

St. Peter's Parish Church

The Keys

December 2013 - January 2014

Dr. Rowles' Mobile Phone: 804-357-9757

THE KEYS Editors: stpeters.admin1@gmail.com and amypatterson53@gmail.com

From the Rector's Desk

Recently I delivered a homily wherein I encouraged you to dream—dream big, dream small, but dream, nonetheless. Although I've not heard from any of you regarding your dreams for St. Peter's or what role you might play in those dreams, our future is going to change. I said as much in the homily, quoting the old saying: "If you want to make God laugh, make plans." But I must confess, I didn't expect change to come the way it did or quite as soon as it did.

First, our organist and choirmaster, Sam Bruce, resigned effective October 31. He was starting his eleventh year with us, having come to us from St. Mary's, Goochland at the invitation of the Rev'd Brian McGurk. Sam had lived through two incumbents, a priest-in-charge, and at least one interim. He had served us faithfully throughout his entire tenure. We don't know what the future holds for him, but we wish him well.

So the music program will be changing. As I told Jeannine Uzel, our search consultant and Sam's predecessor, any time a new organist mounts the bench the organ tends to sound different. The new person often goes off into areas of the organ the previous organist didn't, with new stops, new volumes, new combinations, and new music. Sam wasn't Jeannine, and that required some adjustment; Sam's successor won't be him, and that will require adjustment, too. *What are your hopes and dreams for the new choirmaster and organist, or for St. Peter's music program in general?*

Second, Sam's resignation was followed two days later by the resignation of Adriane Marshall, our Youth Mission Trip coordinator. Adriane had held that position about as long as Sam had held his. I think she'd gone on thirteen mission trips and led ten of them. Now that program will be changing as well. We'd done some minor tweaking of the program over the years, but now it will be a major overhaul and revision of the Youth Mission Trip program. The task group will be looking at where we go, who we work with, how it's funded, how each participant is individually funded, who's going to lead it, and much more. *What are your hopes and dreams for the Youth Mission Trip program and/or for its new leader?*

Finally, we've been celebrating a lot of baptisms lately. That's good to see; it's a sign of a growing church! The "Five Marks of Mission" were developed by the Anglican Consultative Council between 1984 and 1990, and have won wide acceptance among Anglicans. They have given parishes and dioceses around the world a practical and memorable "checklist" for mission activities. Here they are:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation; and
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

What are your hopes and dreams regarding how we live out these "Five Marks of Missions"?

Faithfully,

Paul †



Wardens' Corner

I have had the honor of serving St. Peter's Vestry for the past three years, which has been a blessing on several levels. Fortunately, my Vestry experience has included: Buildings and Grounds Vestry Representative, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden. Each of these roles has enabled me to be involved in different areas of our church. I have been able to see the extensive work that goes on each day behind the scenes. Attending Sunday services alone does not allow you to see the efforts of everyone in our church family.

I have enjoyed serving with past and present Vestry members. I am proud of our accomplishments over the last few years and excited about the future of our church. If you have the opportunity to serve on the Vestry, I would encourage you to do so. I assure you it will be an enlightening and beneficial experience. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching. ~ Romans 12:4-7

Faithfully yours,

Tony Wood
Senior Warden

St. Peter's Vestry Nominations

CLOSE

December 8, 2013

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Vestry Class of 2017.

Nomination forms are available in the Parish House foyer and in the back of the church. Forms may be submitted to the Senior Warden or to the church office. Prior to completing a form, be sure and get the person's permission before nominating them!

As a reminder, each Vestry nominee must be a member of St. Peter's Parish Church, a confirmed adult communicant (age 16+) in good standing, and "known to the Treasurer."



Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering will go to two different places, one local and one just about as far away as one can get. The local outreach will go to New Hope Pantry located in Providence Forge. Despite having a tree fall on their pantry and destroy it last year, forcing a relocation, they continue to provide food assistance to New Kent County. The other one is for Philippine disaster aid, and will be donated through Episcopal Relief and Development.

The Christmas letters and offering envelopes will be mailed soon. Please be generous this season!

~ *The Vestry*



St. Peter's Parish Church

The Reverend Dr. S. Paul Rowles, *rector*
Sherri W. Hardiman, *parish administrator*
Stuart R. Burnett, *clerk & treasurer*
Mark P. Whidden, *assistant treasurer*
Susan E. Cheyne, *verger*
Ann O. Bradshaw, *register*

The Vestry

Tony Wood, *senior warden*
Mark Whidden, *junior warden*

Class of 2014

Peter Carlson (966-7251)
Karen Lange (966-2940)
Tony Wood (932-9516)

Class of 2015

Patrick Evelyn (932-9844)
Bill O'Keefe (966-7370)
Mark Whidden (203-526-0360)

Class of 2016

Steve Miles (966-9240)
Kristin Swynford (557-3533)
Chrissy Wagner (932-9004)

The Keys

Sherri Hardiman, *Co-Editor*
Amy Patterson, *Co-Editor*

Kim McLean, *Altar Guild Chair*
Stacey Wood, *EYC Advisor*
Carol Nelms, *Church School Superintendent*

Christian Education

Adult Forum

St. Peters Adult Forum will go on hiatus for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Our last class for 2013 was November 10 and our next class will be Sunday, January 5, 2014. Many thanks to all those folks who have stuck with the program since September 29. I think it has been fun doing a bit of music, then reading and discussing the book, followed by meditation.



Just because we will be off until January does not mean idleness. I would ask all attendees to purchase THE MYSTIC CHRIST, by Ethan Walker, if you have not already done so. Please read or reread Chapters 2 and 3 prior to January 5 so we can hit the ground running.

If you have not attended our class yet, we would still encourage you to join us in January. To the class, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Go in Peace.

~ Steve von Hitritz

♪♪♪

Children's Choir

The children have been working hard to prepare our song for Christmas! We will have one 10:30 practice on December 1; however, we will practice the song during pageant practice on December 8 and 15.

I encourage each of the children to listen to the CD to work on the words!

Practice Dates:
December 1, 8, 15
January 5, 19



~ Hawthorne Davis, Joyce Molina,
and Carol Nelms

♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪

The Children's Choir section is framed by a decorative border of musical notes. It includes a title, a paragraph about the choir's preparation, practice dates, an illustration of three children singing, and the names of the organizers.

Church School Update & Events

We have had a great start to the Church School year with fantastic attendance! The youngest Church School class consists of Pre-K – 1st graders. We have been learning about the beginning of the Book of Genesis. Each week we learn about another day that God has created. Stop by and check out what we have been learning.

Church School 2013-2014 for 2nd - 5th grade has gotten off to a great start! We have had an amazing turnout – fourteen of our children have attended class so far! Our teaching focuses on the Gospel reading for the week so that we can further reinforce the message that Fr. Paul is sending forth in his sermon. We are also walking through the “Order of Worship” and the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

The young adult class has gotten off to a good start as well. We look forward to a great Church School year. Please join us if you can, from 10 - 10:45 am on Sundays.

Exciting times are ahead for our Church School students. First, plan to attend the annual Christmas Craft Day on Sunday, December 1, following the 11 am service. It's not too early to plan your gingerbread house. What do you need for this event? You will need a clean milk carton and \$15 to cover the cost of pizza and gingerbread house fixings. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer of the Parish House, along with the base for the house. I suggest attaching the carton to the base ahead of time. This event is for ALL ages. Come join the fun!

Calling all children of the parish to join us as we prepare for the annual Christmas Pageant! This year's pageant will be held on Sunday, December 22, at 10 am in Richardson Hall. Practice will be held on December 8 and 15. This is a fun event and a wonderful way to celebrate the reason for the season! The more angels and shepherds, the better!

~ Carol Nelms, Church School Superintendent & Church School Teachers



Worship

Christmas Decorating & Hanging of the Greens



It is time to plan for St. Peter's Christmas decorations—vibrant fruits and greenery—which add so much beauty to our worship and fellowship venues during the Christmas season. As you may recall, your purchase is made in honor of, in memory of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one. The sign-up sheets are in the church and in the Parish House foyer. The deadline to sign up is December 9, so be sure to sign up early!

A donation of \$10 is requested, which goes toward the purchase of the fruits. Please make your checks payable to St. Peter's Parish Church and note **Christmas Decorations** on the memo line.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help with the "Hanging of the Greens" on Saturday, December 21, at 9 am. Come join the fellowship and fun while preparing the church for Christmas worship.

~ *Kim McLean, Altar Guild Chair*

Inclement Weather Policy



In the event of bad weather which may affect a service, the Vestry will make contact with their calling tree. Also, the church voice mail will be updated accordingly. If you're in doubt of what to do, contact your Vestry person or call the church. If there is a function or event – not a service – at the church and there is inclement weather, please make note that if the New Kent County Schools are closed on that day, then the function/event at the church will be cancelled. Every effort will be made to change the voice mail system during the week to update for functions as well. Please keep this information handy during times of inclement weather.

Adopted by the Vestry Feb. 2005

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care

Representatives from the Pastoral Care Commission and the Vestry met with Fr. Paul in October to discuss the overall direction of the commission and ways to better serve the St. Peter's Parish Church community. The Pastoral Care Commission now includes: Jennifer Johnson Stenbjorn, Nancy Goodman, Corinne Dorsey, Shirley Meyer, and Jessica Evelyn. Our current Vestry representative is Karen Lange.

Several initiatives for 2014 have been planned along with one remaining 2013 project. The 2013 project, directed by Jennifer, will be to provide Christmas baskets for homebound parishioners. In 2014, Pastoral Care will focus on sustaining and supporting the homebound parishioners, our college students, and our service members. The long-term and short-term prayer lists will continue as before.

Another responsibility of Pastoral Care is to coordinate receptions for funerals. Fr. Paul and Nancy are currently working on a guideline and checklist to assist family members in a time of grief. As soon as the guide is finalized, it will be available to families needing assistance with funerals.

Your willingness to participate in the Pastoral Care Commission is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or input, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 804-932-3609 or by e-mail at beldor69@aol.com.

Many thanks!

~ *Nancy Goodman*



Outreach

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



The 2nd Annual *Sarah's Memorial Golf Tournament* was held at The Club at Viniterra golf course on September 20 and it was an overwhelming success! The tournament exceeded all expectations by depositing \$26,000 into a scholarship endowment with the College of William and Mary Foundation in the memory of Sarah Lindsey Gupta. With this additional funding, the initial endowment goal of \$50,000 has been reached, which allows the college to begin the scholarships.

Sarah passed away in November 2011 with a rare form of adrenal cancer. She was a former teacher at the New Kent Middle School for a number of years, an alumna of the College of William and Mary, and a member of St. Peter's. The goal of the endowment is to offer scholarships to students pursuing a degree in education or the arts at William and Mary. According to Patrick Evelyn, who initiated and led the tournament, "Meeting the initial endowment goal in two short years is beyond anyone's expectations." He went on to say, "I knew Sarah had a large influence on the many people that she touched, but this outpouring was truly a blessing."

Over 120 golfers participated in the tournament along with 70 hole sponsors, 12 tournament sponsors, and numerous donations and prize offerings. The weather could not have been any better and everyone enjoyed a great day at Viniterra. The food, the fun, the friendly competition, and the prizes were truly the order of the day. So many supporters joined together for this admirable achievement!

Because of these wonderful successes, Patrick and his committee are already planning for next year's tournament to further enhance the scholarship fund. According to Patrick, "We could have never had this spectacular accomplishment without the support and generous donations from so many people, businesses, and surely our church. We sincerely thank them for their participation and look forward to seeing everyone next year."

~ Sarah Lindsey Gupta Memorial Golf Tournament Committee

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for sharing the good news of our Savior with hurting children of the world by your contributions of Christmas shoeboxes to *Operation Christmas Child*.



We collected 30 shoeboxes. Thanks to everyone for your support of this annual outreach program!

~ Edna Christian and Carol Nelms



Matthew's Haven, Inc.

Giving truly of ourselves through God's grace...

As 2013 comes to an end, Matthew's Haven would like to thank St. Peter's Parish Church, the Vestry, our donors, and our volunteers for all of your support throughout the year. Through your kindness and generosity, Matthew's Haven provided 269 children with school supplies, launched a new annual winter coat drive program, and raised much needed funds to provide basic necessities to children in our community through our annual fundraiser, Denim & Diamonds. Thank you!

It takes a village to raise a child.

Throughout the year, Matthew's Haven forged new partnerships with local businesses and organizations to better serve our mission of creating change in the lives of children by nourishing their bodies, enriching their minds, and lifting their spirits.

Special thanks to Memorial Methodist Church of Charles City County for mobilizing their congregation and helping us make our first Matthew's Haven Winter Coat Drive a success.

Matthew's Haven is also partnering with Cornerstone in Providence Forge to provide clothing assistance to families in need throughout the calendar year, allowing us to provide this service more efficiently. But just so you know, we are still collecting children's clothing, so please continue to send in your donations. Currently, we are in need of newborn sizes 0-3 months for our *Baby Bundles* program.

'Tis the Season! Give a Child a Christmas

Very soon, the stockings will be hung, the lights and decorations will be sparkling, and Christmas shopping will be in full swing! The children are already counting down the days until Christmas. Each year, Matthew's Haven partners with social services, agencies, and nonprofits to enable the *Give a Child a Christmas* program to children who may not otherwise have one. Please consider giving the gift of a "Merry Christmas" by sponsoring a child in the community through the *Give a Child a Christmas* program.

To sponsor a child or donate funds, contact any of the volunteers for Matthew's Haven. ***Wrapped and tagged gifts are due Sunday, December 15, and will be distributed to the families on Tuesday, December 17.*** As usual you will find the list of children and their wish lists in the foyer of the Parish House. We are asking all gifts to be wrapped and if possible, returned with wish lists attached to the gifts. We have added a place on the wish list for you to provide an approximate amount spent for the gifts you purchased. We ask this to maximize matching funds provided through grants and other sources.

Quilt Raffle

Patricia Ankrom is donating a beautiful queen-size handmade quilt for Matthew's Haven to raffle as a fundraiser. The quilt is currently "under construction" and should be completed soon. We plan to sell raffle tickets after the holidays, and one lucky ticket holder will win this quilt!



Looking forward to 2014!

In the new year, Matthew's Haven will continue building new partnerships to expand our existing programs and create new programs to fulfill unmet needs in our community. If you know someone or a business who would like to contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out! For more information about our organization, programs, and services please visit our website at www.matthewshaven.com.

~ Catherine Pierce

Parish Life



From the Treasurer

~ 2013 Contributions Due in Church Office or Postmarked by December 31 ~

All St. Peter's contributions received in the CHURCH OFFICE or postmarked by December 31, 2013 will be applied toward 2013 pledges and included as 2013 contributions on your end-of-year statements for tax purposes.

Contributions received or postmarked AFTER December 31, 2013 can still be applied to complete 2013 pledges, but they will be recorded as 2014 contributions for tax purposes and will not be included on the 2013 end-of-year statements.

Likewise, pre-payments on 2014 pledges received prior to December 31, 2013 can be applied to 2014 pledges, but will be shown on your 2013 statement as a contribution for the 2013 tax year.

Statements will be mailed to you by the end of January 2014.

If you have questions about the current status of your 2013 pledge, please send an e-mail to the Treasurer at stpeters.treasurer1@gmail.com and I will be happy to run a contributions report and e-mail it back to you. This will show all your contributions and the status of your pledge.

~ *Stuart Burnett, Treasurer*

Resource & Development Raffle & More

As many of you are aware, Wayne Hayden has been busy crafting items made from the walnut tree that stood for so many years in the church yard at St. Peters. Wayne has generously donated a salad bowl set to the Resource Committee for a raffle. Now is your chance to own a piece of St. Peters! Purchase tickets now for \$5 each from any member of the Resource & Development Committee. We will have a drawing in December (prior to Christmas, but the date has not been determined!) to see who will be the lucky owner of a 14-inch serving bowl and four 6 1/2-inch salad bowls beautifully crafted from aged walnut wood. This piece of history could belong to you or someone on your Christmas shopping list. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the church, so don't miss out on the chance to win this unique set of bowls!

Martha's Gift Shoppe will have a new Christmas item this year: a pewter Christmas cherub, similar to the angel on the cover of our ANGELS IN THE KITCHEN cookbook. These lovely satin-finish pewter ornaments will be available in early December for only \$18. Look for this new Christmas ornament soon!

~ *The Resource & Development Committee*



From the Parish Register



Baptism

William Jefferson (Quinton) Wallace, V, son of Wally and Cristina Wallace, October 20, 2013
Luke Thomas Meador, son of Randall Meador and Katherine Whidden, November 3, 2013

Marriages

Anna Stuart Burnett and Matthew Edwin Lambert, October 5, 2013
Mae Ashby Wallace and Christopher Brandon Ayers, November 2, 2013

Progressive Dinner

In 2014, the Fellowship Committee is considering bringing back the Progressive Dinner. In years past, the Progressive Dinner has been a wonderful event for members of the parish to meet and spend an evening building fellowship over dinner. Some members of St. Peter's have expressed how much they miss the Progressive Dinner and the opportunity to get to know their fellow parishioners through this event.

The Fellowship Committee tentatively plans for the Progressive Dinner to take place in late January or February of 2014, before the Lenten season. Your feedback is needed—so please e-mail Wanda Porter at wandaporter2012@gmail.com, or Stacey Wood at stwtbw@hotmail.com to let us know whether or not you would like to see this event return to the calendar in 2014. Please stay tuned for more information!

~ *The Fellowship Committee*



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

Parish Life *continued*

Oyster Roast Success

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's revised Oyster Roast! The weather was a bit rainy for the men setting up on Friday, but Saturday held off with a light mist that could not dampen the spirits of workers nor guests. Everyone enjoyed a bountiful feast of food, fellowship, and music provided by the band, Timber Wolf. Thank you to Tom and Emily Clay Evelyn for sharing their property for this special event. It appears from all comments heard, that "A good time was had by all"!

~ St. Peter's Oyster Roast Committee



Remembering Those Serving Our Country
~ Near and Far ~



Edward Allen
Chris Atkins
Charles Bowery
Dylan Carter
Zachary Crawford
David Douglas
Justin Gallaher
Julio Gonzalez, Jr.
Joseph Gruber
Michael Hogge
John Mark Holland
Chase Leftwich
T. J. Lowe
Ashton McEacharn
Matthew McNeil
Christopher Quarles
Tristan Trivette
Carson Tyson
Erich von Hitritz
Andrew Walker
Brent Wolfe, II



Have a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

***We Ask Your Prayers For
Those in our parish family
who are sick:***

Bob Carraway, Rollin Rosser, Sue Caldwell,
Will Townsend, Pete Johns, Fred Bahr... **and
all others known and unknown.**
Steven Harrell, son of Sue Caldwell;
Willie Callis, father of Mava Miles;
Sandra Griffith, friend of Fred Bahr;
Barbara Felts, sister of Major Mansfield;
Tiffany Strath, friend of Kim McLean and
Adriane Marshall;
Dante Plange, friend of Major Mansfield;
Mary Wilcox, friend of Miriam Ackley;
Patty Kothe, friend of Bill O'Keefe;
Art Wiese, friend of Bill O'Keefe;
Jackie Lafoon, friend of Kim McLean;
Paula Tiller, mother of Stacey Wood;
Jim King, friend of the Evelyn family;
Pat Groves, grandmother of Randy Douglas;
Shirley Stone, grandmother of Millie Douglas;
Susan Snowden, aunt of Amy Patterson;
Sam Mattison, friend of Nancy Goodman;
David Kunz, nephew of Amy Patterson;
Melissa Powell, daughter of Marianne Powell;
Minnie Brammer, mother of Lee Brammer;
Ibby Taylor, cousin of Sally Smith;
Lyn Tubbs, sister of Miriam Ackley;
Aaron Platek, cousin of Adriane Marshall;
Houston Smith, brother of Sally Smith;
Pamela Thacker, niece of Jayne Thomas;
Lynnleigh Maloney, sister of Kim McLean.

***Give them courage and hope
in their troubles and bring them
the joy of your salvation.***



December Birthdays



- 5 Christine Best
- 6 Jon Ackley
- 6 Jane Gregory
- 6 Emily Woodall
- 7 Padgette Evelyn
- 11 Catherine Pierce
- 12 Jason Best
- 14 Ken Rubert
- 14 Shirley Meyer
- 15 Wayne Greer
- 15 Caroline Nelms
- 17 Torun Carlson
- 17 Destiny Lumpkin
- 19 Susan Sitterson
- 19 Sarah Morrow Dunn
- 21 Caroline Swynford
- 23 Layla Southall Eagle
- 28 Miranda Decker
- 28 Helena Harris
- 29 Donna Wright
- 30 Avery Kate Douglas
- 31 Alexis Frank



Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Anniversary to You!



Anniversary Blessings

December

- 1 Bob & Carolie Kay
- 3 Stephen & Kimberly von Hitritz
- 6 Jeff & Denise Fazio
- 13 Doug & Shirley Meyer

January

- 2 Brett & Adriane Marshall
- 16 Edward & Katherine Allen

January Birthdays

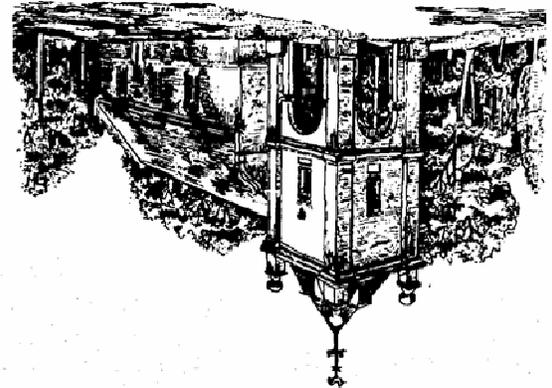


- 1 Caroline Evelyn
- 1 Carol Johnson
- 1 Amelia Cimbalo
- 2 Major Mansfield
- 2 Jack Swynford
- 4 Elizabeth Smith Remorenko
- 5 Kathy Boschen
- 7 Miriam Ackley
- 7 Jim Harris
- 7 Cristi Lawton
- 10 Norma Lewis
- 10 Ashley Pierce
- 10 Jackie Lowe
- 10 Wil Miles
- 11 Bob Kay
- 12 Cathy Kelly
- 13 Willie Evelyn
- 14 Jeff Fazio
- 18 Vicki Reus
- 22 Fred Bahr
- 23 Tony Lewis
- 27 Nancy Kulig
- 30 Joseph Holland
- 31 Karen Carraway



The Keys

Parish Founded 1679
Church Erected 1701



RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. PETER'S PARISH CHURCH
Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
8400 St. Peter's Lane
New Kent, Virginia 23124-9633

Upcoming St. Peter's Events To Note

December 2013

- 1 Christmas Craft Day
- 1 Advent I
- 8 Vestry Nominations CLOSE
- 9 Christmas Decorations Sign-up Deadline
- 15 Advent Lessons & Carols, 11 am
Followed by Reception
- 15 Gifts Due for *Give a Child a Christmas*
- 16 Vestry, 6:30 pm
- 21 Hanging of the Greens, 9 am
- 22 Children's Pageant, 10 am
No Christian Education
- 24 Christmas Eve, HE II at 5 and 11 pm
- 25 Christmas Day, HE II at 10 am
- 29 No Christian Education

January 2014

- 1 Church Office Closed for New Year's Day
- 9 Last Day for Submissions to February/March
THE KEYS
- 19 Annual Meeting at 10 am
No Christian Education
Services at 9 and 11 am
- 26 Vestry Installation
- 27 Vestry, 6:30 pm

February 2014

- 9 Sweetheart Breakfast
- 17 Church Office Close for Presidents' Day
- 17 Vestry, 6:30 pm

A Savior is Born



He is Christ the Lord

Luke 2:11