

St. Peter's Parish Church

# December 2014 - January 2015

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From the Rector's Desk

"If you want to make God laugh, make plans." That's an old saying but true. Life just feels out of control at times. We craft our to-do list for the morrow, but once we arrive at our place of work or business, that list often becomes meaningless. More than once lately I've gone home after having had a very busy day with not a single thing crossed off my list—and in fact, may even have added a couple of items.

So much of our lives feel as though things are not only out of *our* control, they are out of control—period. We are running, running, running all the time. The proliferation of communication devices and platforms should have made things better, but instead has made things worse. Even while writing this today I'm tempted to check whatever message just came in on e-mail or Facebook when I heard that insistent "ding" that tells me something has arrived. I go to YouTube to watch one single video and half an hour later I find myself still there watching another cute puppy video.

Why doesn't life come with a *pause* button?

Well, it does. It's called *Advent*, and by the time you read this, it's probably here. "Advent: The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for 'coming.' The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ 'in power and glory.'"

Advent is the season that tells us to slow down. As Christians we are not only people of the Book, we are people who have read the Book and we know how it turns out in the end. We know Christmas is coming, but Advent is the season that says slow down, get ready, wait with patience. We don't want to arrive at Christmas Eve out of breath, tongue out, panting, having come through Advent at a dead run. A well-trained dog will wait eagerly, expectantly, but patiently when it knows you have a treat in your hand. The biggest treat of all waits for us, so let us wait with patience.

And remember: "no" is a complete sentence. Use it judiciously.

Faithfully,

Paul t



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, <u>An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopali-</u> <u>ans</u> (New York: Church Publishing Inc. 2000), p. 3.

### Wardens' Corner

I have been warned that space is limited in this issue of *THE KEYS*. That means that the fall and Christmas season is upon us and St. Peter's is buzzing again with activity.

So, I will be brief and focus on stewardship. Fr. Paul, in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee and the Vestry, has shared thoughts on St. Peter's and its Mission Statement. Zach Quimby created a video on how St. Peter's changes lives. It's time for all of us as parishioners to reflect on our "Time, Talent and Treasure," now referred to as our "Work, Wealth and Wisdom."

Please be grateful and thankful for what you have in your life and be open to sharing your many blessings in whatever way you can.

Many thanks to everyone at St. Peter's in advance for all of your selfless contributions to this church.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

~ Kristin Swynford, Junior Warden



St. Peter's Vestry Nominations CLOSE December 7, 2014

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Vestry Class of 2018.

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



Healthy Families Mission Statement: To provide a community system of support to strengthen families, increase health and safety, and enhance the development of children in Charles City and New Kent Counties.

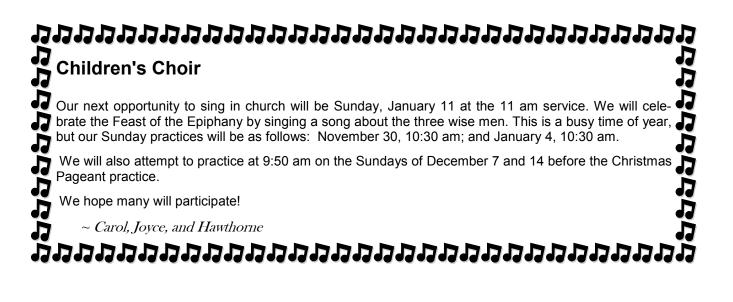
This year's Christmas offering will benefit Healthy Families of Quin Rivers, a local program assisting first time and at-risk mothers with nutrition, home visits, etc., and their funds are very limited. With this is mind, please be generous this season!

The Christmas letters and offering envelopes will be mailed soon.

~ The Vestry



### Christian Education









#### **Church School News**

That busy, fun time of year is upon us again! Christmas Craft Day is the first event which will be held on Sunday, December 7, following the 11 am service. This event is for ALL ages. Each year the gingerbread houses are more elaborate than before! The cost of the event is \$15 per family, which includes pizza, beverages, and the fixings to decorate your gingerbread house. What do you need to bring? Please bring an empty milk carton as the base for your house. Also, we are asking you to make an ornament at home ahead of time and place it on the Parish House Christmas tree on that day. As a suggestion, this ornament might include a family picture. Have fun making your ornament and use your imagination!

Also beginning on Sunday, December 7 at 10 am, we will begin practice for the annual Christmas Pageant. The pageant will be held on Sunday, December 21 at 10 am. ALL children are invited and encouraged to participate in this fun and meaningful event. We need lots of children to be angels, shepherds, wise men, and more! Please come and support this annual event. Practice dates are December 7 and 14 at 10 am, with the pageant on December 21.

~ Carol Nelms, Church School Superintendent



### Worship

#### **Christmas Decorating**

This year we will be decorating St. Peter's with an assortment of beautiful and aromatic fruits and greenery 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 dead-line to sign up is December 8, so sign up early!

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

~ Kim McLean, Altar Guild Chair



#### Hanging of the Greens

Please join us Saturday, December 20 at 9 am to decorate St. Peter's for the annual "Hanging of the Greens." It is a time to enjoy some great fellowship with our members while decorating our church for the upcoming Christmas season.

If any of you can provide some garden greenery, please bring it to the church and leave it under the tower by Friday, December 19, or Saturday, December 20 by 9 am.

We are looking for nandina, holly, cedar, and pine. Hope to see you then!

~ Kim McLean, Altar Guild Chair



# It's Not Your Parents' Stewardship

Many of us can point to a person in our lives who may have served as a mentor. Usually we recall someone older whose life lessons could teach us a thing or two. But the Stewardship Commission members at St. Peter's are taking some lessons from a young, vibrant teacher who leads the Diocese of Virginia's Stewardship Mentoring program. *Julie Simonton*, who many of us heard from the pulpit on September 28, serves as the Congregational Development and Stewardship Officer and once a month, serves as St. Peter's mentor on how we rethink giving in our parish.

Stewardship

Dedicated St. Peter's volunteers—Bill O'Keefe-Vestry Liaison, Mark Whidden, Steve Miles, Rod Molina, Karen Lange, May O'Leary, Jon Ackley, Sue Sitterson, Stuart Burnett, Lisa Guthrie, and Fr. Paul—are committed to finding ways that St. Peter's can increasingly change lives—both our own and those in our parish, our community, and beyond. Recognizing that it's sometimes hard for Episcopalians to express our faith, we are taking a deeper look at what we *can* do, what we *want* to do, and how we can achieve the means to accomplish those goals.

Resources are key. Of course, your annual pledge is important. Without your hard-earned dollars, programs stall, operations cease, and the doors close. God guides us to give until it matters—most importantly, give until it matters to you, the giver. If your gift is too insignificant enough to notice, your life doesn't change and you miss sharing what God has bestowed so generously upon you. But what is often even more precious to us than money is our time. Take a deep breath and step away from "busy-ness" to listen to God. Give some thought and prayer to what you care about and what abilities you possess that can make outreach possible—to make a difference in someone's life. We offer a host of programs and commissions at St. Peter's that benefit our worship and parish life, but don't be constrained by what is currently offered. If you see a need or feel a call, step up and help to create a new ministry.

Sometimes a fresh new perspective through young eyes helps us to focus on gratitude and how to fulfill the potential that God has for each of us. We saw it through the video that Zach Quimby used to capture our deep love for St. Peter's and for one another and we see it through selfless gifts of our wealth, work, and wisdom.

~ Lisa Guthrie, Stewardship Commission

Outreach



#### Matthew's Haven

Matthew's Haven *Give a Child a Christmas* will have names and wish lists posted for this event by Harvest Feast Sunday, November 23. We ask that all sponsors provide their gifts for the children/families by Sunday, December 14. The children's names will be posted in the Parish House foyer, as customary.

Thank you to everyone who donated or provided a coat for our coat drive. We assisted 167 children with a winter coat in our second Kids4Koats event! A big thank you goes to the volunteers who assisted with this event, especially Ann and Kent Bradshaw, and to New Kent High School's National Beta Club as well as the Interact Club. Thank you also to our sponsor, <u>Pressed4time.com</u>. Greg has been wonderful in dry cleaning all of our wool coats at no cost. Pressed4time comes to New Kent County and collects and delivers your laundry and dry cleaning right at your own front door. You may contact <u>Pressed4time.com</u> to learn how to get dry cleaning delivered to your home.

Online shopping this year for Christmas? If you will be shopping through <u>Amazon.com</u>, please remember to sign up for AmazonSmile and select Matthew's Haven as your designated charity. We will receive donations based on the number of purchasers who have selected Matthew's Haven as their designated charity. Also remember to sign up for Rite Aid KidCents with your Rite Aid Wellness Card. We will receive funding every time you "round-up" with your wellness card. But you must first designate Matthew's Haven as your selected charity.

Matthew's Haven continues to need volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for this organization, there are a number of opportunities to share your time with us, from a couple of hours annually, a few hours per week, or by assisting with all of our events. It is a very rewarding experience to know that you have impacted a family and helped change the life of a child. If you can share just a bit of your time, please let me or one of our volunteers know. We hope to hear from you soon!

~ Catherine Pierce



The 3rd Annual *Sarah's Memorial Golf Tournament* was held at the Club at Viniterra golf course on September 26 and it was an overwhelming success! The tournament exceeded all expectations by depositing \$28,000 into its endowment fund that will support a scholarship with the College of William and Mary Foundation in the memory of Sarah Lindsey Gupta. Additionally, due to the success of the event, scholarships are also planned for graduating seniors at New Kent High School.



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 alumnus of the College of William and Mary, and a member of St. Peter's. The initial goal of the endowment was to offer scholarships to students pursuing a degree in education or the arts at William and Mary. According to Patrick Evelyn, who initiated and continues to lead the tournament, "meeting the initial endowment goal at William and Mary in the first two years was far better than I ever anticipated. However, now that we have met this goal, we have an incredible opportunity to really bring this program home with our plans to award scholarships to seniors at New Kent High School." He went on to say, "I knew Sarah had a large influence on the many people that she touched, but this outpouring has truly been such a blessing."

Over 120 golfers participated in the tournament along with 70 hole sponsors, 10 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 opportunities. 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 everyone for their participation and look forward to seeing everyone next year."

### Outreach continued

#### 2014 Sarah's Golf Tournament Lunch and Dinner Thank You

Lunch and dinner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sarah Lindsey Gupta Memorial Golf Tournament was so remarkable because of the help of many volunteers from St. Peter's Parish Church and the community. I could not do it without you and I thank you for your help in serving both lunch and dinner and for making desserts. Thank you to Miriam Ackley for making the lunch sandwiches and to Craig Pierce and CRH Catering for the chips, cookies, water, and boxes. Thank you to Scott Goodman for assembling and packing the lunch boxes.

A big thank you goes to Charles Evelyn for the fabulous BBQ and to Charles and Padgette Evelyn for the wonderful side dishes enjoyed at dinner.

Finally, thank you to the following people for helping to serve and for making desserts: May O' Leary, Kathy Lindsey, Emily Clay Evelyn, Charlotte Woodall, Ann Bradshaw, Edna Christian, Mava Miles, Kim McLean, Cindy Smith, Catherine Stanley, and Padgette Evelyn.

~ Nancy Goodman, Sarah Lindsey Gupta Memorial Golf Tournament Committee

### Parish Life

#### 2014 St. Peter's Oyster Roast & Fish Feast

The 34<sup>th</sup> St. Peter's Parish Oyster Roast and Fish Feast was held on Saturday, October 11 at Tom and Emily Clay Evelyn's river home and it was a winner! Although the weather was threatening, it certainly did not deter the huge crowd in helping themselves to a fall gournet gala featuring roasted oysters, oyster stew, clam chowder, planked catfish, fried catfish, french fries, onion rings, hushpuppies, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, home-made desserts, and cold beverages.

A wonderful time was had by so many as they enjoyed the wonderful food, listened to the great country music headlined by Lloyd and his fiddle, and unquestionably, as they conversed and laughed.

For all of the parishioners that helped make this year's Oyster Roast a resounding success, thank you, thank you!!



~ St. Peter's Oyster Roast Committee







Parish Life continued



#### Family Games Night & Soup Cook-off

Our very popular Family Games Night & Soup Cook-off will be Friday, January 16. The Cook-off begins at 6 pm and Games will start about 7 pm.

The Cook-off contest, always a huge success, is in its fourth year. Once again the category will be your favorite soup, which can be a soup, stew, chili or chowder. Each person attending will get to vote once for their favorite entry. We will only accept the first 10 soup/chowder contestants this year, so please take note of this.

After the Cook-off, Richardson Hall will be transformed into our Games room, which will include Mexican Train Dominos, Pictionary, Rummikub, Scrabble, Phase 10, and other various board games and team games. You are invited to bring along your favorite game. There will be a separate and quieter room, for bridge. Remember, this is a *Family Games Night* and youth are encouraged to attend. Come out to an evening of good fellowship, great food, and friendly competition.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Parish House foyer. Can't attend both the Cook-off and Games? No problem—come to the one that you can attend. However, we hope that you can make both! Please contact Joyce Molina (932-3990) or May O'Leary (909-3535) with any questions.

~ The Fellowship Committee



#### **Thank You from Eagle Scout**

I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Peter's Parish Church for supporting me in achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. It was a fun, yet difficult, journey that would not have been possible without St. Peter's. From all of those who bought clam chowder, to those who attended my ceremony, every little bit helped. Again, thank you for helping me in achieving Eagle!

~ Zach Quimby





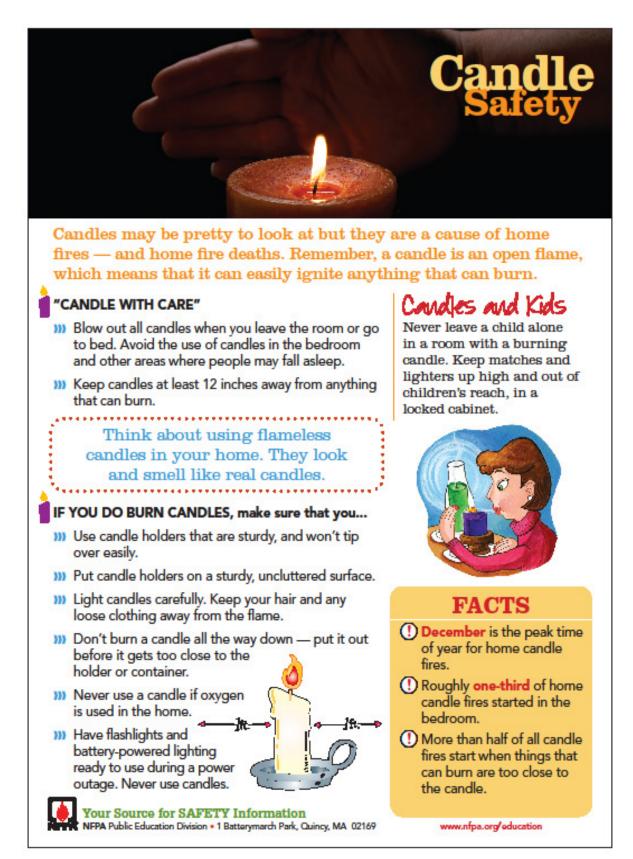
#### **Resource and Development News**

It is that time of year again! Please remember us while you are doing your Christmas shopping.

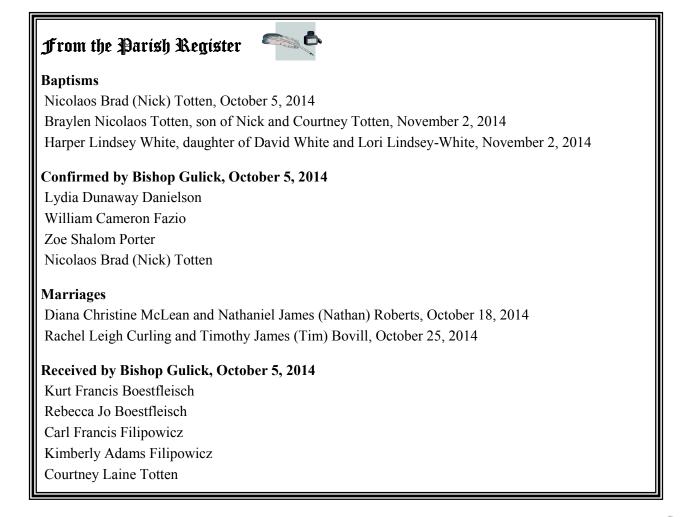
This year, we will introduce a new ornament and we are working on a St. Peter's calendar. Meanwhile, we still have a few of our pewter angel ornaments available from last year. Shop at Martha's Gift Shoppe for unique items and you will also help us benefit our church!

~ The Resource & Development Committee

# Parish Life continued



### Parish Life continued



#### From the Treasurer



#### ~ 2014 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, 2014 will be applied toward 2014 pledges and included as 2014 contributions on your end-of-year statements for tax purposes.

Contributions received or postmarked AFTER December 31, 2014 can still be applied to complete 2014 pledges, but they will be recorded as 2015 contributions for tax purposes and will not be included on the 2014 end-of-year statements.

Likewise, pre-payments on 2015 pledges received prior to December 31, 2014 can be applied to 2015 pledges, but will be shown on your 2014 statement as a contribution for the 2014 tax year.

Statements will be mailed to you by the end of January 2015.

If you have questions about the current status of your 2014 pledge, please send an e-mail to the Treasurer at <u>stpeters.treasurer1@gmail.com</u> 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.

Also, note that you can now make a contribution to St. Peter's via the PayPal secure online payment service. Our web site connection to PayPal allows you to set up a one-time or recurring contribution using your credit card or an existing PayPal account. You can access PayPal on the St. Peter's Giving page at <a href="http://www.stpetersnewkent.org/Giving\_Opportunities/">http://www.stpetersnewkent.org/Giving\_Opportunities/</a>. Click on the "Donate" button to access the PayPal secure payment service.

~ Stuart Burnett, Treasurer

# Remembering Those Serving Our Country $\sim$ Near and Far $\sim$



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 Christopher Minter Ashton McEacharn Matthew McNeil **Boris Pinkhasov** Christopher Quarles **Tristan Trivette** Carson Tyson Erich von Hitritz Andrew Walker Brent Wolfe, II



Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cemetery Flowers Reminder



We Episcopalians believe in "real" things, like real bread and real wine for the Eucharist. We use real flowers and real greenery to decorate the church. That part extends to the cemetery, so please remember as Advent and Christmas approach, that only real arrangements are permitted in the cemetery. Thank you.



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

Bob Carraway, Rollin Rosser, Sue Caldwell, Will Townsend, Helen Smith, Jackie Lowe, Larry Gallaher... and all others known and unknown.

Steven Harrell, son of Sue Caldwell; 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; Art Wiese, friend of Bill O'Keefe; Paula Tiller, mother of Stacey Wood; 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 Brad shaw;

Sarah Moore Lisi, friend of Harrisons and Hatleys;

Faye Groome, sister-in-law of Kim McLean; Harmony Glenn, friend of Kathy Lindsey; Rita Schalk, friend of Cynthia Rowles; Charlene Murray, friend of Catherine Pierce; Linda Hodgson, cousin of Amy O'Keefe; Kathy Narsted, sister-in-law of Bill O'Keefe; Abbie Schaub, friend of St. Peter's;

Rocy O'Keefe, daughter-in-law of Bill O'Keefe;

Sandy Jackson, sister-in-law of Bill O'Keefe; Doug and Rachel Mahone, friends of Edna Christian;

Charles Hankins, friend of Mark Whidden; Dianne Cain Cruise, friend of Lindy Brammer; Christine Mason, friend of Hawthorne and Loretta Davis;

Eileen Williams, friend of Sally Smith; George Lawter, friend of Harrisons & Hatleys.

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



**~**,,

- 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

 2
 Brett & Adriane Marshall

 16
 Edward & Katherine Allen

### January Bírthdays

22

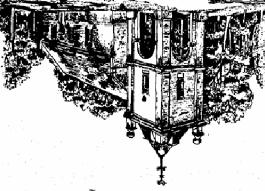
- 1 Caroline Evelyn
- 1 Carol Johnson
- 1 Amelia Cimbalo
- 2 Major Mansfield
- 2 Jack Swynford
- 4 Elizabeth Smith Remorenko
- 5 Kathy Boschen
- 7 Miriam Ackley
- 7 Jim Harris
- 7 Cristi Lawton
- 10 Norma Lewis
- 10 Ashley Pierce
- 10 Jackie Lowe
- 10 Wil Miles
- 11 Bob Kay
- 12 Cathy Kelly
- 13 Willie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



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KETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## Upcoming St. Peter's Events To Note

#### December 2014

- 1
- Christmas Craft Day Vestry Nominations CLOSE Town Hall Stewardship Meeting 1
- 7 10 am, Mullins Room
- 8
- 14
- 15
- 20
- 21

- 24 25 28
- 10 am, Mullins Room Christmas Decorations Sign-up Deadline Gifts Due for *Give a Child a Christmas* Vestry, 6:30 pm Hanging of the Greens, 9 am Children's Pageant, 10 am No Christian Education Christmas Eve, HE I at 5 and 11 pm Christmas Day, HE II at 10 am Christmas Lessons & Carols, 11 am Followed by Reception No Christian Education No Christian Education



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

#### January 2015

- Church Office Closed for New Year's Day
   Last Day for Submissions to February/March THE KEYS
   Family Games Night & Soup Cook-off Cook-off at 6 pm, Games at 7 pm
   Annual Meeting at 10 am No Christian Education
- Services at 9 and 11 am
- Vestry Installation
- 26 Vestry, 6:30 pm
  - February 2015
  - Sweetheart Breakfast
- Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day 16
- Vestry, 6:30 pm 16

8

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6 pm 17
- 18 Ash Wednesday, Liturgy of the Day
  12 noon and 7 pm