

THE ST PETER'S POST

May , 2024

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

Come, Holy Spirit!



- **Every Sunday 11AM Worship in person at St Peter's and online through YouTube bit.ly/3Up8Msv**
- **Every Wednesday, 10AM until Noon Bible Study in the Parish House—study of the upcoming Sunday's lectionary**
- **Sun., May 5—Since a reception is being planned for the Bishop on Sunday, May 19th, there will be no coffee hour this month.**
- **Saturday, May 11—ECM Clean-up Day, St Peter's at 8AM (read article for specifics)**
- **Wed., May 15—Village Harvest, 3:00pm-5pm. Setup. Tues, May 14. Distribute food 3-5PM. All help is welcome for this vital St Peter's ministry. Contact Andrea Pogue (wake.poguepublic@gmail.com) to volunteer.**
- **Vestry, Thurs., May 16, 2pm.**
- **Confirmation Class will meet on Thursday, May 16, 7 PM at St Peter's.**
- **Confirmation and reception with the Bishop on Pentecost May 19, 11AM, reception follows.**
- **Thursday, May 30th, Sacred Ground, 7PM on Zoom. All are welcome. bit.ly/3Wquorb . Meeting ID: 836 3707 5049 Passcode: 345258**

Server Schedule, May 2024

May 5 The Sixth Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist 11AM

Lector Andrea Pogue

Acolyte Arthur Duke

Chalice Bearer Alice Hughes

Altar Clean up Andrea Pogue

May 12 The Seventh Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, 11AM

Lector Cookie Davis

Acolyte Hamilton Duke

Chalice Bearer Andrea Pogue

Altar Clean up BJ Anderson

May 19 The Day of Pentecost and Bishop Visitation, Holy Eucharist, 11AM

Lector Johnny Davis

Acolyte Arthur Duke

Chalice Bearer Andrea Pogue

Altar Clean up Everyone

May 26 Trinity Sunday, Holy Eucharist, 11AM

Lector Ben Hicks

Acolyte Chester Duke

Chalice Bearer Johnny Davis

Altar Clean up Elizabeth Heimbach

Episcopal Church Men Clean-up Day, Saturday, May 11

Gentlemen, It has been quite a while since our last meeting; so we are long overdue. A lot has transpired, and with Catherine's retirement, a great deal of change is imminent. Last year, we provided some additional holiday cheer to several local families during Thanksgiving and Christmas with dinner for the day and groceries for the week. In addition to our holiday philanthropy, several members have donated their time and effort towards the

maintenance, safety and beautification of St. Peter's on a routine and exigent basis. Tasks included but were not limited to addressing its physical structures, grounds and operational elements (HVAC, plumbing, fencing, light post, locks, internet, etc.). Yes, it takes a lot to run a railroad, but collectively we always, "git 'er done". I am proud and grateful for the hard work, dedication, and selflessness of our members; men and women alike. Thank you ECW.

That said, I am reaching out to the men of St. Peter's Episcopal Church (collectively known as the ECM) to ask for your help in doing a few light chores around the church in preparation for the Bishop's visit Sunday, May 19, 2024. The tasks identified and prioritized will likely require approximately 4 hours to complete, and they include the following:

1. **Scrape and Paint select, weathered portions of the Ramp** (at the front of the church);
2. **Remove and replace the damaged section of the chain-linked fence part of the cemetery surround; across from the rear parking area;**
3. **Replace the condensate tubing (drain conduit) for the HVAC pump in the Church basement; and**
4. **Light yard work** - possible raking fallen debris or trimming bushes.

With sufficient participation (being physically able and available), I truly believe that we may be able to complete these tasks in short order. Immediately thereafter, I would like us to grab some lunch at either Hornes or the local Mexican restaurant. I am open to either one. We can decide on the restaurant after we are done working.

This is truly a call to arms, but it is also a chance for us to fellowship. I know that we always have priorities in our lives that pull us in different directions; sometimes all at once. I am respectfully asking you to prioritize this effort, and help ensure that St.

Peter's continues to represent us all as a welcoming, well kept, and appreciated house of worship and love. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday. Thank you in advance for your help. God bless.

Ken Pogue

PS - If you have other family members or friends who would like to participate in this effort, please be advised that ALL are welcome; the more the merrier.

The Day of Pentecost



Pentecost literally means "fiftieth day." As a Jewish religious celebration, this harvest festival first marked the fifty days after Passover. The Jews also celebrated the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, which is today known and celebrated in the Jewish tradition as Shavuot.

In the Christian tradition, Pentecost marks the end of the 50 Days of Easter. In Acts 2, the apostles and friends gather in Jerusalem to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Suddenly there is a great rushing of wind, and tongues of fire rest on each of the apostles. They begin to speak in different languages, and the crowds around them, Jews from across the diaspora, having come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks, understand them. Some of the crowd accuse the disciples of being drunk. Peter preaches to the crowd, revealing the will of God in Jesus Christ, as prophesied by Joel, and affirming a continual outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon repentance and baptism.

When the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they carried the Good News about Jesus into the world. They devoted themselves to the

teaching and to fellowship, they performed wonders and signs, they gave to others in need...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were saved. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples direction and power to form the Christian community, which would become "the church."

Christian theology is grounded in a doctrine of three in one, and Christians often pray in the "name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." In the Luke/Acts tradition, Pentecost is the definitive moment in which God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to empower those who will continue the work of Jesus on earth.

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus told his followers, "I will be with you always, even until the end of the age." In John 15:26 Jesus tells the disciples that he "will send them the Advocate-the Spirit of truth, who will come to them from the Father and will testify all about Jesus. Pentecost marks the fulfillment of Christ's promised ongoing presence with the disciples.

Pentecost Confirmation and Reception in the Episcopal Church, May 19th for St Peter's

On Sunday, May 19th, The Day of Pentecost, The Rt Rev Gayle Harris, Assisting Bishop in The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, will join us at St Peter's for a joyful time of worship and celebration and for Confirmation and Reception.

Jennifer Gamber explains that "Confirmation is one of the Church's seven sacraments. Sacraments are "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace." In the sacraments we recognize God's active presence in our lives. The Episcopal Church recognizes the two great sacraments of the Bible, which are baptism and Eucharist, and five sacramental

rights, which include Confirmation. For Confirmation, the outward visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace is the laying on of hands by the bishop, and the inward spiritual grace is the strengthening of the Holy Spirit." (see Jennifer Gamber's book, [Your Faith, Your Life, An Invitation to the Episcopal Church](#) for more details.)

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that "in the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age, are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop."

"Those baptized as adults, unless baptized with laying on of hands by a bishop, are also expected to make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism in the presence of a bishop and to receive the laying on of hands."

For those who have been confirmed in another denomination, the Book of Common Prayer provides for the formal reception into the Episcopal Church, which honors the commitment already having been made in the person's previous denomination.

Chester Duke, Hamilton Duke and Zeke Fisher have all been meeting with Catherine to learn more about what it means to affirm their faith through the sacrament of Confirmation. Following the shape of the Catechism, we have discussed a wide range of topics that will help us in our walks as faithful Christians.

As we welcome these three young men as confirmed members of the church, here's some information to help you know them better.

Zeke Fisher says that he is being confirmed to help him think about and reevaluate his faith. He also wants to affirm the baptismal

vows taken on his behalf when he was baptized as an infant here at St Peter's. Many of us know that Zeke is a world traveler. He says that traveling is a great way to learn about God's creation. On his latest adventure, his favorite country was Greece. He found the beauty of the island of Santorini captivating, especially the sunsets. Zeke has also been speed skating for just about two years now. He will be going to the national competitions in June, out in Nebraska.

Chester Duke is an 8th grader at Caroline Middle School. He is being confirmed because he wants to be open to God with all his heart, and to show that he is trustworthy. Chester plays the French Horn and is already an accomplished musician. This year he was first chair in the school area band. Chester also enjoys working with technology.

Hamilton Duke is in 6th grade at Caroline Middle School. He says that he is being confirmed because he would like to devote his life to this church, and because he had the opportunity this year to be confirmed, so he took the opportunity. Hamilton's science project team won first place this year at the YMCA science fair with their presentation on tornado resistant houses. Hamilton is a member of Scout Troop 173, which meets in Bowling Green at St Asaph's Episcopal Church. Hamilton is also a musician and plays the trumpet. In the school band.

Confirmation is not an ending, or a goal to be accomplished, but a joyful beginning, an open door that welcomes those passing through it into a life of faithfully following Jesus. All of us at St Peter's are responsible for supporting Zeke, Chester and Hamilton as they commit to following Jesus more intentionally in their lives. Think of ways that you can support these beloved young people.

On May 19th, the Bishop will receive our friend **Jean Devitt** into The Episcopal Church. Jean lives in King George County

and is coming to us from the Catholic Church. She has been with us for a year now, worshipping, studying and praying with this congregation. She is a faithful member of the St Peter's Wednesday Bible study. Jean grew up in Carbondale, PA. She worked at Dahlgren for 25 years as a computer engineer before retiring. Jean says that what brought her to St Peter's is the sense of spiritual connection that she finds in being part of a group who functions as a loving family in the Body of Christ. Jean has many hobbies, including cooking, gardening, sewing, and painting with water colors. (She was voted most artistic in her high school graduating class.) Welcome, Jean, as you make your already strong connection with St Peter's and The Episcopal Church official. We at St Peter's are delighted to support you in your faithful walk as a follower of Jesus.

Little Falls Bluegrass Band returns to St Peter's

During the Pentecost reception with the Bishop, the Little Falls Bluegrass band will join us and provide music during the reception. The band was also with us last year on Pentecost, adding their musical talents to our celebration. So in addition to showing your support for those being confirmed and received, come out on May 19th to enjoy the Little Falls Bluegrass Band.

Transition and Rector Search Update

Greetings, all.

My time as the Rector of St Peter's is drawing short. My last Sunday with you will be Sunday, June 30th. What a joy it's been to worship, study, pray and to be with you all these almost fourteen years that have passed by so quickly. We've shared a lot in our years together, time for which I will be eternally grateful. I came to you straight from seminary, and you all have so graciously taught me and helped me to live

into my priesthood. I have deep love and gratitude for each of you.

The Vestry, under the leadership of Johnny Davis, Senior Warden, is working with the Diocese to develop a search process for your next priest. As they receive information, the Vestry will be keeping you informed, and also asking for your input **All of you will have a chance to meet and to talk with The Rev. Shirley Smith Graham, the Diocesan Transition officer, on Sunday, June 2nd.** Make your attendance at St Peter's a priority that day so that you can talk with Shirley, give your input and ask her your questions.

Meanwhile, the Vestry is also sorting through how the various ministries and activities at church will continue as the search takes place. Don't wait to be asked! Ask how you can help continue the important ministries that St Peter's carries out. And as you've heard me say, liturgy (how we worship together) is the work of the people. Think about how you want to be a part of making worship continue to happen at St Peter's. Within the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about the logistics of congregational life—who will be taking care of what in the time you will have between priests.

Although I will no longer be with you on Sundays in person, I know that on every Sunday of my life ahead, as I worship, I will be with you in spirit, holding each one of you in my heart.

Peace, Catherine

Village Harvest, April - "Low Numbers, however they got a lot of nice stuff"



This article is by Ben Hicks--April, 2024 brought 77 people to the Village Harvest. it was the 3rd lowest total over the year and is below March's 90. 77 is also below the 6th month average of 98. Our range over the 6 month period has extended from 77 to 112 ,December, 2023 . A year ago in April the total was 104.

Food sources were also lower at 1,242 pounds in April compared to 1,322 pounds last month. Like the client totals food was the 3rd lowest in a year. However, unlike with clients, April's total was above the 12 month average. 1,242 pounds was above the 6th month average of 1,217. A year ago in April, 2023 pounds were higher at 1,365.

The composition of food in April, 2024 was closer to other Aprils (except for April 2023) at 38% produce, 45% grocery and 17% meat. (Last year, April 2023, produce was significantly higher at 51%). Generally, grocery has been higher than produce by 10 percentage points at this time of the year.

Pounds per person is a measure that tries to relate client and food trends. How much food did the typical client receive? **Despite the totals being lower in both clients and pounds this month, pounds per person were at a 12 month high at 16.1.** The 6 months average is 13 as it was a year ago in April, 2023. Pounds per person was at the highest level since July 2023 at 16.75."

ECW—The Torch is Passed Andrea Pogue to serve as the Episcopal Church Women Chairperson

Elizabeth Heimbach has served as the Chairperson of the ECW for several years now. She has done a fantastic job of organizing the Episcopal Church Women as they carry out various responsibilities around the church. In addition, she has provided welcoming opportunities for the women to come together in friendship to provide mutual support to one another.

Thank you, Elizabeth.

Andrea Pogue has agreed to continue this good work by agreeing to be the Chairperson of the ECW going forward. Andrea brings many organizational gifts and talents to this role at St Peter's. **Thank you, Andrea.**

In addition to planning various events in the parish, like the Bishop's reception on Sunday, May 19th, the ECW will also be thinking about ways to raise money for its work within the church like Altar Guild and also fundraising for outreach.

The ECW is working on some upcoming events: the reception for the Bishop on May 19th, Shred -It will take place in the early afternoon on Wednesday, June 12th, and there is a possibility of a "Village Dinner" around Thanksgiving this year.

The ECW also coordinates the annual United Thank Offering each year, arranging for the collection of the offering from St Peter's and then getting the money to the national organization. Stay tuned for more about the United Thank Offering at St Peter's.

**CERVE connects us with
emergency outreach in Caroline
County**



Helping
Neighbors



St Peter's has been a long time participant in CERVE, which stands for Caroline Emergency Relief through Volunteer efforts. Fred Pannell served as the Treasurer of CERVE for many years. Boyd Wisdom served as our representative until Elizabeth Heimbach took that job. St Peter's representation will continue as various people attend the upcoming meetings. Deputy Trey Clifton represented us in March. Catherine Hicks attended in April. The following people have signed up for the next several months.

May 28—Johnny Davis
June 25—Elizabeth Heimbach
July 23—Linda Upshaw
September 14—Andrea Pogue
October 22—Larry Saylor

Consider representing St Peter's and signing up for a meeting. This is a great place to find out how St Peter's, with other churches, can help to meet various needs in the county. Find out about how the Department of Social Services, the Sheriff's Department, the churches and other organizations in the county come together to meet emergency needs by providing emergency lodging and fuel assistance, and also help with utilities, rent, and prescription medicine.

Anyone can join! Please consider donating to CERVE and make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable residents. Here is our Givelify link:

<https://giv.li/fmb0nr>

Update on Snacks for Caroline County Public Schools

Based on information discussed at the February CERVE meeting regarding the need for snacks at the elementary schools in Caroline County, St Peter's Vestry made a donation, along with many other churches, to raise \$1268 to be spent on snacks for the three schools. Teachers at these schools have been individually providing snacks for their classrooms since many of the children cannot afford to bring a daily snack to school.

One of the CERVE members coordinated with personnel at the three county elementary schools, getting input about what snacks would be wanted. She then purchased juice boxes, fruit cups, apple sought and other healthy snacks and delivered snacks to the three schools. With the donations received, the schools will receive snacks through the rest of this school year. Needless to say, everyone is extremely grateful for this direct help for our Caroline County children.

Congratulations, Holly Davis!

Holly Davis, daughter of Odessa and Jonathan Davis, and granddaughter of Johnny and Cookie Davis, is one of eight seventh graders from Caroline County accepted into the Fredericksburg Regional Governor's School.

Students attending the sessions will be engaged in hands-on STEM learning activities and field trips on a wide range of topics including Wetlands Ecology, Caves, Mines, and Minerals, Environmental Technology, Engineering, and Chemistry. Some students will also participate in the mentorship program. Congratulations to all students and special congratulations to Holly!

Prayer Corner

Thank you for the prayers that you continue to offer for so many. The following people and families will appreciate your continuing prayers for them.

Tom Kramer is receiving treatment for an advanced lung cancer which was only recently diagnosed. Please keep him in your prayers. And pray for Linda as she supports Tom through this time.

Barbara Wisdom has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is working with her doctors to determine what treatments she will receive.

Nathaniel Schnakenburg continues to have many ongoing complicated health challenges after receiving his kidney transplant. Please continue to pray for him and for his medical team as they work to meet these challenges.

Helmut Linne von Berg is recovering from hernia repair surgery. Due to the deep incision that had to be made, Helmut's recovery will take a while! Please keep him in your prayers, and be in touch with him if you can. Helmut's address in Fredericksburg is 820 Salem Dr, Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

Russell Alexander Duke, Jr, father of Dave Duke is recovering from major shoulder surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.

Bobby Norman, son of Robin Monroe, needs our prayers as he receives help to deal with his struggles with alcohol. Pray for his strength to face his great challenges.

Joy Newlin and Beryl Harrison, both on our prayer list, are residents at Chancellor's Village. Joy is still having surgeries connected to a fall, and Beryl faces several health challenges and needs our prayers. They both come to the Chancellor's Village Eucharist that takes place every week there.

Thy Kingdom Come, May 9-May 19



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension (May 9) to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. It's the 8th year anniversary 2024, having been started by the Church of England and Archbishop Justin Welby in 2016.

Signup below to add Port Royal to the map to light up the world in prayer."

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld>

Prayer is a response to a loving relationship with a loving God. Essentially it is conversation with God; listening to God's presence and responding to that presence. As we pray, our relationship with God is deepened. As we pray, God draws us closer, guiding our thoughts, making us spiritually stronger in our daily lives.

The eleven days of Thy Kingdom Come give people the opportunity to join with others around the world to:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

In the gospel according to Luke, before Jesus ascended, he told the disciples to go back to Jerusalem and await the coming of the Holy Spirit. They did as he asked, spent ten days absorbed in prayer as they waited, and the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost.

Following the example of these disciples, we can spend time in intentional prayer praying for people around the world to be filled with the Spirit and to come to know Jesus more fully.

For Thy Kingdom Come:

- 1. Pray for five people**
- 2. Complete the Prayer Journal 2024**

Download here - bit.ly/3VSL22t

The Journal features thoughts from a range of voices across denominations. Each day there is a passage from the Bible, a short reflection, a time to pause and pray, and a 'Living the Kingdom' action. There is also space each day for your own notes – remembering and reflecting on the thoughts.

Praying between Ascension and Pentecost at St. Peter's

Thursday, May 9th—Ascension Day.

Here's a prayer you might want to use.

Dear Lord, Right before your Ascension into heaven you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit/ May I be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed in my community, according to your will for me. And may I do so prudently and joyfully, with your help, your guidance, and your grace! **Amen!**

Friday, May 10th—Pray for five people who need to know Jesus in their lives.

Pray for them every day during Thy Kingdom Come, and then keep praying for them.

Saturday, May 11th—Pray for Port Royal, for all the families and children and

churches in our town, for those who lead, for those who work, and worship in Port Royal, for those who visit our town. Ask God about how you can make help God's reign to become a reality in Port Royal.

Sunday, May 12th—Mother's Day. Pray for your family. Pray that Jesus may be more fully known in your own family.

Monday, May 13th—Pray for St Peter's. Pray for our church, for the Vestry, for all who serve, that we may fully welcome in the reign of God and to discern how God is asking us how best to carry God's love out into the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead St Peter's to its new priest so that this church can continue to carry out its gospel work in the world.

Tuesday, May 14th—Pray for the Fredericksburg Region, and for The Diocese of Virginia, that this network of Christians may come together in powerful witness to God's love out in the world.

Wednesday, May 15th—Pray for all who come to the Village Harvest Food Distribution for food, and for all who make the food distribution possible, including The Healthy Harvest Food Bank (formerly known as the Northern Neck Food Bank).

Thursday, May 16th—Pray for our nation. Study the news, and pray that God will enter into the situations you read about and bring healing in the midst of our divisions.

Friday, May 17th—Pray for the Church around the world, that it will experience a revival and that the Holy Spirit may bring new life into its mission and ministry.

Saturday, May 18th—Spend some time praying The Lord's Prayer. Open yourself to each phrase and ask how God wants you to be involved in the coming of God's reign on this earth.

Sunday, May 19th—Pentecost. Bishop Harris will be here for the visitation. Pray for those being confirmed and received into the Church at St Peter's on Pentecost. **Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

The Consecration of St Peter's



On May 15 back in 1836, Bishop Richard Channing Moore came to St. Peter's for the consecration of the church which had been finished in late 1835:

"On Sunday, May 15, 1836 I went to Port Royal at which place I consecrated a new Church: a building which is a great ornament to the town, and reflects the greatest credit upon those by "whose munificence it has been erected, and which, I trust, will prove a blessing to them and to their children to their latest posterity. The congregation was very large and attentive during the whole service. Prayers were read by several of the clergy who attended on the occasion — the discourse was delivered by myself — the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered — I baptized three children and confirmed two persons."

Save these dates in June

Sunday, June 2--We will welcome The Rev Shirley Smith Graham, the Diocesan Transitions Minister, to St Peter's on during worship. She will join us for Coffee Hour as well to talk about the search for your new priest.

Wednesday, June 12—Shred it will take place in the early afternoon. Watch for more details.

Sunday, June 30—Catherine's last Sunday. Let's enjoy this day of worshiping and celebrating together!

May, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HBD Stanley Fields Bible Study 10am	2 HBD Hugh D'Aguilar Confirmation Class 7:30PM at St Peter's	3	4 HBD The Rev. Karen Woodruff
5 Eucharist, 11AM No Coffee Hour today	6	7 Happy Anniversary, Alex and Nancy Long	8 Bible Study 10am	9 Ascension Day Thy Kingdom Come begins	10	11 ECM Cleanup Day, 11AM
12 Eucharist, 11AM	13	14	15 HBD Michael Fox, Karen Long 188th Anniv St. Peter's Bible Study 10am Village Harvest 3:00pm - 5pm	16 Confirmation Class at St. Peter's 7:30PM	17	18
19 Pentecost! Confirmation, Reception and Eucharist, 11AM, Reception to follow HBD Jean Devitt, Bill Wick Little Falls Bluegrass band will be playing at the reception.	20	21	22 Bible Study 10am	23	24 HBD Gladys Fortune, Justin Long, Jane McCormack	25
26 Eucharist, 11am, Trinity Sunday	27 Memorial Day	28 CERVE meets at 4PM, Macedonia Baptist	29 Bible Study 10am	30 HBD Cornesha Howard Sacred Ground, 7PM on Zoom	31 Happy Anniversary Stanley and Cindy Fields	