

St. Peter's Parish Church

The Keys

October - November 2015

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From the Rector's Desk

They happen with amazing regularity.

Just in Virginia: January 4, in Roanoke, two dead, four hurt. Five wounded in Portsmouth on January 13. In Richmond, four people were wounded on April 19. One dead, three injured, including two police officers, in Arlington on May 19. July 19, in Suffolk, four wounded. Six days later, four wounded in Hopewell. Finally, two killed and one wounded during an early morning live TV broadcast from Moneta. Virginia's total is 5 dead, 25 wounded. The total through September 13 this year is 346 dead, 1,004 wounded nationwide. All from "mass shootings" — meaning more than one victim. In three cases the "alleged" assailant is named; the rest of the shooters are "unknown." These are just the "mass shootings," not including single-victim incidents.

In almost every case, the reactions are predictable, almost as if they are following some predetermined script. Some on one end of the spectrum call for fewer restrictions for law-abiding people, while those on the other end call for more restrictions. Those of us in the middle hold our face in our hands and weep.

There are calls for improved mental health care. There are voices raised for better reporting of crimes which would make possession illegal, countered by the argument that criminals by definition do not obey the law and what makes anyone think that one more law would change anything. Some say it's mostly black folks killing black folks, so who cares? Others blame it on poverty, thug life, underperforming schools, single motherhood, or victimization of black people by those who exercise, knowingly or not, "white privilege."

At the root of it all lies none of this. At the root of it all is evil. It is, to use a term not much heard these days, wickedness. Whatever else around the edges might or might not have played a role, it is the human heart that makes the decision. A weapon is an inert object; it lies on a shelf or leans in a closet until picked up by someone and used. Even then there is a choice: do I spend the morning having a good time on a firing range, improving my skills, or do I drive by a street corner where someone who "disrespected" me is likely to be hanging out so I can shoot him? It's my choice. And as I said in the sermon on September 13, life is full of choices. In *Proverbs* and elsewhere in the Bible, Wisdom—and wisdom—calls on us to make wise choices.

These are very broad brush strokes I'm painting with, and there are subtleties beyond measure here. I may well have offended everyone by this point! But night after night the evening news brings us flashing lights, crime scene tape, and crying relatives. God's heart must be breaking, because each of these people killed or wounded was a child of His for whom Christ died. That includes, as hard as it is to say it, the ones who committed the crimes.

St. Paul tells us in his First Letter to the Thessalonian Christians that they "are not of the night or of darkness." Instead they are all "children of light and children of the day;" in fact, they "belong to the day." St. Peter's, among other places, is somewhere darkness is driven out of the human heart. No law can do that, only the power of Jesus Christ. St. Peter's changes lives and brings in the light, making the human heart to shine with the brightness of the dawn. Let us never tire of trying to drive the darkness away and let our lights shine.

Faithfully,

Paul †



Wardens' Corner

From the Heart

“For where your treasure is, there will be your heart.”

Luke 12:34

In the spring issue of THE KEYS, I focused on our many blessings at St. Peter's and highlighted our many diverse talents. I find it most appropriate to ask, during our annual giving campaign, that you use this time to look forward and decide what will be your contribution of time, talent, and treasure. This is a decision that requires much balance and must be made with much heartfelt guidance.

During the preceding months, Julie Simonton, Diocese of Virginia, shared a prayer that will assist all of us as we ponder this question from our hearts. This prayer evokes a sense of “charge” in me—a call to action. I hope it will motivate you in some way.

Julie Simonton's prayer:

My Church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be. *Amen*

~ Steve Miles, Junior Warden



St. Peter's Vestry Nominations

OPEN

November 22, 2015

Now is the time to be thinking and praying about who you would like to nominate for the Vestry Class of 2019.

Nomination forms will be available November 15 and may be submitted to the Senior Warden or to the church office. Be sure and get the person's permission before nominating them! Nominations will CLOSE December 6.

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.”



St. Peter's Parish Church

The Reverend Dr. S. Paul Rowles, *rector*

Joyce H. Molina, *organist and choirmaster*

Sherri W. Hardiman, *parish administrator*

Stuart R. Burnett, *clerk & treasurer*

Susan G. Sitterson, *assistant treasurer*

David A. Swynford, *verger*

Ann O. Bradshaw, *register*

The Vestry

Kristin Swynford, *senior warden*

Steve Miles, *junior warden*

Class of 2016

Steve Miles (966-9240)

Kristin Swynford (557-3533)

Chrissy Wagner (932-9004)

Class of 2017

Ben Evelyn (804-615-4558)

Catherine Pierce (966-9057)

Terry Porter (804-314-0284)

Class of 2018

Stuart Burnett (932-3925)

Carol Nelms (932-4175)

May O'Leary (932-3354)

The Keys

Sherri Hardiman, *Co-Editor*

Amy O'Keefe, *Co-Editor*

Kim McLean, *Altar Guild Chair*

Stacey Wood, *EYC Advisor*

Carol Nelms, *Church School Superintendent*

Christian Education



St. Peter's Adult Forum 2015-2016

Our first meeting of the year was Sunday, September 13, in the Mullins Room. The meeting included several new members, which I am very thankful for. We discussed our plans for the upcoming season. We are reading together, *BEYOND BELIEF, THE SECRET GOSPEL OF THOMAS* by Dr. Elaine Pagels. It is available in paperback or Kindle edition on Amazon.

Once we are finished with Dr. Pagels' book, we will take a closer look at the Gospel of Thomas, verse by verse (don't worry, only 117 verses). After that we will take a survey of other Early Christian Writings and scripture that did not make the cut into our Bible in the third century. After September 13, taking into account Restoration Sunday and my week vacation in late September and the Bishop's visitation, we will not meet again until October 11, then every Sunday until Advent. Hope to see you on October 11. It is not too late to join!

~ Steve von Hitritz



Church School News

Welcome back to Church School! "American Bible Warrior Day" was the kickoff event for the 2015-2016 Church School year. Students rotated through several different stations including: Portraits of Jesus, Bible Basketball, and Christ for Corn Hole. In keeping with this theme, the students will study *Ephesians 6:11*: "Putting on the Armor of God" through the first semester.

New this year is an attendance incentive! Each time a child attends Church School, they will receive a ticket to place in a box. If they bring a friend to Church School, they receive an additional ticket for that week. Our first drawing will be on All Saints' Day, November 1. Remember, the more tickets you enter in the box will improve your chances to be the prize winner!

As a reminder, there will be no Church School on Sunday, October 4 due to the Bishop's visit. Other upcoming events include: Christmas Craft Day on Sunday, December 6 and the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20 at 10 am.

~ Carol Nelms, Church School Superintendent



Christian Education *continued*

Children's Choir

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! That is what we plan to do again this year. We will continue to practice twice a month on Sundays at 10:30 am. Our first opportunity to sing will be Sunday, November 22, at Harvest Feast.

The practice schedule is as follows:

October 11 and 18
November 8 and 15

See you in the music room!

~ Carol, Joyce, and Hawthorne



Outreach

Matthew's Haven, Inc.

Our beautiful handmade queen size quilt, by local quilter Patricia Ankrom, is complete. It took more than 15 months to accomplish this task—and it is 100% hand sewn. It will soon be on display in the Parish House. For those who purchased tickets a year ago, we still have them and they will be part of the raffle. Tickets are on sale now—\$5 each or 5 for \$20, and they will be on sale during the Oyster Roast. Please contact a volunteer if you would like to purchase tickets. We plan to host the raffle in the late fall.

~ Catherine Pierce



“Strike it RICH for Education” Bowl-A-Thon

The New Kent Educational Foundation announces its 10th Annual “Strike it Rich for Education” Bowl-A-Thon to be held Saturday, November 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Hanover Lanes in Mechanicsville.

Enjoy a day of fun, laughter, bowling, prizes, and raising money for a very important cause. All ages are welcome to join in the fun!

Please call Steve Miles at 966-9240 or Carol Nelms at 932-4175 for additional information.

~ Steve Miles and Carol Nelms



Buildings and Grounds



Parish House Renovations Update

The Parish House renovation project has been underway for over a year! We've inspected, repaired, improved, and upgraded areas inside and out. Every project from HVAC to painting came about through conversations with parishioners and staff, but no single area generated more comments than Richardson Hall.

Great News! By the time you receive this newsletter, long-awaited acoustic and aesthetic improvements to this vital area will be underway. Walls will be insulated and covered with drywall to reduce the echo in the room. New lighting will brighten and beautify the space, and fresh paint will highlight the architecture. Finally, gorgeous, legacy-quality hardwood flooring will be laid in Richardson

Hall as well as the office and education wing hallways. This flooring will further improve acoustics and will perfectly compliment the historic integrity of our church.

Your patience throughout this project has been very much appreciated, but even more will be required during this next phase. We are working with the church schedule to minimize disruptions, but some inconvenience will be unavoidable. *THANK YOU* in advance for your understanding.

This project continues to be a pleasure and a privilege. Please feel free to contact me, or your Vestry representative for more details.

~ Joyce Peterson

Worship



Acolyte Training

Please schedule Sunday, October 25, at 10:30 am in the Church for training and orientation for new St. Peter's Acolytes. We welcome all who are interested!

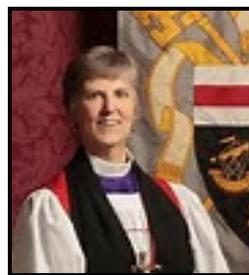
If you would like to join this group, or just curious and have questions, please phone Steve Miles at 804-690-3002.

Thank you to all who serve in this very important role for St. Peter's.

~ Steve Miles, Worship Vestry Representative



Annual Bishop's Visitation & Reception October 4 ~ Now at 2 pm!



The Right Reverend Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan of Virginia, will be visiting St. Peter's on Sunday, October 4, at 2 pm. The Fellowship Committee will host a very special reception following the service.

Please support Bishop Goff's visit and bring a favorite fall finger food to share with everyone! Punch and lemonade will be provided.

Thank you!

~ The Fellowship Committee

A Music Note



“He who sings, prays twice”

The quotation is from St. Augustine, 13 November 354 – 28 August 430, an early Christian theologian whose writings influenced the development of Western Christianity. Although he probably did not say these exact words, part of what he said has been translated:

For he who sings praise, does not only praise, but also praises joyfully; he who sings praise, not only sings, but also loves Him whom he is singing about/to/for. There is a praise-filled public proclamation (praedicatio) in the praise of someone who is confessing/acknowledging (God), in the song of the lover (there is) love.

He promoted the singing of praises to God and taught the importance of singing not just with the mouth, but also with the heart and deeds, with *body and soul*. He believed that singing praises to the holy name of God was indispensable for personal faith, first with reading the lyrics and second with the singing of them as an act of praising God. The first source for singing was the prayers and praises found in the books of *Psalms*. *Psalm 92* is a Song for the Sabbath. “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O Most High...”

St. Augustine was prolific in his writings. I found several interesting explanations about this particular one that may help bring what he taught over 1500 years ago to our lives today. Basically it is this: What makes a hymn different from a song? They both are often a poem that rhymes. Usually in hymns we’re talking to someone, to God. **So a hymn is basically a prayer that you...sing! So if you sing a hymn, then...you’re praying.** When we quietly pray we use our *soul*. When we sing the prayer we use both our *body* and our *soul*. **A hymn is a prayer that you sing using your body and soul.**

By now you’re wondering where we’re going with this. Did I mention that St. Augustine himself did not have a great voice and of his many gifts, singing was not at the top of the list? That did not stop him from praising and expressing his love for God through song. What about you? Do you pray twice by singing the hymns and prayers thus using body and soul? Do you use your soul only, by opening the hymnal and reading silently? Do you not open your hymnal at all and stare into space while others are singing their praises?

May we sing together in holy worship and praise God joyfully as we express our love for Him with *body and soul*.

~ Joyce Molina, Organist and Choirmaster



Parish Life



Annual Parish Picnic Appreciation

Many thanks to Anna and Boogie Davis and their families for hosting our annual St. Peter's Parish Picnic, held August 9 at their beautiful Pamunkey River home.

A great crowd attended the service of Holy Eucharist which was followed by a lunch and afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Our youth group spoke about their Mission Trip to Raleigh, North Carolina and our Vacation Bible School participants sang and spoke about their time at this year's VBS, "EVEREST."

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for their efforts in this year's picnic and many thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share and assisted with the clean-up.

We look forward to next year's picnic!

~ Ben Evelyn, Parish Life Vestry Representative



Harvest Feast ~ November 22

The annual Harvest Feast will be held in Richardson Hall on November 22 following the single service at 11 am. As in the past, turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided. Parishioners are asked to bring two side dishes OR a side dish and a dessert.

Please join us for lunch and this wonderful fellowship opportunity to celebrate the harvest and Thanksgiving on Harvest Feast Sunday.

~ Ben Evelyn, Parish Life Vestry Representative

Thank You to Hosts of *Lemonade under the Tower*

Many thanks to all of the families who hosted lemonade and cookies this summer for St. Peter's *Lemonade under the Tower*! Your assistance was both appreciated and very refreshing!

~ Jeff Fazio & The Fellowship Committee



From the Treasurer

As we near the year's end, I often get queries from people asking where they stand on their current year's pledge. I can easily generate a report in our contribution system that shows all of your contributions for the year and how much you have contributed toward your pledge. It's easiest for me to e-mail the report to you, but I can also print and mail contribution reports to folks that need paper! If you need an update on your 2015 pledge, please send an e-mail to stpeters.treasurer1@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 804-932-3925.

~ *Stuart Burnett, Treasurer*

St. John's Visit

The Vestry and the Foundation members took a field trip to St. John's to have lunch and enjoy the Patrick Henry reenactment. The picture is of several of us with Colonel George Washington at our St. John's visit!

~ *May O'Leary, Stewardship Vestry Representative*



Advent Wreath Workshop

Advent is coming and so is our second annual advent wreath decorating workshop. If you would like to decorate an advent wreath for your home, please come to our workshop on Sunday, November 29 at 10 am. The location will be determined later. Wreath rings, wire, greenery, and candles will be provided.

If you have some greenery that you would like to bring to share, please do! All contributions will be welcomed. Remember to bring a pair of gloves and some shears. If you made a wreath last year and still have your ring, bring it too! Also, please send an e-mail to cawagner@henrico.k12.va.us or call 804-932-9004 and leave a message if you are planning on attending so that we can have enough materials for everyone participating in the workshop.

~ *Chrissy Wagner, Christian Education Vestry Representative*

Special Congratulations

Congratulations to Philipp von Hitritz, who graduated from Virginia College on September 11 with a certificate degree in Culinary Arts. Phil has joined the staff of Kitchen on Cary, an upscale award winning restaurant at 1331 East Cary Street, Richmond. He invites any and all St. Peter's parishioners to make your next lunch, dinner, or brunch reservations at Kitchen on Cary and ask for Phil to come to your table. Phil works for Chef Michael MacKnight who previously owned Charles City Tavern, formerly Indian Fields Tavern.

Congratulations to Erich von Hitritz, who has joined the staff of a small business, Checkpoint Charlie, Inc., an Amazon.com marketplace store in Nuremberg, Germany. Erich finished his tour in the US Army in April 2015. He and his fiancée Veronica Manole have made their home in Nuremberg and plan to live there permanently. Erich and Veronica are planning a Christmas wedding in December 2015 in Clejani, Romania, Veronica's birthplace. Both plan a visit to the United States in the summer of 2016.



PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS ~ We Need Your Assistance

Students' names and their school addresses are needed!

PLEASE contact Ann Bradshaw ASAP with your children's college information. Even if you think we have their information, we need to hear from you for confirmation, please. We want to keep in touch with our young parishioners and let them know we are thinking of them.

You may contact me by e-mail at ann@saycheez.com or by phone at 966-1855.

Thank you for your help!

~ Ann Bradshaw



From the Parish Register



Baptism

Liam Konstantine Simakhov, son of Vadim and Lindsey Simakhov, September 6, 2015

Transfer In

Sarah Lockhart Ainsworth Adams, from St. Paul's on the Hill, Winchester, Virginia

Transfer Out

Elizabeth Blair Goodman to The Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charleston, South Carolina

Remembering Those Serving Our Country
~ Near and Far ~



Edward Allen
Chris Atkins
Brandon Belcher
Charles Bowery
Dylan Carter
Zachary Crawford
David Douglas
Justin Gallaher
Julio Gonzalez, Jr.
Michael Goodman
Joseph Gruber
Michael Hogge
John Mark Holland
Chase Leftwich
T. J. Lowe
Christopher Minter
Ashton McEacharn
Boris Pinkhasov
Christopher Quarles
Nolan Shultz
Tristan Trivette
Carson Tyson
Brent Wolfe, II



November 7, 2015



**IN NEED
OF PRAYER**

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

Bob Carraway, Rollin Rosser, Sue Caldwell,
Lindy Brammer, Helen Talman, Jean Mansfield,
Keith Wagner, Lee Brammer...**and all others known and unknown.**

Steven Harrell, son of Sue Caldwell;
Sandra Griffith, friend of Fred Bahr;
Barbara Felts, sister of Major Mansfield;
Mary Wilcox, friend of Miriam Ackley;
Art Wiese, friend of Bill O'Keefe;
Jim King, friend of the Evelyn family;
Shirley Stone, grandmother of Millie Douglas;
David Kunz, nephew of Amy O'Keefe;
Minnie Brammer, mother of Lee Brammer;
Aaron Platek, cousin of Adriane Marshall;
Carolyn and Klara Globig, friends of Ann Bradshaw;
Harmony Glenn, friend of Kathy Lindsey;
Charlene Murray, friend of Catherine Pierce;
Linda Hodgson, cousin of Amy O'Keefe;
Abbie Schaub, friend of St. Peter's;
Dianne Cain Cruise, friend of Lindy Brammer;
Christine Mason, friend of Hawthorne & Loretta Davis;
Eileen Williams, friend of Sally Smith;
Sandy Durbin, friend of Lindseys, Whites, & Rowles;
Barbara Leonard, mother of Shirley Meyer;
James Rose, brother-in-law of Jeff Fazio;
Linda S., friend of Nancy Goodman;
Joyce Cloer, friend of Scott & Nancy Goodman;
George Buppert, brother-in-law of Nancy Goodman;
Ruth Ann Troxell, friend of Paul & Cynthia Rowles;
Cynthia Kendrick, mother of Cynthia Rowles;
Tami Wyse, godmother of Cameron Fazio;
Hannah Wilson, friend of Denise Fazio;
Kyle White, friend of Hawthorne & Loretta Davis;
Kathy Narsted, friend of Bill O'Keefe.

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

October- Birthdays

- 1 Cindy Smith
- 1 Zoe Porter
- 4 Dorinne Douglass
- 4 Hawthorne Davis
- 6 Madeleine Ashford
- 8 Thomas (Randy) Shannon
- 9 George Gregory, Jr.
- 9 Ashley Harwood
- 10 Susan Cheyne
- 11 David Swynford
- 12 Paul Rowles
- 15 Robert Hatley
- 15 Kim McLean
- 16 Doug Meyer
- 18 Bradley Moore
- 18 Henry Peace
- 19 Cloyde Wiley
- 21 Catherine Peterson
- 21 Sam Mula
- 26 Abby Cuozzo
- 27 Christian Cullen
- 22 Kathy Lindsey
- 28 Stacey Wood
- 29 Thomas Evelyn



Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Anniversary to You!



Anniversary Blessings

October

- 1 Ray & May O'Leary
- 2 Robert & Victoria Doucet
- 10 Jon & Miriam Ackley
- 14 Jimmy & Edna Christian
- 18 David White & Lori Lindsey-White
- 18 Chrissy & Nathan Roberts
- 20 Randy & Millie Douglas
- 22 Charlie & Sarah Detruit
- 27 Wayne & Cindy Greer

November

- 1 Lee Tyson & Susan Cheyne
- 2 Mark & Libby Whidden
- 10 David & Kristin Swynford
- 29 Chuck & Padgette Evelyn

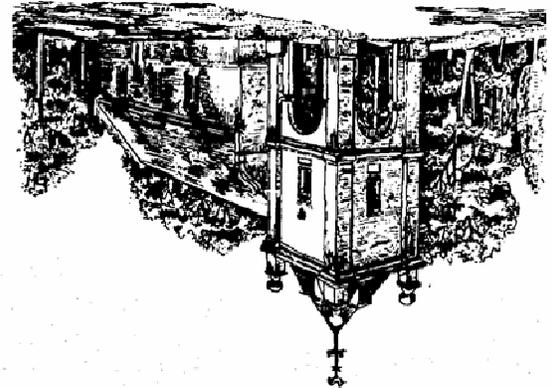
November- Birthdays

- 1 Anna Davis
- 1 Bill Lindsey
- 1 Bobby Nelms
- 1 Carol Kay
- 4 May O'Leary
- 4 Jackson Banks Holloway
- 4 Tony Wood
- 4 John Michael Holland
- 4 Ford Sullivan King
- 5 Jayne Thomas
- 5 Keith Wagner
- 6 Cathy Bersik
- 6 Loretta Davis
- 7 Taylor Moore
- 7 Katherine Sitterson Allen
- 8 Cameron Fazio
- 8 Bill O'Keefe
- 10 Bruce Lange
- 11 Kristen Brammer
- 11 Christian Harper
- 12 Meaghan King
- 14 Abbitt Woodall
- 14 Barb McKinney
- 18 George Pinelli
- 20 Lisa McCartney
- 21 Phoebe Wallace
- 24 Hunter Hatley
- 25 Grant Stanley
- 26 Winter Rae
- 26 Jacob Wood
- 28 Kate Bradford
- 29 Sandra Gellings
- 29 Christina (Chrissy) Wagner



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

October 2015

- 4 Annual Bishop's Visitation, 2 pm —a new time!
Reception to Follow
- 4 Blessing of the Animals, 5 pm
- 17 Oyster Roast, 4-6 pm
- 19 Vestry, 6:30 pm
- 23 Crouch/Koch Rehearsal, 5 pm
- 24 Crouch/Koch Wedding, 4:30 pm
- 25 Acolyte Training, 10:30 am in the Church
- Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7 pm

November 2015

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 5 Last Day for Submissions to December/January
THE KEYS
- 7 Bowl-a-Thon, 2-4:30 at Hanover Lanes
- 16 Vestry, 6:30 pm
- 22 Vestry Nominations OPEN
- 22 Harvest Feast Sunday, One Service at 11 am
Followed by Meal for All
- 26 Thanksgiving Day, HE II at 10 am
- 26-27 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29 Advent I
- Choir Meets Wednesdays, except 11/25, at 7 pm

December 2015

- 6 Christmas Craft Day
- 6 Vestry Nominations CLOSE
- 6 Christmas Pageant Practice, 10 am
- 7 Poinsettia/Christmas Decorations Sign-up Deadline
- 13 Gifts Due *for Give a Child a Christmas*
- 13 Christmas Pageant Practice, 10 am
- 19 Hanging of the Greens, 9 am
- 20 Children's Pageant, 10 am
No Christian Education
- 20 HE I at 9 am; Advent Lessons & Carols at 11 am
- 21 Vestry, 6:30 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve, HE I at 5 and 11 pm
- 25 Christmas Day, HE II at 10 am
- Choir Meets Wednesdays, except 12/23, at 7 pm



“So let us not grow weary in doing what
is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if
we do not give up.”

Galations 6:9