

# Keynotes

March 2026

The Apostle Paul once asked, "O death, where is your sting?" I do believe I have an answer for him: it is here, in our world, in our parish, in our midst.

Over the past two months, our parish has endured the deaths of many people we have loved so much. Four major funerals within such a short period are hard on a community. Loss is never easy, and it becomes even more difficult when it happens all at once. We have had little time to heal between these painful events, and when that happens, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by death, to feel more than just a sting.

Death is in our world as nations continue to make war with one another. The first attack in the Iran war was on a girls' school, carried out by an American offensive that makes the pain even harder to bear as we in our country must acknowledge this wrongdoing and call for peace and take action. This bloodshed and violence simply should not be.

When so much pain is felt, both around the world and here in Saint Peter's, it's all too easy to fall into fear, anger, or despair. We become paralyzed by the psychic pain of it all. We feel unmoored, unstable, and unable to find our own security and peace in a world bereft of it, and in a parish that has lost many of our loved ones so quickly.

What then do we do?

The first step we take is, well, nothing. There is no magic prayer, liturgy, or ritual that can heal pain like a salve on a wound. Certainly, these things can bring comfort, but it's not magic, and sometimes what once comforted us no longer does. When faced with so much pain and suffering in the world, the first step is to accept it. To accept the pain, the finality, the loss, the strangeness... to accept these things as immediately unavoidable. This eases the burden of action from us, for if we can accept that our pain can't be escaped, we won't keep searching for escape, whether through substances or religion.

The second thing to do is to decide...to decide how you want to live, what kind of person you want to be, and what virtues you want to embody. All that happens around us and all that happens to us, is ultimately not in charge of what we willingly choose to do or how we treat others. Regarding the pain in our community and the pain of so many losses, I choose not to retreat inwardly. I choose to stay connected with my neighbors and those who are hurting so we can collectively hold one another up. When it comes to the pain of the world, the pain of war, I commit to living as peacefully as possible and using my voice to speak out against injustice. It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. I do what I can, where I can, and that is the best I can do.

In this world, we are all just trying to do our best. I believe that about you, dear people of God. You are trying to do the best with what you have, what you know, and what the world keeps throwing your way. In this world of pain, which has tried its best to take the light of hope from us, we choose to move forward knowing that pain, and death, will not have the final word on our today, nor on our tomorrow. Death, in all its forms, both global and local, still stings. But that sting, no matter how deep the fangs sink in, is not fatal enough to keep us from walking in the light of hope. I believe that. Let's make it so.

-Chris



*Our condolences are extended to the families of  
Mary Elizabeth "Mary Lib" Allsbrook Partrick  
Crawford Alexander "Lex" Mann, Jr.  
William "Bill" Harrison Rianhard  
The Rev. Dr. Katherine N. Mitchell*

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



*Please help us beautify our church for Easter. You have the opportunity to give flowers in memory or in honor of someone special. Please give your monetary contribution to Jennifer in the church office by Wednesday, March 27th at noon.*



St Peter's Blood Drive  
Tuesday, May 12, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Sign Up Information coming in May!  
To be eligible, your last donation  
must be prior to March 17.

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

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

The Venerable Janet Sueiro Rodman,  
Archdeacon  
252-943-1259, [gjrodman@yahoo.com](mailto:gjrodman@yahoo.com)

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



## Vestry

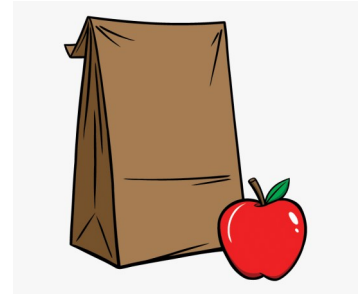
Inda Hill-Senior Warden  
Patrick Nash-Junior Warden

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.

**Zion Sack Lunch Ministry** – Lunches for Zion patrons may now be delivered to 328 N. Market Street, beside “House of Styles” barber shop. You may park behind it and someone will assist you. A revised list of guidelines is available on the bulletin board beside Jennifer’s office. Thank you for your participation!



USHERS NEEDED



Please prayerfully consider being an usher for Saint Peter’s; a much appreciated and fulfilling calling! Duties include greeting and directing members and visitors, assisting with seating, collecting offerings, and providing assistance to those in need. If this is something that interests you, please contact Hank Van Dorp at (252)214-



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.**

**Our meetings are on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 4:30pm in the Library.**

**Questions?**

**Contact: Chris Chaffer 252-945-1492**

4/1 Christopher Adame, Yesenia Gachuz, Mac Hudson, Kimberly Tellez



4/2 Marie Boyd, Cynthia Cota

4/4 Davis Lee

4/6 Tom Archie

4/7 Bet Archie, Jim Smith

4/8 Emily Garner, Megan Huettmann

4/9 Richard Pfeiffer, Olivia Roberson

4/11 Chandler Creech

4/12 Mauro Tellez

4/13 Dick Babcock, Tiana Harris, Anna Sizemore, Alex Tellez, Gustavo Tellez

4/14 Maria Arballo, Rozanne Holloman

4/15 Susan Cantwell

4/16 Hodges Hackney

4/19 Barbara Walker

4/20 Clarissa Phillips

4/21 Arely Monter, Adan Tellez

4/22 Chris Collier, Marsha Hackney

4/24 Mavis Burns, Sharon Yakubowski

4/26 Pat Holscher, Will Roberson

4/28 Laura Bliley

4/29 Neal Partrick

4/30 Catalina Hernandez



# 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:** Umar Hossain-grandson of Jane Taylor, Diane Igoe-friend of Janet Bradbury, David Ingles-member, David Ward Jones-brother of Ashley Padgett, Ann Peters-member, Mike Rocchio-friend of Michelle & Brian Fuller, Marsha & Ed Schneider-friends of Michelle & Brian Fuller, Allison Smith-friend of Pam & Ed Hodges, Jennifer Spruill-friend of the Blileys, Jennifer Steenbergen-niece of Betty Cochran, Darlene & Gary Thigpen-friends of Lois & Bill McLaughlin, Marjorie Vreeland-friend of Linda Weathersby, and all active duty military personnel.

We hope to have some very “Noisy Buckets” at both services on Sunday, March 22nd. We encourage children to come and help round up funds for Back Pack Buddies. Buckets will be passed around the congregation so please come prepared and bring any loose change you might have in forgotten purses, pockets, bureau drawers, etc.!! All proceeds will go towards feeding our small friends who appreciate it mightily!!



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!

**Build it and they will come!** We are planning to resume nursery services and hoping the little ones will come. The nursery is set up so we now need a volunteer group to care for the children. If you love babies and toddlers, please consider offering to be in the nursery from 10-11 am Sunday mornings. Hoping for once in 6 weeks rotation. Email me if you'd like to join this special ministry – [vandorp@suddenlink.net](mailto:vandorp@suddenlink.net).



The ECW will hold its April 1 meeting in All Saints Hall at 10am. This will be a “hands on” meeting as we will prepare our “Love Yourself” auction basket and help with decorations for Evening in Parish. Please bring in the items you have selected to fill our auction donation...think of things that might be used to pamper yourself such as gift certificates to nail or hair salons, massages, self-help books, lotions, scented candles, beauty or bath items. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may drop off your donation into the box in front of the church office.



It's time to get ready for our **Easter Egg Hunt!** It will take place on Easter Day, April 5th immediately following the 10am service and just before the 12pm service. Your help is needed! Please bring in plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candy or snacks by Wednesday, April 1st. The collection box is located in the hallway by the church office. **THANK YOU!** (Kids: Remember to bring your Easter baskets to church on Easter Day!)

### Evening in Parish

The Evening in Parish Committee is working to make our April 17 fundraiser a big success. There are many ways you can join in the fun. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board with committees that need help. Please consider offering your time and talent to one of these. In addition to fundraising, this event is an opportunity for the parish to work and have fun together. Maybe you haven't been involved in the past, particularly if you are new to St. Peter's ... here's your chance, no matter your skill level. There will be delicious food, music by "JD and Clay", time for conversation and of course opportunities to purchase amazing auction items. You will receive your invitation in March. Plan to attend and bring a friend. This will be a fun way to introduce new folks to St. Peter's.

We are also looking for exciting, desirable items for our auction. Do you have a skill to share, perhaps a second home to offer for a weekend, are you a great cook or love entertaining, can you provide services from local merchants, are you an artist? There will be a sign-up sheet for auction donations on the bulletin board by the church office.

If you have questions, contact Mary Currin 919-906-3132.

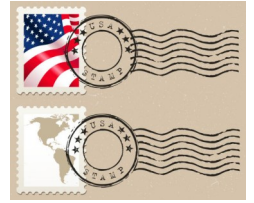


**SPRING  
FUNDRAISER**



**Stamp Ministry**-Thank you to all the faithful stampers in our congregation! You helped Alliance Stamp Ministry raise \$40,000 in 2025! ECW recently mailed 2,042 stamps that were collected from mid-October through January. A small stamp collection that was donated to The Friends of the Brown Library book sale was sent in also but is not included in our total.

Please consider joining this fun ministry! Cut the stamps off your envelopes leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ "-  $\frac{1}{2}$ " border around the stamp. Then just drop the stamps in the stamp box on the table outside the library.



Income from the sale of the stamps goes to support preparation, publication, and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools. More than 50 lesson series have been published and are being used in churches of 40 different denominations in Spanish speaking countries in Latin America, Spain, and the United States.

Greetings from our Financial Assistance Program,

The Monday morning ministry of assisting folks with rent or electricity bills continues to thrive due to the generous donations from our parishioners. The team members and recipients want to thank you. The lives of the folks right here in our community is an ongoing learning experience. In the past few weeks, many of our recipients report that they are typically able to juggle their bills successfully. Due to missed days of work during the snowstorm, they are behind and at risk of losing their electricity. We all have experienced unforeseen increases in our utility bills, but something as small as a few missed days of work has been potentially devastating for the population we serve. Again, thank you for your ongoing support. Please, please, please feel free to contact me or other team member to ask questions or learn more.



Again a sincere thank you,  
Sarah Ninan

A new **fiber arts group** has begun here at St. Peter's. Our first project is a crocheted tapestry recognizing the many folks in Beaufort County who are homeless. Our first get-together was lots of fun. We hope more of you will join us as we will be meeting every Sunday from 4pm-5pm in the Woolard Meeting Room. All are welcome; those who want to learn how to crochet or knit, as well as seasoned artists! More information can be found on Julia Concha's Facebook & Twitter sites "Love our Neighbors, Washington, NC" or you may call Nancy Hamblin at 252-944-6809.

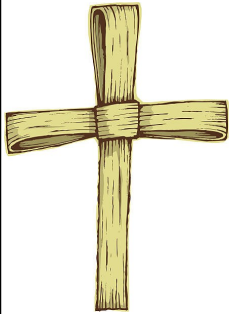
*"Community is a body of people crying for one another, working together for a common cause, enjoying and overlooking (or grimly, tolerating) each other's foibles; it's a rough and beautiful quilt sewn of patches that don't seem to go together at all, and then they do."*

*Anne Lamott*





Everyone, anyone, young and old is invited to help the altar guild clean, dust, polish and shine our beautiful church. We will work on Saturday March 28th from 10am-12pm and Sunday March 29th from 1pm-3pm. Supplies are provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside Jennifer's office. Many hands make light work. Thank you.



Everyone is invited to help make Palm crosses on Thursday March 26th from 10am-11am in the kitchen in All Saints' Hall. Instructions and help will be provided. We hope you can spare an hour to enjoy the fellowship in this tradition. It really is a lot of fun, and there may be snacks. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you.

As we journey through Lent, we are hosting Lenten Lunches on Wednesdays from 12pm-1pm in All Saints Hall. We will gather for a simple meal of soup and sandwiches, accompanied by brief reflections and worship. This midday respite offers a chance to pause, nourish body and soul, and connect with others in our community. All are welcome to attend and participate in this meaningful tradition. Join us on Wednesdays through March 25.



THE ECW OF ST. PETER'S

# Evening in Parish

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026  
from 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Join us for Music, Silent & Live Auctions  
*Benefiting the Outreach Ministries of ECW*  
Enjoy Beer, Wine & Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

\$25 PER PERSON  
DRESSY CASUAL

*Guests Encouraged*  
Return enclosed RSVP card  
to Jennifer by April 1st

# SAVE THE DATE

Ordination of the IX Bishop of  
the Diocese of East Carolina

10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

## 23 | MAY 2026

RIVERFRONT CONVENTION CENTER  
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA



**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!**

## 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!

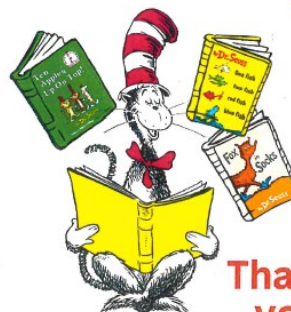
Books will be placed in literacy rich waiting areas for businesses and organizations, little libraries, summer feeding program sites, and given away at our local community events.

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:**

---



**Thank you for your help!**

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



**Prom Boutique**  
for students in Beaufort County Schools

BEAUFORT COUNTY  
**BRIGHT** futures  
CONNECTIONS FOR SUCCESS

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
101 N Bonner Street,  
Washington, NC

*Hundreds of Dresses & Tops for \$5*

**Girls**  
February 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
March 1<sup>st</sup> 3:00 pm-5:00 pm  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
April 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-2:00 pm

**Boys**  
February 26<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm-7:30 pm  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Directions:

- Park in the church parking lot at the corner of Bonner and Second Street.
- Enter through the red door with the **Prom Boutique** sign.



### Could you not keep watch for one hour?

The night before Jesus was crucified. Can you imagine it? He knew what was coming. His disciples had betrayed him and denied him. He spends the night in agonizing prayer while his disciples are weary and have trouble staying awake. The Holy Week prayer vigil at St. Peter's provides us an opportunity to stay awake with Jesus on this important night. It is a powerful Lenten practice for many of us.

Someone will remain in the church from 8:00 pm on Maundy Thursday until 8:00 am on Good Friday. A sign-up sheet on the bulletin board has one-hour time slots to be covered. Bring a friend, small group or your whole family for your hour! Please arrive and leave through the main sanctuary doors on Bonner St. All other doors will remain locked.

# Stations of the Cross

LENT 2026

## Join us!

Spend time in personal reflection as you walk the stations during the Lenten season and observe the rustic artwork depicted in each station.

Brochures available to map out your walk.

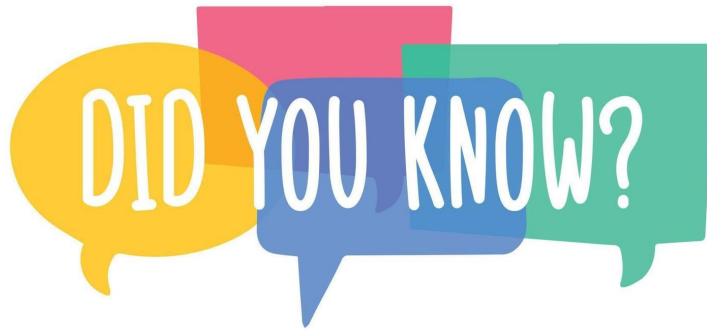
QR codes at each stations offer reflections and prayers related to the station.

**REFLECTION  
SPIRITUAL PEACE  
PRAYER  
EMPATHY**



St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
101 Craven Street  
Bath, NC 27808

Offered Daily  
February 18 - April 3, 2026



## Divine Details for Curious Christians Angel Food Ministry

Did you know that St. Peter's has an Angel Food ministry? This ministry has been around for decades and coordinates meal assistance for parishioners who need a little extra help due to the variety of curveballs that life throws our way.

Angel Food is currently comprised of six teams that average five to six members each (give or take). These teams typically have two leaders who are responsible for reaching out to the church office just one month per year to find out if any of St. Peter's parishioners need assistance. This is generally one meal for members of the parish who have come home from the hospital, are sick or homebound, have a baby, broken bone, etc.

When it becomes known that a St. Peter's family or parishioner may need meal assistance, the Angel Food team lead for that month contacts that person to find out if they do need help, what sort of help, and any dietary restrictions or preferences. The team for that month then gets to work coordinating the meal and drop-off.

The ministry teams would like to remind us that many people do not ask for help, so if you ever hear of or know of a parishioner who could use a little help with meals during a tough time, please do not hesitate to reach out to the church office at 252-946-8151.

"A couple of our Angel Food teams could also use extra helping hands due to members who have recently moved out of our area," said Angel Food lead Emily Garner. "We ask that you prayerfully consider joining our ministry, as it truly takes very little time out of our busy schedules, especially when our teams have plenty of help. Since I took the reins from Jean Sterling in August 2025, our teams have served an average of one family or parishioner a month."

For more information about this ministry, you can reach out to Emily at 252-933-0289 or [emilygarner7888@yahoo.com](mailto:emilygarner7888@yahoo.com).

Divine Details is a new section of St. Peter's newsletter intended to educate, bust myths, and feed our curiosity around a variety of facts about St. Peter's and the Episcopal church in general. Is there a fun fact you recently learned, relearned, or want to know more about that we can share in this new section? You can email or call Emily Garner with your idea at 252-933-0289 or [emilygarner7888@yahoo.com](mailto:emilygarner7888@yahoo.com).