff

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

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

Isabel Gomez	Sexton
Swanson Graves	Treasurer
Beth Trgovic	Day School Director
Catherine Partrick	Parish Secretary
Charles Porter	Interim Music Shepherd
Jennifer Spivey	Parish Administrator
Jane Taylor	Church Musician



Vestry

Inda Hill-Senior Warden
Patrick Nash-Junior Warden
Mike Behar
Deeanna Burleson
Jay Dixon
Emily Garner
Pat Griffin
Mark Henley
Dave Loope
Ashley Padgett
Bob Puphal-Clerk
Howard Smith



Every Wednesday at 7am and 11am the Holy Eucharist is celebrated. We reflect on the lives of significant saints in the history of the Church and are empowered by their faithful witness to the Gospel. These services are wonderful opportunities to be encouraged and strengthened in your discipleship. The 11 am service also includes anointing with holy oil and special prayers for healing as desired.



The Choir Needs You! There is room for you! If you love to sing (and we know some of you do, because we hear you singing from your pews on Sundays!), come make music with us. We rehearse Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm-8pm. Want to learn more, feel free to contact Charles Porter at cpmusicmaker@gmail.com, or come visit with us after the service on Sundays.



There is an anonymous group of people that make beautiful blankets for babies that are baptized at Saint Peter's. My twin grandchildren were blessed to receive these on their special day. Thank you so much from our family by blood and marriage to our Saint Peter's family!
Laura Bliley





All members, past and present, are invited to join us.

Our meetings take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month following the 10am service in All Saints Hall.

Our Reunion Group meets on the 4th Tuesday at 1pm Riverwalk Coffee

Questions? Contact: Chris Chaffer 252-945-1492



11/1 Maribel Villeda

11/2 Camilla May, Austin Rawls, Katherine Tate

11/3 Emily Huettmann

11/4 Ann Behar, Robert Jimenez, Patrick Nash

11/5 Mary Carter

11/6 Michelle Fuller, Steven Gachuz

11/7 Deanna Burleson, Jamie Butler

11/10 Austin Andrews

11/11 Brian Fuller, Eric Serrano

11/14 Cristal Gachuz

11/15 Lachlan Stroud

11/16 Diego Adame

11/17 Leta Thompson

11/18 David Ingles

11/21 Peggy Koonce

11/23 Crane Couch, Daisy Gachuz., Ann Tyndall

11/25 Gayle Hudson, Ashley Padgett, Travis West

11/27 Bob Puphal, Josua Tavera

11/28 Benjamin Gachuz

11/30 Kathleen Couch, Will Moore

A Story

As I climbed the sand dune Tuesday, something in a clump of grass caught my eye. When I got closer I stopped to see what was tangled in the small patch of sea grass. I was somewhat shocked when I reached down and came up with a $50.00 bill. No one was in sight and the wind was blowing strong. How could I possibly find the owner?

Since I was not hungry or without any necessities, I decided to use it to help feed the children. Please add this to the BPB Kitty.

Cathy Whichard



Noah Lucas Bodnar was born on August 18th, 2026 at Duke University Hospital to his parents Georgia Sanders and Liam Bodnar. He is the grandson of Susanne Hackney and Nick Sanders and great grandson to Hodges and Marsha Hackney. Noah is the light of our lives. He has filled our lives with such joy and it has been a blessing watching our mini man grow (very fast!). Thank you everyone who has supported us along the way!

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: Marilyn Bram-friend of Kay Sharpe, **Dawn Buckman**-friend of Michelle Fuller, **Cindy Christensen-**sister of Kris Smith, **Betty Cochran-**member, **Mary Ellen Creech-**friend of Stephanie Williams, **Barbara Francisco-**member, **Micah-Goleman Mercer**-friend of Barbara Mercer, **Joyce Goza-** mother of Jared Edwards**, Rita Hoggard**-cousin of Linda Weathersby**, Bill Hudson**-relative of John Hudson, **Stephen Hudson**-relative of John Hudson, **Frank Johnston, Sr**. - member, **Alice Langley-**friend of Betty & Rick Gray, **Sandy Mitchell**-member, **Maria Gachuz Monter-**sister of Victoria Gachuz, **Beau Petty-**friend of Kay Sharpe, **Marc Ruedrich-**brother of Stephanie Williams, **Saundra-**friend of Stephanie Williams, **David Silvia-**friend of Cursillo ministry, **Lizzie Simmons**-friend of Tommy Moore, **Allison Smith-**friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, **Jennifer Steenbergen**-niece of Betty Cochran, **Fritz Tanner**-friend of Laura Bliley, **the Thigpen family-**friends of Lois & Bill McLaughlin, **Marjorie Vreeland**-friend of Linda Weathersby, **Jon Wynn**-brother-in-law of Mayhew Cox, **Margaret Yates-**mother of Mark Yates, and **all active duty military personnel.**

Remember to come to the Art Walk in our glorious churchyard on November 1st from 11-Noon.

Many of our talented friends will be selling and/or exhibiting their creations or possessions. You will not want to miss this hour of fellowship on an Autumn morning. Refreshments will be provided. If it's raining, we will have to cancel so cross your fingers for another beautiful Fall day!



If you have something you'd like to sell or share with your parish friends, there is still room. Call Catherine at 252-946-8151, or communications@saintpeternc.org



Volunteers are needed to provide Sunday Snacks for our growing Adult Sunday School Class and social time following the 10am service. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board by the church office if you are interested in helping out. Thank you and please come join us!

If you love babies and toddlers, please consider offering to be in the nursery from 10am-11am on Sunday mornings. To sign up, use the QR code:

Thank you!



<u>New</u> site for Wreaths Across America 2026

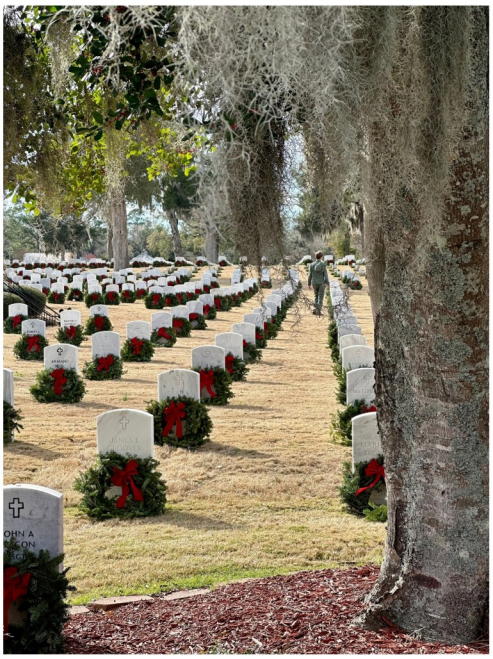
Oakdale Cemetery in Washington, NC

Approximately 1000 Veterans graves in Oakdale

Help honor all of them with a wreath!

Sponsored by

Major Reading Blount Chapter DAR



Wreath Placement

Dec 19th 12 noon

Place your order by November 20, 2026 with:

Cathy Whichard

105 Justin Drive

Washington, NC 27889

Checks made out to

"Wreaths Across America"

OR GO TO

The Link Below

or the QR Code

Sponsor a Wreath in Someone's Memory

www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/NC0322P

Sponsorship Type Price

1 Wreath $17

4 Wreaths $68

Thank you for generous support!



The **In-House Parish Directory** is now available through the church office!

Copies may be picked up during regular church office hours. Since the directory is continually being updated, please allow a few minutes for your copy to be printed. In a hurry? **Call the church office before you leave home, and we'll have your copy ready for you!**

A **PDF version** is also available upon request.

Be on the lookout for an email soon with an invitation to download an app and opt in to the **online parish directory**.

Keep Your Information Current

Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos for the directory! New or updated photos are always welcome.

Please remember to notify the church office whenever you have a **new address, phone number, or email address** so that we can keep our records up to date.

To:



- Update your contact information
- Submit a new photo
- Request a PDF copy of the directory

Please email **jennifer@saintpeternc.org**.

Thank you for helping us keep our parish directory current!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND….ECW SOUP SALE…..OCTOBER 25

The ECW is repeating its successful soup sale held last year. We invite any cooks in the parish to make their favorite soup recipe and donate it to our sale. There will be quart containers with lids and instructions in the kitchen. You can prepare and freeze them at your convenience; as long as you get them to the kitchen freezer by October 21.



The proceeds of our sale will be donated to our Back Pack Buddies program.

Every member of our Parish is encouraged to cook, as well as, shop for soup to fill your freezer for the upcoming holidays. The Soup Sale is Sunday, October 25 from 8:45am-11:30am or until all cartons are sold.

Would you like to support our active and growing Youth Group by providing a meal on Sunday evenings? Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Your help is much appreciated!





The Day School Gives Thanks

The School Board, staff, and families of St. Peter's Day School would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parishioners and friends of St. Peter's Episcopal Church for your generous support of our Giving Tree Campaign. Your donations of classroom supplies and materials are truly a blessing to our school community.

The items you have contributed, help provide much-needed supplies for our classrooms and ease the financial burden on families who would otherwise need to purchase additional school materials. Your kindness and generosity directly impact our students and help create a positive learning environment where they can thrive. Thank you for supporting our mission and investing in the children of our school.

Day School News



It's been a wonderful month at St. Peter's Day School! Our students had a blast making apple volcanoes in science class, exploring how reactions can create exciting eruptions. Music classes have sparked creativity and excitement as the children use instruments and colorful scarves while singing, dancing, and expressing themselves through music.

Recently, our children enjoyed a field trip to the Chocowinity Fire Department, where they explored fire trucks and an ambulance, learned about fire safety, and even had the opportunity to use a fire hose. It was an exciting and memorable experience for everyone!

Another special highlight this month was our Blessing of the Stuffed Animals Chapel service with Pastor Chris. The children brought their beloved stuffed animals and toy horseshoe crabs to chapel for a special blessing. They also prayed a special blessing for Pastor Chris's treasured Superman. One of our four-year-old students, Braelynn, shared, "I love going to chapel and hearing the prayers Pastor Chris prays with us." Moments like these remind us how meaningful chapel is to our students and how their faith continues to grow.



Thank you for the many ways you support St. Peter's Day School through your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. We are grateful to be part of such a caring church family and look forward to all the wonderful experiences still to come this year.

Did you know?

The Day School loves to have parishioners come share their talents with the children. Sing a song, read a book, or teach them something interesting! Give Beth a call to schedule a visit! 336-467-8398

The COMMUNITY CONTEMPLATIVE CENTER
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
101 Bonner Street
Washington, NC

Embracing the Whole Community

Focusing on WELL-BEING AND CONNECTION



Upcoming Activities

October 2026

Wednesday October 28 5:30 – 7:00pm	**Community Mind-Body Medicine Experience** An opportunity for those interested in the 8-week program can experience a mindfulness experience. A stand-alone experience of mindfulness.
Wednesday October 28 12:00 – 1:30pm **"Hybrid: In person and via Zoom"**	**A 4-week Mind-Body Medicine Program** Holidays are approaching, come learn skills that will help you breeze through the stressfulness of the holidays with new mindfulness skills and a very supportive community. Registration Required
Wednesday October 28 10:00am	**Joy through Grieving** We have heard you loud and clear, so many are challenged with grief, a long-lasting experience and struggle. Come, share, explore how to find your joy while grieving. Grieving can be the loss of a relationship through death or divorce, loss of a career, a child, a parent. There are many reasons that create a struggle with grief. Registrations Required

A welcoming space for reflection, restoration, connection, and well-being.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Register: Email: Deeanna Burleson – Drdee@fss.global or text: 703-303-6143

The **United Thank Offering (UTO)** is a ministry of the Episcopal Church. Through UTO, all of us- men, women and children - nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many blessings. Saint Peter's has designated Sunday, November 1st our Fall UTO Ingathering. Please use one of the blue boxes or one of the envelopes to make your donation to UTO. All funds collected are sent to the diocese for grants that address human needs and help alleviate poverty.

UTO
UNITED THANK OFFERING

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, October 18th

4:00pm

Saint Peter's Churchyard



Cornelius the Centurian was a Roman centurion in the first century AD who is considered by some Christians to be one of the first gentile converts to Christianity.

The baptism of Cornelius is an important event in the history of the early Christian church, along with the conversion and baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch. The reception of Cornelius sparked a debate among the leaders of the new community of followers of Jesus, culminating in the decision to allow Gentiles to become Christians without conforming to Jewish requirements for circumcision.

To hear more about Cornelius, join us in the Chapel Wednesday, October 21st at 7am or 11am.



Did you know?

The crystal chandelier and baptismal font, along with a few chancel furnishings, were saved in the fire that completely destroyed the original St. Peter's in 1864. The fire was a result of the Union Army's occupation of Washington.

A parishioner's family is in search of a gently used shower chair to borrow or purchase. If you have one available, please contact Jennifer in the church office. (946-8151) Thank you for your kindness and help!

