

The Keys

St. Peter's Parish Church

December 2012 – January 2013

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THE KEYS Co-Editor: stpeters.admin1@gmail.com

From the Rector's Desk

As I write this, it's the day after the election. Regardless of where you are on the political spectrum, whether you're grieving or gloating at the results, I found a piece of advice from John Wesley dated 6 October 1774. He said, "I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election and advised them, 1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; 2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against; and 3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

But by the time you get this, the season of Advent will be beginning. It is a season of preparation for the coming of the Christ child. "Advent" is a Middle English word that comes from Medieval Latin: "adventus," meaning "arrival." We begin the new church year preparing for the arrival of the child, not celebrating his birth which is still a month away. Like expectant parents, we have to prepare for his coming.

The season of Advent is also a time for self-examination. Not only are we preparing for his first coming, we are anticipating his second coming. We therefore ask for forgiveness. We ask "for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation" (BCP 79). That's why the color of the season is purple, which is also used during Lent, another period of self-examination and penitence. Blue is sometimes used during Advent, the tradition color of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I sometimes wear a blue stole on Advent Sundays where Mary plays a prominent role, even though it clashes with our purple altar set!

The season of Advent is thus a time of watching and waiting as well as a time of beginning. There is a time for decorations to begin, but that time is not now. There will be a time for lights on Christmas trees, for crèches and mistletoe and other symbols of the next season, but not yet.

So get ready for the fight! Some stores have had Christmas gear set out since long before All Saints' Day. I'm sure by now you've heard Christmas carols piped into the malls, and Christmas catalogues are beginning to fill your mailbox. But wait ... wait ... wait. It will be hard, and the Church probably lost that fight a long time ago, but resisting the lemming-like rush to Christmas pays great dividends.

On a personal note: I am very grateful for your prayers and support during my recent hospitalization and subsequent slow recovery. The many cards and calls, the food you've brought, and most of all, your prayers have sustained me. I'm getting better a little at a time, so I'm experiencing my own season of "waiting." I'm also experiencing some limitations that are new to me. Saying "no" is not something I often do! But I've withdrawn from the Leadership Program for Musicians for this year and hope to begin again in September 2013. Above all, though, I am especially grateful to Sherri Hardiman, our Parish Administrator, who has kept St. Peter's up and running during my enforced absence.

See you soon!

Faithfully,

Paul †



Wardens' Corner

My ninth grade English teacher required us to memorize a short Victorian poem, *Invictus*, written in 1875 by an English poet, William Earnest Henley. I thought "what a waste of time."

Our teacher said that we would remember this poem for the rest of our lives. Again, I thought, "yeah, right!"

Well, unlike most poems we had studied, I found it quite interesting and easy to memorize. The verses stirred me and I knew they had deeper meaning than I could comprehend at the time. However, I went on with my life, not giving this poem another thought.

When I was in college, a classmate started reciting the poem and, surprisingly, I chimed in with him, realizing that I actually recalled the verses and now understood their meaning. Since then, I have met others who also know this poem. I would recall the poem in periods of challenge in my life because it was uplifting, inspiring, and would ground me in the reality that I was in direct control of my own future and spiritual self.

A recent movie entitled *Invictus*, dramatizes how this poem gave Nelson Mandela the strength and courage to sustain himself while he was imprisoned for over 20 years in South Africa.

I offer these verses to you in the hope that they be as inspirational to you as they have been to me:

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

Yours in Christ,

*Rod Molina
Senior Warden*

St. Peter's Vestry Nominations

CLOSE

December 9, 2012

Now is the time to nominate candidates for the Vestry Class of 2016.

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."



St. Peter's Parish Church

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

The Vestry

Rod Molina, *senior warden*
Tony Wood, *junior warden*

Class of 2013

Padgette Evelyn (932-3289)
Nancy Goodman (932-3609)
Rod Molina (932-3990)

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)

The Keys

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

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

Christian Education

Church School News

The fall has been filled with neat activities for our Church School students! Kim McLean provided an instructional lesson to the children in grades 1 through 5 on the different components of communion. The children went on a field trip to the church and watched from the communion rail as Kim showed them how the table is set for communion and identified the names of each item. We also discussed why we take communion and what it means to us as believers. We played several games and everyone, including students and teachers, learned a great deal. Thanks, Kim!

As a result of the children's fundraising from last year's Palm Sunday Art/Bake Sale, we raised enough money to mail the school supplies to the Marshall Islands and had enough money left to fill and mail 20 shoeboxes to *Operation Christmas Child*. On Sunday, November 4, the children shopped at church to fill these shoe boxes!

Christmas Craft Day is fast approaching. This year's event will be held Sunday, December 2 following the 11 am service. This is a fun event for the entire family. Making these gingerbread houses marks the beginning of the Christmas season. The cost of the event is \$15 per family, which covers pizza, soft drinks, and the decorations for the gingerbread house. You will need to bring a paper milk carton as the base for your house. Please sign up in the Parish House foyer to participate.

The annual Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday, December 23 at 10 am in Richardson Hall. We would like all of the children to participate. We will practice at 10 am on the following dates: December 2, 9, and 16. Help us make this the best Christmas Pageant ever!

~ Carol Nelms, Church School Superintendent



Children's Choir

The children will sing at the Christmas Pageant on December 23. We will practice at 10 am on December 2, 9, and 16 during pageant practice. Please listen to the CD to help learn the words!

In January, choir practice dates will be January 13 and 27.

~ Hawthorne Davis, Jennifer Ezzell,
Joyce Molina, and Carol Nelms



Christmas Pageant 2010
Photo by Loretta Davis



Worship

Christmas Poinsettias & Hanging of the Greens

It's time to plan for St. Peter's Christmas decorations—vibrant poinsettias and greenery—which add so much beauty to our worship and fellowship venues during the Christmas season. As you may recall, poinsettias are available for purchase in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one. Sheets to sign up for them are in the church and in the Parish House foyer. The sheets will only be available through December 10, so plan to sign up early!

A \$9 donation is requested for each poinsettia purchased. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter's Parish Church with **Christmas Flowers** on the memo line.

Helpers of all sizes and ages are needed to help with Hanging of the Greens on Saturday morning, December 22. Come at 9 am and join the fellowship and fun while preparing the church for Christmas worship.

~ *Kim McLean, Altar Guild Chair*

STILL WANTED ~ Rota Volunteers

Help! We need more Rota volunteers! There are many opportunities for everyone to serve, from the adult roles of Lectors, Intercessors, Chalice-bearers, Oblationers, and Sidesmen, to mostly youth roles of Peter's Heralds and Acolytes.

If you have interest in assisting with services, but not sure of which role(s), just give Fr. Paul or me a call at the church office (932-4846). We will review your interests and see that your name is passed along to the appropriate person for you to become an active participant in worship services.

We are delighted to include new people and don't want to overlook anyone willing to serve. If you've been thinking about this, but haven't acted on it, it's not too late! We hope to hear from you soon.

~ *Sherri Hardiman, Parish Administrator*

Kneelers for St. Peter's

Many of the kneelers in the church are well past their service life. Although no one knows for certain how old they are, it seems fairly likely that they were put in the church during the 1960s. Now they've become dry-rotted in both foam and fabric, misshapen, and ready for replacement. Four or five bids have been secured, and a team of two Vestry people and two members of the Restoration Board will soon decide on which vendor, what fabric, and so on. The approximate cost is \$60-\$75 each, and since we need more than a hundred, you can see that it's a pretty major project!

We encourage you to give a kneeler, or enough to outfit an entire pew, in memory of a loved one, or in honor of one of the saints of our church. In the meantime, please help us clear out the ripped, torn, and unsightly kneelers either by bringing them back to the Parish House and putting them on the bench outside my office, or by pointing them out to a Sidesman who will bring them to the Parish House for you. Stay tuned for more information!

~ *Fr. Paul*

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 February 2005

Outreach



Christmas Offering

“To provide a safe and healthy environment and the opportunity for individuals to reach personal outcomes and goals.”
— Cornerstone Mission Statement

The 2012 St. Peter’s Parish Christmas offering has been designated for Cornerstone Support Services located in New Kent County. Cornerstone Support Services provides residential services to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Individuals receive these services and supports while living in a group home operated by Cornerstone. At Cornerstone, emphasis is always placed on a person-centered approach that empowers and supports each individual to develop his or her own life-style. This means that Cornerstone plans its services based on what the person and their circle of support feel is important. By doing this, Cornerstone ensures that services are self-directed and tailored specifically to each individual.

While many services are covered by Medicaid, Cornerstone residents have needs that are unfunded. Individual needs include eyeglasses, clothing, and social and recreational activities. Your contribution will support these needs as well as other individual needs. All contributions will be used strictly to meet the needs of residents.

For more information about Cornerstone, please visit their website at www.cornerstonesupportservices.com. Please be generous this season!

~ *The Vestry*

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 53 shoeboxes, surpassing our goal of 50 boxes! Thanks to everyone for your support of this annual outreach program.

~ *Edna Christian and Carol Nelms*

Matthew’s Haven



Many thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up to assist Matthew’s Haven while I was out with back surgery. Matthew’s Haven closed briefly until we could reorganize a volunteer group to help. A huge thank you goes to Martha Danielson for taking the burden of many weeks of calls and to Mark Whidden who put out a plea for more help. We would not have been able to operate without the assistance of these volunteers and it truly meant a lot.

Our *Give a Child a Christmas* event kicked off November 18, Harvest Feast Sunday. We posted the names of approximately 60 children who need assistance for Christmas. Many have been adopted by our own parish family and other children will be assisted through the New Kent Community and businesses located in Richmond and Williamsburg. Thanks to the New Kent Junior Women’s Club, we will set up a table at their *Breakfast with Santa* to get the remainder of the children adopted for Christmas. We greatly appreciate all of the support for these children.



On a personal note -

Thank you to everyone for the phone calls, cards, well-wishes and prayers, as well as the food provided to my family during my recent setback with a third back surgery. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!

~ *Catherine Pierce*



Parish Life

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

If visiting Israel is on your life "bucket list," here's your chance to travel with fellow Episcopalians to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Rev. David Teschner, Rector of Christ and Grace Episcopal Church in Petersburg, Virginia, is hosting a small group of pilgrims for a 10-day trip to Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Jericho, and much more. The group will leave from Richmond for Israel on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 and will return on Friday, March 15. The price is \$3,398, which is all-inclusive except for the cost of lunches and incidentals.

This will be David's third trip to the Holy Land; he can't wait to go back to the heartland of our faith. Israel's history, people, geography, and religious traditions will captivate, inspire, and transform you.

If you are interested or would like to receive more information, please contact Lisa Guthrie by phone at 932-9422 or e-mail at LisMG1@aol.com.

~ Lisa Guthrie

From the Parish Register



Baptism

Chase McKenna Kelly, November 4, 2012

Burial Office

James Frederick (Jim) Douglass, October 13, 2012

Marriages

Millicent Haley (Millie) Thomas and Thomas Randolph (Randy) Douglas, October 20, 2012

Emily Anne Evelyn and Edwin Scott (Win) Wallace, II, October 27, 2012

Transfer Out

Jane Reneé Philbates Ashford, to Saint Michael's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, North Carolina



From the Treasurer



2012 Contributions Due in Church Office by December 31st

Please note that contributions received in the CHURCH OFFICE by December 31, 2012 will be applied toward 2012 pledges and included as 2012 contributions on your end-of-year statements for tax purposes.

Contributions received AFTER December 31, 2012 can still be applied to complete 2012 pledges, but they will be recorded as 2013 contributions for tax purposes and will not be included on the 2012 end-of-year statements.

Likewise, pre-payments on 2013 pledges received prior to December 31, 2012 can be applied to 2013 pledges, but will be shown on your 2012 statement as a contribution for the 2012 tax year.

Statements will be mailed to you by the end of January 2013.

If you have questions about the current status of your 2012 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

Family Games Night & Cook-off

SAVE THE DATE—Friday, February 1, 2013
for our *Family Games Night and Cook-off*.



Plan to start your Super Bowl weekend by playing some competitive but non-contact games, and enjoy an evening of fun and good food. Stay tuned for more details on the cooking contest.

For now, mark your calendar for February 1.

~ *The Fellowship Committee*

Resource & Development News

2013 custom St. Peter's calendars are now available from Resource & Development. Remember us when making your Christmas lists! New for Christmas this year, we have "Episcopal" dog collars and leashes for sale. Also, as you may already know, the pewter replicas of the church are also available as Christmas ornaments. Do you have one yet?

Check out Martha's Gift Shoppe for all of your St. Peter's shopping needs!

~ *R & D Committee Members*



Alumni Volunteer Service Awards

On November 2, 2012, the inaugural Virginia Commonwealth University and Medical College of Virginia Alumni Associations Alumni Volunteer Service Awards recognizing outstanding volunteer service to VCU were presented at the Richmond Marriott Hotel. The event included a cocktail buffet followed by the recognition program. Dr. Michael Rao, President of the University, presented medallions to ten individuals in six categories during the program. One of the recipients in the Alumni Association Award was a St. Peter's parishioner—Corinne Dorsey!



Alumni Association Award

Corinne F. Dorsey
(Diploma '54/N; B.S.'65/N)

Presented to one who has given exceptional service to the alumni association through volunteer support during his/her lifetime or since the founding of the organization. This individual has given significant time and effort in specific programs that reach across the university. The award is presented to one who serves as a role model and who motivates others to provide volunteer service. Warmest congratulations, Corinne!

Remembering Those Serving Our Country
~ Near and Far ~

Edward Allen
Charles Bowery
Zachary Crawford
Justin Gallaher
Julio Gonzalez, Jr.
Phillip Harrell
Michael Hogge
John Mark Holland
Christopher Kopf
Chase Leftwich
T. J. Lowe
Christopher Minter
Matthew McNeil
Joseph Prettyman
Christopher Quarles
Tristan Trivette
Carson Tyson
Erich von Hitritz
Andrew Walker
Brent Wolfe, II
Leslie Voyta
Andrew Walker
Brent Wolfe, II



*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to everyone!*



**IN NEED
OF PRAYER**

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

Lawrence Christian, Bob Carraway, Rollin Rosser,
Sue Caldwell, and Norm Valor,

***...and all others known and un-
known.***

Maria Nellie Bruce, mother of Sam Bruce;
Eric Valor, son of Norm Valor;
Steven Harrell, son of Sue Caldwell;
Karen Dedomenico, cousin of Doug Begeal;
Sharon Hulsing, former parishioner;
Willie Callis, father of Mava Miles;
Sandra Griffith, friend of Fred Bahr;
Christine Mattox, friend of Patrick & Jessica
Evelyn;
Barbara Felts, sister of Major Mansfield;
Tiffany Strath, friend of Kim McLean and
Adriane Marshall;
Dante Plange, friend of Major Mansfield;
Wilma Pye, sister-in-law of Sally Smith;
Anijah Brown, friend of Matthew's Haven;
Mary Wilcox, friend of Miriam Ackley;
Derek Neal, friend of Julie Vaisvil;
Al Lynch, friend of Kent & Ann Bradshaw;
Patty Kothe, friend of Bill O'Keefe;
Art Wiese, friend of Bill O'Keefe.

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

Co-editor of THE KEYS

Please join me in extending a very warm welcome to Amy Patterson, who has volunteered to serve as Co-Editor of THE KEYS. Amy, a member of St. Peter's since 2010, will be assisting me with our parish newsletter, beginning with this issue.

Many of you already know that Amy is very active in the life of St. Peter's. She often serves as a Lector, and more recently, a Chalice, at the 8:30 am service. Welcome, Amy!

~ Sherri Hardiman, Co-Editor



Birthdays

December

- 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
- 28 Miranda Decker
- 28 Helena Harris
- 29 Donna Wright
- 31 Alexis Frank



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



Birthdays

- 1 Caroline Evelyn
- 1 Ray Ballard
- 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
- 9 Chad Honeycutt
- 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
- 23 Ian Whitlock
- 27 Sharon Hulsing
- 27 Nancy Kulig
- 30 Joseph Holland
- 31 Karen Carraway



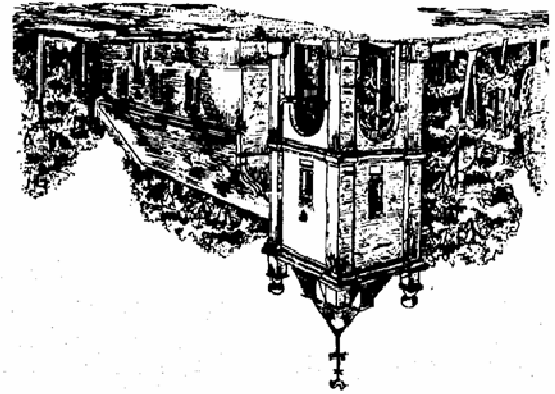
Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Anniversary to You!



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 2012

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

January 2013

- 1 Church Office Closed for New Year's Day
- 10 Last Day for Submissions to February/March
THE KEYS
- 20 Annual Meeting at 10 am
No Christian Education
Services at 8:30 and 11 am
- 27 Vestry Installation
- 28 Vestry Meeting, 6:30 pm

February 2013

- 1 *Family Games Night & Cook-off*
- 10 Sweetheart Breakfast
- 12 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6 pm
- 13 Ash Wednesday, Liturgy of the Day, 7 pm
- 18 Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day
- 18 Vestry, 6:30 pm



*A
Season
to
Rejoice*

Do not be afraid; for see—I
am bringing you good news
of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the
city of David a Savior, who is
the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11