

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Keynotes

July 2025



By now, you've had the chance to see *Superman* at one of the Greenville theaters. It's a tour de force of Superman's rich mythology, offering glimpses of his quirky and fantastical side not seen in Christopher Reeve's magnificent earlier performance. I cried a little bit. Well, let me be honest: I cried a lot. Surprisingly, I'm not here to persuade you to see the movie. That's the job of the marketing department at Warner Bros. Instead, I want to highlight what the film unabashedly celebrates: the virtue of kindness.

Kindness is once again in the cultural spotlight as pop culture embraces Superman's inherent goodness and kindness. It's been inspiring to see many people connect with what makes Superman so uplifting. His hopefulness and unwavering belief in goodness have captured the world's imagination once more. I celebrate this as a long-time fan of the Man of Tomorrow, but I'm also celebrating for another reason.

Since kindness and goodness are on display and being celebrated, the Church has a unique opportunity to capitalize on this return to goodness. As people are leaving the theaters, feeling inspired by the fictional story of a joyful alien, they will need concrete, real-world examples of kindness and goodness to take hold of.

This is where we come in. If we at Saint Peter's can demonstrate kindness and goodness above all, then those searching for real-world hope and love will find it here. They will see your light shining brightly and know that wherever you are, they can find kindness. When you shine brightly in your life, those around you shine brighter too, and they will wonder where you draw your light from.

If the fictional story of Superman can inspire so many once again after years of dormancy, then the story of God incarnate sharing our humanity should be able to inspire once again, too. Jesus may not have a flowing red cape, but he is the one in whose open arms even the most rejected and dejected find acceptance. Jesus may not be able to lift skyscrapers, but he did lift the heads of people who had stared at the dirt for their entire lives and never known tenderness.

The story of Jesus can and will inspire the world when you and I remember to share the light wherever we go. Whatever that means to you, *sharing the light*, do it with boldness and joy. Let the world know that you have hope and kindness to share, and they will see the truth of our Gospel.

Now is our time to shine, friends. Let's go!

-Chris



Potluck Dinner is Back!

St. Peter's Vestry is reviving an old favorite - Potluck Dinners. This first Potluck will kick off on **July 30th at 6:00 p.m.** with a special treat - a short, fun talk by our own Dr. Howard B. Smith, entitled "Humor, Wisdom, and Ponderisms." These are three things that Howard calls "gifts from God for all to enjoy."

No sign-up is required; simply save the date, grab a dish to share, and show up for food, fun, and fellowship. As Howard himself beautifully puts it: "God has blessed every one of us with the ability to have a healthy laugh or at least a small chuckle, and if not that, a pause for ourselves to find strength in the wisdom of others. And if neither of those brings comfort, we can always find solace and resolution in pondering over our own lives." Thanks, Emily Garner



Christian Formation: Chris is most engaged as a teacher when it's material and topics that engage YOU! If there are things you are interested in learning, let Chris know. We can explore them together and learn more about the God we serve! Email him at chris@saintpetersnc.org or let him know on Sunday morning!

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.



Giving to Saint Peter's has never been easier!

*Automatic Credit/Debit Card Payments

*Gifts of Securities

*If you are 73, 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)



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

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

Victoria Brown, Seminarian
252-714-5974, vbrown4633@gmail.com

Ann Behar	Treasurer
Jamie Butler	Sexton
Missy Parker	Day School Director
Catherine Partrick	Parish Secretary
Charles Porter	Interim Music Shepherd
Jennifer Spivey	Parish Administrator
Jane Taylor	Church Musician



Vestry

Judy Van Dorp-Senior Warden

Jason Jacques-Junior Warden & Newcomers

Mike Behar-Stewardship

Joffre Fisher-Pastoral Care

Emily Garner-Communications

Mark Henley

Inda Hill-Worship

Susan Hodges-Clerk & Parish Life

Dave Loope-Community Connections

Ashley Padgett

Howard Smith-Community Building

Lucy Trejo-Spanish Language Liaison

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.



Please join us for a blessing of the new **Children's Lending Library** in the upstairs Sunday School room following the 10am service on August 3rd. Maribel Edwards completed the project for her Girl Scout Silver Award and would like to thank everyone who contributed.



If you are interested in becoming a Layreader, please call the church office at 252-946-8151. Your service would be appreciated.



We are looking for new members, past and present, to join us.

Questions?

Contact: Jason Jacques 678-596-5141

Brennan Tolliver 404-602-2417

Chris Chaffer 252-945-1492

1st Friday @ 4pm Riverwalk Coffee Shop

3rd Friday @ 4pm in ASH (Dinner follows)

8/1 Liz Cooper, Jim Leach, Louis Miller

8/2 Rick Gray, Joe Stringer

8/4 Livi Jones

8/5 Tony Capehart, Lynn Harrington,
Franz Holscher, Josue Ramirez

8/6 Seb Barrett

8/7 Stuart Dudley, Avery Napier

8/8 Kenneth Gaudreault

8/9 Mary Dennis, Ellen Nunnelee, Richard Young

8/10 Keith Hudson, Audrey Miller

8/11 Betty Hinkes

8/12 Santiago Espinoza, Susanne Sanders

8/13 Calder Edwards

8/14 Athalia Cooper, Stacey Lynch

8/15 Dana Cordova, Mark Henley

8/16 Delores Darden, Esteban Sanches

8/19 Ken Hadley

8/21 Mike McIntyre

8/23 Garner Brantley

8/25 Mike Pendergrass, Joel Roman, Parker Sheppard

8/26 Katherine Hall, Frederick Holscher

8/27 Nadine Barret

8/29 Carlos Arballo

8/30 Lucy Monath, Cordelia Stiles, Cathy Whichard

8/31 Iveth Serrano, Tracy Tuten



Keeping the Faith: Healing Divisions



With so many of our core beliefs and the institutions that we thought we could count on being challenged, many of us are wondering what Jesus calls us to do in these unsettled times.

This group meets together and supports each other while searching for ways to best heal divisions and serve our community while finding our path forward.

Anyone interested in being a part of this group is invited to attend. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 31st at 6:30pm in the Rena B. Harding Room.



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: Tim Cashion-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, Marc Coidan-friend of Jason Jacques, Peggy Daniels & family-daughter of Leslie Whitehurst, Joffre Fisher-member, JoAnn & Allen Dean Foster-friends of Joffre Fisher, Katherine Hall-member, Morgan Horner-friend of the Archies, Diane Igoe-friend of Janet Bradbury, Melanie Peters-niece of Ann Peters, Peter Robinson-member, Scott Seiden-friend of Michelle & Brian Fuller, Sharon Singleton-friend of Betty Cochran, Allison Smith-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, Aurora Ivy Swafford-friend of Joffre Fisher, David Steenbergen-nephew of Betty Cochran, Jennifer Steenbergen-niece of Betty Cochran, Darlene & Gary Thigpen-friends of Lois & Bill McLaughlin, Donna Valestro-friend of Joffre Fisher, Taylor Whichard-member.

Our condolences are extended to the families of:

*Bruce Brown, Alex Cota, Nancy Hill, Jamie Larkin,
Warren Partrick, Joy Rodman, and Dan Wallace*

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life Everlasting.*

Conversations with Contradictions: The Episcopal Church believes the Bible is the inspired Word of God. But that means many different things to many different people. One thing that can be agreed upon is that the Bible contains contradictions in much of its storytelling. In fact, there are *doctrinal* differences found in the pages of Holy Scripture. These contradictions are not reasons to be afraid or shrink back. They are invitations for further conversation with God! Join us in All Saints Hall at 9 am for conversations, coffee, and contradictions!

A sincere thank you to Ashley Padgett for (single-handedly) sprucing up our SPC nursery!! For two days, Ashley cleaned out cabinets, wiped down surfaces and tidied up the play rooms. Old toys were pitched and fresh, new supplies were purchased. When you see her, please let her know how much we appreciate her time and generosity.



ECW recently mailed 2,025 stamps to The Alliance Stamp Ministry. These were collected from January through mid-June. Thank you to everyone who donated stamps! The Alliance Stamp Ministry has raised \$20,000 so far this year! We already have 342 stamps toward our next mailing. Please remember to leave a ¼ - ½ inch border around the stamp. The stamp donation box is on the table outside the church library. It is always exciting to take the lid off the box and find your treasures inside!!



Youth Group Kick-Off will be held Sunday, July 27th from 5-7pm in ASH. Pizza, games, prizes & Jesus!