

St. Peter's Parish Church

# December 2017 - January 2018

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From the Rector's Desk

Thursday, October 27, 2017: a day I stood on hallowed ground.

That day began, gray, foggy, rainy, and gloomy, in the German military cemetery of La Cambre, where more than 21,000 men are buried, "not all of whom," as the sign welcoming you reads, "had chosen either the cause or the fight." The majority fell between 6 June and 20 August 1944. Their ages range from 16 to 72. Two hundred and seven are unknown, their graves marked simply "Ein deutscher Soldat."

Then it was on to Utah Beach, the westernmost of the five code-named sectors. The 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the 70<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion arrived by sea, while the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Divisions arrived by air. They were lucky; the 46<sup>th</sup> Division, highly trained, faced an ineffective German unit comprised mostly of draftees, the best troops having been sent to the Eastern Front. Airborne casualties were 2,500, including 238 killed. There were 600 US casualties on the beach, including almost 200 killed in action. If you walk out on the beach and listen with more than your ears, you can hear the words of Captain John J. Miller in *Saving Private Ryan*: "Earn this. Earn this."

Pointe du Hoc, an artillery emplacement, was next. It was the highest point between Utah Beach to the west and Omaha Beach to the east, a rocky point about 100 feet tall sticking out into the English Channel. On D-Day, the US Army Ranger Assault Group, comprised of the US 5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalions, was tasked with taking Pointe du Hoc. Unfortunately, due to errors and delays, the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion and most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion actually landed on Omaha Beach, their secondary objective. The remainder of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion captured the position after scaling the cliffs using ladders "borrowed" from the London Fire Brigade. At the end of the second day, the initial force of about 225 had been reduced to about 90 men.

Then it was on to Omaha Beach, the bloodiest of the D-Day beaches, with about 2,400 US troops dead, wounded, or missing in action. Surrounded by steep cliffs and heavily defended, US intelligence had badly underestimated the strength of the German forces in the area. Many things went wrong here; aerial bombardment was ineffective, rough seas sank 27 out of 29 amphibious tanks launched at sea, and infantry in the initial waves were pinned down by highly effective German machine gunners. US Lieutenant General Omar Bradley even considered abandoning the operation, but by nightfall, the American beachhead was about 1½ miles deep at a cost of some 4,700 wounded or missing in action and about 1,200 killed in action.

It's important to remember that we were not alone that day. East of Omaha Beach was Gold Beach, taken by British troops. East of Gold was Juno Beach, taken by the Canadians. The casualty rate in some Canadian units approached 50%. The easternmost beach was Sword Beach, taken by a combination of British and Canadian forces. It was not until June 12, almost a week after D-Day, that the Allies were able to unite all five beaches. There were others; among the two dozen military cemeteries in Normandy is the "Langannerie-Urville Polish War Cemetery" where almost 700 Polish soldiers killed during the Battle of Normandy rest in peace.

The day ended at the American Cemetery and Memorial at Colleville-sur-Mer, located on a bluff overlooking the Omaha Beach landing site. Buried there are 9,383 men (including three who were awarded the Medal of Honor) and four women. It is such an iconic place that I will say no more, but being there when the colors were lowered as Taps was sounded is a memory for a lifetime.

These men, mostly young, left their homes to fight and die, if necessary, for you. Their sacrifice made possible the things we now enjoy, everything from free and fair elections to half-caf soy lattes, from Green Bay Packers games to putting men on the moon. Our debt is immeasurable. Yet even before World War II and the events of D-Day, some two millennia ago, another man left His home to live among us and, eventually, to die for us. He is the one who gives our lives and our liberties meaning and purpose. In Him, as the Apostle Paul said, is our perfect freedom. So let us once more commit ourselves to living a life worthy of both His sacrifice and theirs. The reward for following Him is far more than fleeting glory.

Faithfully,

Paul †



## Warden's Corner

#### Vestry Highlights in Recent Months

#### Parish Life

We had great weather, great food, and great crowds for our Oyster Roast! Thank you, Bill Lindsey and the Oyster Roast Committee for an enjoyable day.

We also enjoyed our annual Harvest Feast, organized by Jeff Fazio (King Rex Festivus) and the Fellowship Committee. Thank you!

#### Worship

After serving many years as Altar Guild Chair, Kim McLean has stepped down, and we have a new Altar Guild Chair, Margaret Best. Thank you, Kim, for you many years of service and thank you, Margaret, for taking over this very important ministry for St. Peter's.

At our October Vestry meeting, it was decided that we would have three one-service Sundays in the fall: the Bishop's visit, Restoration Sunday, and Harvest Feast. These three all involve a special event followed by a meal or reception.

#### Stewardship

We are finishing up our fall Annual Campaign for pledging. Many thanks to Kent Bradshaw for his leadership in this area of Stewardship.

And, as you know, Lee Tyson is our new head of Time and Talent, one of the three arms of Stewardship. During the Harvest Feast, new brochures were distributed showing the many different ways to get involved in one of our ministries. Please pick one up from the table in the Parish House foyer.

Another BIG thank you to Sheila Mitchell who worked hard completing our 2015 and 2016 audits for the Diocese.

#### **Buildings & Grounds**

We are in the process of replacing a failed boiler and replacing the chiller that had reached the end of its service life some time ago.

#### **Christian Education**

Lori Janke led a very interesting Adult Class and it was well attended—thank you, Lori! Bobby Nelms will be leading a sixweek class starting in January.

If you are interested in leading the Adult Class, please let Fr. Paul or Carol Nelms know.

Many thanks to Matt and Martha Danielson for hosting our Newcomers Reception at their lovely home. We had a good crowd, good food, and, most importantly, good fellowship! We talked about ways to get involved in the ministries of St. Peter's and welcomed our newcomers.

And I know you have noticed our beautiful new St. Peter's sign near the roundabout! Many thanks to Tony Wood and his crew for their hard work in placing that sign.

~ May O'Leary, Senior Warden

## St. Peter's Vestry Nominations CLOSE

December 3, 2017

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Vestry Class of 2021.

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."



## Christian Education

### **Christian Education Update**



#### **Church School - Important Dates**

*Christmas Craft Day* (Gingerbread Houses)—Sunday, December 3 following the 11 am service. The cost is \$15 per family, which includes pizza and a beverage.

We will kickoff the Advent season with the annual decorating of gingerbread houses. Please bring an empty paper milk carton to use as the house. You can pick up a base and instructions in the Parish House foyer where you will need to sign up to participate.

Christmas Pageant—Sunday, December 17 at 10 am in Richardson Hall. Practice Dates: December 3 and 10.

All children are welcome to participate in the annual Christmas Pageant. Please make sure to mark your calendar for the practice dates!

Finally, there will be no Church School on December 24 and December 31, due to the single service at 10 am on those days.



#### Adult Education - Adult Forum

Many thanks to Lori Janke for leading the Adult Forum this fall!

Looking ahead, there will be an Epiphany study: *People of the Way* by Dwight Zscheile, which will be facilitated by Bobby Nelms. This study will take place from January 7 to February 11.

Questions to consider as we work through this book together:

- How do we form disciples who did not grow up in the church?
- What does it mean to be a disciple?
- What does it mean to be a church member?
- Are they the same?
- How does the shape of life in the Episcopal Church foster depth of commitment to the way of Christ and how does it undermine it?
- What does it mean to be the body of Christ in an increasingly post-Christian America? Who are we as Episcopalians and what are we here for?

All are welcome to participate!

~ Carol Nelms, Church School Superintendent



## Outreach



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual **Sarah's Memorial Golf Tournament** was held at the Club at Viniterra golf course on September 29 and it was an overwhelming success! Again, the program exceeded all expectations by growing its endowment fund to support scholarships with the College of William and Mary and for graduating seniors in New Kent County.

Sarah passed away in November 2011 with a rare form of adrenal cancer and was a past teacher at the New Kent Middle School for a number of years, an alumnus of the College of William and Mary, and a faithful member of St. Peter's. Since the program began, over \$17,000 in scholarships have been granted, including awards to four St. Peter's seniors.

Over 100 golfers, 60+ hole sponsors, and nine tournament sponsors participated in this year's tournament. We also received numerous donations and prize offerings. The food, the fun, the friendly competition, and the prizes were truly the order of the day and so many supporters joined together for this wonderful achievement.

Unquestionably, the major reason for the continuing growth of this spectacular program rests with the efforts and prayers of the St. Peter's family. We sincerely thank everyone for their participation and look forward to seeing everyone next year on September 28, 2018.

~ Sarah Lindsey Gupta Memorial Golf Tournament Committee



Christmas Offering
This year's Christmas Offering will benefit Shalom Farms and Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) for US Disaster Response, with an equal split between the two entities.
More detailed program information may be found at <u>www.shalomfarms.org</u> and <u>www.episcopalrelief.org</u>.
The Christmas letters and offering envelopes will be mailed soon. Please be generous!
~ The Vestry

## Outreach continued



### Matthew's Haven

Our Give a Child a Christmas event is currently ongoing and we appreciate all who have adopted a child for Christmas. We would like to thank Safe and Sound, a New Kent business located in Barhamsville, for their support and donation of toys through their "Fill the Truckster" campaign. We may need additional helping hands for organizing and distribution of gifts if you can help. Please contact Catherine Pierce at 804-400-4265 if you have some extra time!

Matthew's Haven received approximately 30 hand-knitted and crocheted infant sweater sets, hats and blankets from the "Knit for Kids" program at Memorial Methodist Church in Charles City. These gorgeous sets were made with great loving care. They were blessed during a special service on October 22 and presented to Carolie Kay to use for our baby bundle program.

Matthew's Haven continues to need volunteers and financial support for our special outreach program. Here are ways you can help:



Volunteer your time. It can be behind the scenes or working with clients; you choose!



Shop *smile. amazon. com* and sign up for Matthews Haven as your charity.



Shop **Rite Aid/Walgreens** using your Wellness + Plenti with Matthew's Haven as your selected Charity and we will receive your "round-up" change.



Donate items you no longer are using to the **Not New Shop** in Quinton under Matthew's Haven's account and we will receive the benefit of those sales.

Of course, contributions to Matthew's Haven may always be made via check or online through our website (<u>www.matthewshaven.org</u>) to our general fund to help children in need during 2018. And all donations to Matthews Haven are tax deductible!

~ Catherine Pierce

## Outreach continued



### St. Peter's Oyster Roast & Fish Feast Thank You

The 36<sup>th</sup> St. Peter's Parish Oyster Roast and Fish Feast was held Saturday, October 14 at Tom & Emily Clay Evelyn's river home and was a grand success! A huge crowd exceeding 400 enjoyed a fall gourmet gala featuring roasted oysters, oyster stew, clam chowder, planked catfish, fried catfish, baked sweet and Irish potatoes, onion rings, french fries, hushpuppies, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, and an assortment of homemade desserts, and cold beverages.

A wonderful time was had by so many as we enjoyed the wonderful food, listened to the great music by Lloyd Christian and the Timberwolf Band, and fellowshipped together.

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

~ The St. Peter's Oyster Roast Committee



## Parish Life

## From the Parish Register



**Burial Office** Helen Sederstrom Smith, November 4, 2017

### Confirmed by Bishop Gulick, October 8, 2017

Jason Andrew Best Celia Joy Dolci Natalie Shelby Filipowicz Jackson Banks Holloway Waverly Joy Marshall Aiden Baldwin Martin Avery Lynn Martin Grant Christian Stanley Jack Agnew Swynford Jacob Burns Wood

### Received by Bishop Gulick, October 8, 2017

Derek Anthony Gresko Jessica Lynn Gresko Kimberly Ellen (Kim) Holloway William Grier (Bill) Holloway Eduardo Antonio Macotto Stephanie Elizabeth Merritt

## Reaffirmed by Bishop Gulick, October 8, 2017

Terri Ackiss Bessom

### Marriage

Charles Hobson Evelyn, II and Katherine Leigh Cohen, October 21, 2017

### Transfers In

Jennifer Maycock Macotto, from St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Nicolas Gabriel Macotto, from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Crownsville, Maryland



### From the Treasurer



### ~ 2017 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, 2017 will be applied toward 2017 pledges and included as 2017 contributions on your end-of-year statements for 2017 tax return filing purposes.

Contributions received or postmarked AFTER December 31, 2017 can still be applied to complete 2017 pledges, but they will be recorded as 2018 contributions for tax purposes and will not be included on the 2017 end-of-year statements.

Pre-payments of 2018 pledges received prior to December 31, 2017 can be applied to 2018 pledges, but will be shown on your 2017 statement as a contribution for the 2017 tax year. Statements will be mailed to you by the end of January 2018. As a reminder, 2018 pledges cards are still being accepted!

If you have any questions about the current status of your 2017 pledge, please send an e-mail to the St. Peter's 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.

~ Stuart Burnett, Treasurer

## Invitation to Join St. Peter's Tour Guide Group



When encountering new people at various social functions, do you enjoy meeting them and sharing stories? Do you have a little time on your hands to give back to your church? If you've answered "yes" to both of these questions, then a great opportunity awaits!

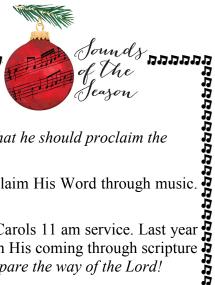
St. Peter's is looking for additional tour guides to join our dedicated group of volunteers. You only need to be proud of the history here at St. Peter's and willing to share it. Literature will be provided, and the style of delivery is an individual choice. Perhaps you are curious and want to know more? Please call Sherri in the church office at 932-4846 and we can discuss this wonderful opportunity. I'd love to hear from you!

~ Sherri Hardiman, Parish Administrator

## Worship

## A Music Note





"The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music." Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)

Thanks be to God for the gift of language and song so that we can proclaim His Word through music We'll have many opportunities to use these gifts in December.

On December 10 we will prepare for Jesus' coming in our Lessons & Carols 11 am service. Last year over 130 attended. A beautiful and meaningful service, we will proclaim His coming through scripture and song. Will you be ready for Bethlehem's Light? Come, and help Prepare the way of the Lord!

A Music N "The gift of Word of God Thanks be t We'll have n On Decemb over 130 att and song. W The afterno information there'll be w On Decemb the Town of families wo ブフフフ The afternoon of December 17 we'll go caroling and minister to some of our parishioners. Look for information in upcoming E-pistles. ALL are invited. This is going to be a fun afternoon. Maybe there'll be wassail at the end!

On December 24 at the 10 am service, we'll bridge our waiting for the long-expected Jesus, to the Little Town of Bethlehem. The 5 pm and 11 pm services will be glorious with music and the sounds of families worshipping together. Get your seat early for the 5 pm service. We'll begin singing Christmas 111111111111111 carols before the service. For those who prefer a beautiful, yet quieter service, come to the 11 pm ser-vice. It is the very best place to greet Christmas Day.

Thanks be to God for the gift of the readers, musicians, choristers, and all who will make our services a glorious and worshipful experience.

~ Joyce Molina, Organist and Choirmaster



## Rota Volunteers Are Always Welcome



Would you or someone in your family like to assist in some way during our worship services? There are many opportunities to serve, from the adult roles of Lectors, Intercessors, Chalicers, 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'd love to hear from you! 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 St. Peter's worship services.

EVERYONE is welcome to participate in our worship services. If you've been thinking about this, whether you are new to the church or not, but have not acted on it, now's the time to do so. You will be glad that you did!

~ Sherri Hardiman, Parish Administrator

## Worship continued



### **Christmas Decorating**

St. Peter's will again be decorated in the "della robbia" style with an assortment of beautiful and aromatic fruits and greenery for the Christmas season.

If you would like to make a purchase in honor of, in memory of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one, there are signup sheets in the church and Parish House foyer. The deadline to sign up is December 4. A donation of \$10 is requested, and will go toward the purchase of the fruits. Please make your check payable to *St. Peter's Parish Church* and note *Christmas Decorations* on the memo line.

~ Margaret Best, Altar Guild Chair



### Episcopal Youth Community/Altar Guild Christmas Decorating Collaboration

Oranges, limes, and lemons need to be studded with cloves for the "Hanging of the Greens." To make that happen, there will be a fruit decorating party on Thursday, December 14 at 6 pm in Richardson Hall. All EYC members are invited to come have pizza and to do your part to help St. Peter's get ready for the Christmas season and have fun!

We hope to see you there!

~ Catherine Stanley, EYC Advisor & Margaret Best, Altar Guild Chair

### Hanging of the Greens

Please join us Saturday, December 16 at 9 am for the annual "Hanging of the Greens." The more the merrier and the quicker the decorating will get done. This is a great opportunity to show off your creativity. We are looking forward to a fun time, with hot chocolate available to keep us moving!

If anyone has garden greenery for this project, please bring it to the church and leave it under the tower by Saturday, December 16 at 9 am. We can use nandina, holly, cedar, and pine. Hope to see you then!



~ Margaret Best, Altar Guild Chair



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



Chris Atkins Edward Allen Brandon Belcher David Douglas Ashton McEacharn Annie Patterson Andrew Schalk Richard Schalk Aaron Skinner





### **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, Jean Mansfield, Donna Wright, Bob Kay, Fred Bahr, Edna Christian, Karen Carraway, **and all others known and unknown.** 

Steven Harrell, son of Sue Caldwell; Mary Wilcox, friend of Miriam Ackley; Shirley Stone, grandmother of Millie Douglas; Minnie Brammer, mother of Lee Brammer; Aaron Platek, cousin of Adriane Marshall; Linda Hodgson, cousin of Amy O'Keefe; Abbie Schaub, friend of St. Peter's; James Rose, brother-in-law of Jeff Fazio: Stella Zaja, friend of Lori Lindsey White; Chris Smith, friend of Terry Porter; Sherry Rebman, sister of Keith Wagner; Mary Calabrese, friend of Jeff & Denise Fazio; Gayle Ramsey, mother of Wanda Porter; Paul Frey, friend of Boogie Davis; Constance Louise Finnerty, sister of Vicki Reus; Garrett White, cousin of Lori White's husband, David; Judy Robertson, former parishioner; Jack Brannan, friend of St. Peter's; Harriett Gallahan, cousin of Chrissy Wagner; Jimmy Hawthorne, friend of Tom Evelyn; Janie Wood, mother of Carrie Evelyn & Tony Wood; Hilde Janke, mother of Tobias Janke; Janet Boyce, cousin of Kim McLean; Brenda Lambert, mother of Matt Lambert; Mackenzie Dempsey, niece of Kristin Swynford; Susan Swynford, mother of David Swynford; Jordan Sanderlin, cousin of Sheila Mitchell; Greg Lloyd, friend of Ann Bradshaw; Jim Hurst, friend of Julie Vaisvil; Jane Van Ryan, friend of Bill O'Keefe; Larry Gaissert, friend of Julie Vaisvil; David Ross, friend of Ashley & Chris Peace; Betty & Jerry, parents of a parishioner.

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



December

- 1 Bob & Carolie Kay
- 6 Jeff & Denise Fazio

#### January

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





## December Birthdays

- 5 Christine Best
- 5 Jesse Fowler, Jr.
- 6 Jon Ackley
- 6 Emily Woodall
- 6 Jodie Dolci
- 7 Padgette Evelyn
- 10 Eduardo Macotto
- 11 Catherine Pierce
- 12 Jason Best
- 12 Lauren Ashby (Libby) Wallace
- 14 Ken Rubert
- 15 Wayne Greer
- 15 Caroline Nelms
- 16 Lori Janke
- 17 Torun Carlson
- 17 Destiny Lumpkin
- 19 Susan Sitterson
- 19 Sarah Morrow Dunn
- 20 Graham Wilson Ware
- 21 Caroline Swynford
- 23 Layla Southall Eagle
- 28 Miranda Decker
- 28 Helena Harris
- 29 Donna Wright
- 30 Avery Kate Douglas
- 31 Alexis Frank

## January Birthdays



- 1 Caroline Evelyn Belcher
- 1 Carol Johnson
- 1 JaneMarie Mae Jones
- 2 Major Mansfield
- 2 Jack Swynford
- 2 Susan Goodin
- 3 David Carmean
- 4 Elizabeth Smith Remorenko
- 5 Kathy Boschen
- 7 Miriam Ackley
- 7 Jim Harris
- 9 Emalynn Alacoque Settlemire
- 10 Norma Lewis
- 10 Ashley Pierce
- 10 Wil Miles
- 11 Bob Kay
- 12 Cathy Kelly
- 13 Willie Evelyn
- 14 Jeff Fazio
- 14 Sloane Kathryn Moore
- 15 Joseph Hartley Remorenko
- 18 Vicki Reus
- 18 Derek Gresko
- 22 Fred Bahr
- 23 Tony Lewis
- 25 Linda Holub
- 27 Nancy Kulig
- 29 Landon Matthew Gillette
- 30 Joseph Holland
- 31 Karen Carraway

### Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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

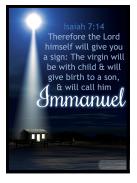
## Upcoming St. Peter's Events To Note

#### December 2017

- 3
- Christmas Craft Day Vestry Nominations CLOSE 3
- Christmas Decorations Sign-up Deadline 4 10 Advent Lessons & Carols at 11 am (HE I at 9 am)
- Reception Follows Lessons & Carols 10
- Gifts Due for Give a Child a Christmas
- Fruit Decorating Party, 6 pm in Richardson Hall
  Hanging of the Greens, 9 am
  Christmas Pageant at 10 am, No Christian Ed.

- 18 Vestry, 6:30 pm

- 24 Christmas Eve, HE I at 10 am; HE I at 5 and 11 pm
  25 Christmas Day, HE II at 10 am
  31 HE II at 10 am, One Service Only, No Christian Ed. Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7 pm, except 12/27



#### January 2018

- Church Office Closed for New Year's Day 1
- Last Day for Submissions to February/March 5 THE KEYS
- 21 Annual Meeting at 10 am, No Adult Christian Ed. Services at 9 and 11 am
- Vestry Installation 28
- Vestry, 6:30 pm Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7 pm 29

#### February 2018

- 4 Souper Bowl of Caring at Both Services
  13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6 pm
  14 Ash Wednesday, Liturgy of the Day 12 noon and 7 pm
- 15 Garden Club in Richardson Hall, 9 am to 12 noon19 Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day
- 19 Vestry, 6:30 pm Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7 pm, except 2/14