

THE ST PETER'S POST

February , 2023

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

**Now abide faith, hope and love,
these three, and the greatest of
these is love.**



"Now abide faith, hope, and love, these three"these words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians couldn't be timelier for us here at St Peter's in the depths of winter, February 2023.

Hope springs into life when I see that the daffodils in my yard have already burst into bright yellow cheer, bringing sunshine into the gray wet weather that reminds us we are still in the season of winter.

Spring must already be on the way.

We at St Peter's have experienced a frustrating winter. The prevalence of Covid, flu, other respiratory diseases, and the various afflictions that many of our congregation are suffering through is downright discouraging. And our struggles with technology have meant that those of you who worship online have been frustrated week after week by various

issues that have made your participation difficult.

And yet, **I am hopeful.** I find hope rising up and bursting into bloom as I think of all of the good things that are ahead for us in 2023.

Healing for those on our prayer list—

Toni Faibisy continues to improve. And seven months after a bad fall, with time in rehabilitation and assisted living, Lydia O'Neil is finally almost ready to go home. These very determined women have worked hard to improve. And **I have faith** that those on our prayer list will experience healing too, as God sustains them in their trials.

St Peter's young people—St Peter's young people have been with us more often lately. After a wonderful Advent program of music with St Nicolas in December, the youth helped to lead our worship service on the last Sunday in January. When I feel the energy of young people in our worship, I am hopeful.

Worship and study—Brad and the talented choir keep working to bring inspirational music to our worship services. We are blessed with musicians who can step in when Brad can't be with us. And The Rev. Tom Hughes and his wife Alice continue to bless us with their presence and contributions to our worship services. Our Wednesday Bible study continues, and has added a member, Marcia Kole, who comes from Fredericksburg to join us. And starting in February, Catherine will be meeting with the youth on Zoom for a weekly Bible study just for them.

Outreach—So many of you come together each month to make sure that we can

provide food for the hungry people in our community. Thanks to all who “shop,” pack, and distribute.

Technology—although we seem to be in a deep winter of technological snafus, I have hope that before too long you can click on our Sunday morning service and have no problems. The current issue, which we are working on, is the sound on YouTube. Until we get this resolved, we will be meeting on Zoom.

Faith, hope and love, these three. And the greatest of these is love. The people in our congregation are intentional about caring for one another and loving one another. We are truly blessed by the care that we give to one another. Cards, calls, the many things we do for one another are examples of love on display. The monthly Village Dinner is a labor of love by the cooks, and a labor of love for those who purchase the dinner to support ECW outreach.

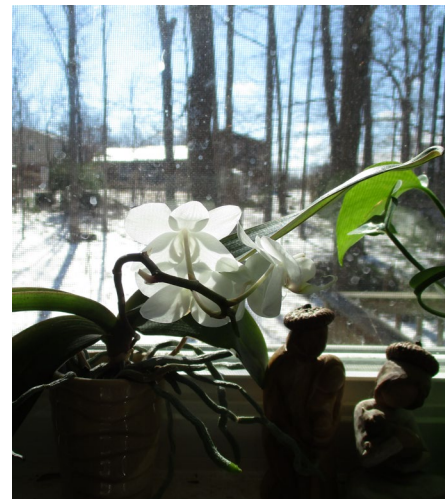
A way we can show love for the homeless in our wider community this month is to sign up for the St Peter's team, walking on “The Coldest Night of the Year” with people all over the United States and Canada to raise funds for those in need—here locally, for those who are homeless. Read more about this later in the Parish Post, and sign up to walk, donate, and to pray for those who will be walking.

And of course, St Valentine's Day comes in February. St Valentine was a third century Roman saint who was martyred in Rome. The name Valentine comes from the Latin word, “valens,” meaning worthy, strong and powerful. As Jeremy Harrington points out in his blog for Franciscan Spirit, God says in Psalm 89 that God will never take back God's love for us. God's love is the strongest power in the universe. In fact, in First John, the writer says that “God is love.” Just think, that powerful love is for each and every one of us. And we can share that powerful, hopeful, and faithful love with one another, not just on February 14,

Valentine's Day but on every day of the year. We ourselves can be God's love loose in the world! February is a great month to be intentional and to show your powerful love to those in our St Peter's Community and to others as well.

I pray that all of you will be strengthened in faith, hope and love in all sorts of ways in these last months of winter and through the year ahead.

Peace,
Catherine



February at St Peter's

- **Every Sunday 11AM Worship in person at St Peter's and online through YouTube or Zoom stream.** Link changes each week.
- **Every Monday, 6:30AM, Monday Morning Meditation**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980716417?pwd=UHLxNE1JYlQ1TGh6N25oYTBxRURwQT09> Meeting ID: 879 8071 6417 Passcode: 790929
- **Every Wednesday, 10AM until Noon Bible Study in the Parish House—study of the upcoming Sunday's lectionary**

- **Individual Learning Opportunity—**
The Good Book Club continues studying Ruth and Esther
- **Sunday, Feb. 5 Coffee Hour** immediately following the service.
- **Tues Feb. 7-** We will be providing snacks for the Caroline County Bingo Night at the Port Royal Fire Department. Place your contributions (*granola bars, individually wrapped bags of trail mix, or small bottles of water*) on the back pew on the first Sunday of February.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 8 – Village Dinner** 4:30-6 PM.
- **Sunday, Feb. 12 Souper Bowl Sunday.** Bring a can of soup and a Valentine card for a Village Harvest client.
- **Wed., Feb. 15 – Village Harvest,** 3:00pm-5pm. Unload food, 9:30AM. Set up distribution, early afternoon. Distribute food 3-5PM. All help is welcome for this vital St Peter's ministry.
- **Thurs, Feb. 16, Vestry, 2PM**
- **Sun, Feb. 19, 11am – Holy Eucharist and Congregational meeting.**
- **Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 21, 5pm-6:30pm** in the parish house
- **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7pm service**

Server Schedule, February, 2023

Sunday, February 5 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany: HE 11AM

Lector: Elizabeth Heimbach
Chalice Bearer: Andrea Pogue
Altar Cleanup: Andrea Pogue

Sunday, February 12 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, HE 11AM

Lector: Jennifer Collins
Chalice Bearer: Johnny Davis
Altar Cleanup: Linda Kramer

Sunday, Feb 19 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany, HE 11AM and Congregational Meeting

Lector: Cookie Davis
Chalice Bearer: Andrea Pogue
Altar Cleanup: Jan Saylor

Wednesday, Feb 22 Ash Wednesday, HE 7PM

Lector: Johnny Davis
Chalice Bearer: Johnny Davis
Altar Cleanup: Catherine Hicks

Sunday, Feb. 26 - The First Sunday in Lent, MP 11AM

Lector: TBA
Altar Cleanup: Linda Kramer



Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Weds, February 8, Village Dinner

The ECW met in 2022 to plan Village Dinner menus for 2023. Because February is Black History Month, the group decided that this month's menu should be soul food.

The menu is
Baked Ham
Macaroni and Cheese
Candied Yams
Collard Greens
Corn Bread
Peach Cobbler

If you would like to indulge in this decadent meal, please let Catherine know. You can call or text her at 540-809-7489 to make a reservation. This month's dinner will be take out only. Cost, \$10



Sunday, February 12, Souper Bowl

On Souper Bowl Sunday, groups all over the country fight hunger together. Bring a can, or cans, of soup to church on the 12th, along with a Valentine's Day card wishing the recipient love from St Peter's to be included in a Village Harvest bag on Weds, February 15th. The goal—thirty cans of soup and thirty cards for those who come to the distribution. Monetary donations to the Village Harvest are always welcome. Write a check to St Peter's with Village Harvest in the memo line if you wish to donate.

Weds, February 15, Village Harvest

A dedicated team of St Peter's workers makes the Village Harvest, the monthly food distribution, possible each month. A special thanks to Jamie Buck, who came to the Village Harvest several years ago as a client, and then decided to become a volunteer. Jamie is a full-time worker at the Southpoint Walmart, and he takes one of his days off to help St Peter's each month at the Village Harvest by carrying huge loads of

groceries to people's cars. We give thanks for Jamie and his willingness to help out.



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.....truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me." Jesus

Sunday, February 19, Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting gives us the opportunity to reflect on the year just past, and to look toward our future together. We will also elect Linda Upshaw to the Vestry.

We will also honor Andrea Pogue and Becky Fisher, who will both be rotating off the Vestry.

To reflect the reality of our congregation's size, the Vestry voted at its December meeting to change the number of Vestry members from six people to five.

Once the Vestry election takes place, members of the 2023 Vestry will be

Cookie Davis and Robert Bryan (2024), Elizabeth Heimbach and Helmut Linne von Berg (2025) and Linda Upshaw (2026).

We thank Linda for "finding a need and filling it," a quote from her brother Jimmy.

February 21 Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, 5-6:30PM Parish House

Johnny Davis will be cooking the sausage.

We need volunteers to make the coffee, cook the pancakes, dish out the applesauce, and serve the hungry people around the table in the Parish House. Volunteer, and invite a friend to come eat pancakes! Let Catherine (540) 809-7489, if you can help.

The History of Shrove Tuesday

In medieval times, Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday) was the day all households were to use up all milk, eggs and fat to prepare for the strict fasting of Lent. In the English tradition, these ingredients were made into pancakes.

The English originated the idea of pancake suppers and pancake races— an opportunity for large numbers of people, often in fancy dress, to race down streets tossing pancakes. The object of the race was to get to the finishing line first, carrying a frying pan with a cooked pancake in it and flipping the pancake while running.

Traditionally Shrove Tuesday viewed as a day of repentance, “Shrove” comes from the verb “to shrive” (to confess and receive absolution) prior to the start of the Lenten season. Other names for this day include Carnival (farewell to meat) and Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday of the French tradition).



Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7PM

“Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the season of Lent, the forty days set aside to

prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Now, we spend forty days preparing just as Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and getting ready for his public ministry.”



The Call to A Holy Lent “Our liturgy directly invites us into a holy season of specific practices aimed at helping us reconnect with God in preparation for the celebration of Easter. “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” (The Book of Common Prayer, page 265) What practices are mostly meaningful to examine the course of your religious life ?”

We are dust. “Many Ash Wednesday liturgies provide an opportunity for worshipers to receive the mark of the cross in ashes on their forehead accompanied by the words, “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” There are many layers of meaning within this simple, powerful ritual. There is the call to remember God created us from the earth (Genesis 2:7). It is by the grace of God that we live and move and have our being and we are inextricably linked to the earth from which we were created.

“There is also the call to remember our connection to the rest of humanity. We are all made from the same “stuff.” We come from dust and we dwell in skin, bone, blood, and cartilage. And there is the call to remember we will return to the earth from whence we came (Genesis 3:19). Ash Wednesday provides us that rarely comfortable, but certainly important opportunity to sit with our own mortality.”

Repentance “To repent is to both acknowledge that we have not loved God with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves AND to make every effort to do things differently. Repentance is about turning away from

behavior that is not in alignment with these two great commandments. Rather than something to check off the to-do list, repentance is a practice. Being human means we will never be fully without sin and we will never outgrow the need for God's forgiveness."

Source: Sarah Bentley Allred, Editor of Building Faith and Associate for Christian Formation & Discipleship for Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary

Saturday, February 25, Coldest Night of the Year Walk, 4PM in Fredericksburg

Let's team up! **Sign up for a Lenten walk to help raise money for Micah Ministries! Team up to walk, donate and pray for this effort.**

Micah is a collaboration of churches in the Fredericksburg area following Christ to cultivate community and care for neighbors. By supporting people experiencing homelessness to find a home in the Fredericksburg region, we seek a just, kind and humble community where all neighbors belong, participate, have mutual support and meaningful relationships.

Micah is hosting the "The Coldest Night of the Year" Walk, a 5K (with one mile option). On this night, across the US and Canada, communities will walk to raise funds and awareness about hunger, hurt and homelessness. Participation can include walking, donating, volunteering or sponsoring the event. Foode, a Fredericksburg restaurant, will be providing a soup kitchen type meal in Hurkamp Park following the walk.

Micah's goal is to raise \$59,000, a symbolic number that represents the approximate cost of a house in the planned Jeremiah Community--a supportive neighborhood of small homes that will eventually house the community's street and chronic homeless. Jeremiah Community, we believe, is a dream

that will set our community's course toward the eventual day that no one has to sleep outside.

Micah has engaged almost 200 walkers across 38 teams and raised nearly 75% of our goal.

We can do our part to help Micah reach its fundraising goal.

Come to Fredericksburg and meet at Hurkamp Park on Saturday, February 25th at 4PM to sign in and then walk with Catherine Hicks and what she hopes will be the St Peter's team at 5PM to help raise money for the Jeremiah Community. We can also schedule a walk any time in February in Port Royal with team members and fundraise toward our goal of \$500.

So far, our team has one walker—and that's me, Catherine. I want you to come join me! Let me know if you are interested and I will send you an email invite. If you don't want to walk, you can make a donation! And if you can't walk or donate, pray for the success of this mission.



"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." African Proverb

Thank you from CERVE

Dear Members of St Peter's

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$200 to CERVE. It is very much appreciated. During the pandemic we did

not get too many requests for help. However, the number of requests has started to increase. Thank you for helping us meeting the needs of our citizens. You are truly a blessing. Gloria Bolecek (treasurer for CERVE)

CERVE is a group of Caroline County Churches who work together to help provide emergency funds for those in need, especially travelers and those who need shelter for a night.

Boyd Wisdom served faithfully for many years as our representative. Elizabeth Heimbach will be our new representative to CERVE.

February Prayer Corner

As we give thanks for the continued improvement of Toni Faibisy and Lydia O'Neil, we pray for many who need our prayers.

Please pray for the following people and for all who care for them.

Rob Dobson is having surgery at VCU to remove a cancerous tumor in his abdomen on Thursday, February 2nd.

Nathaniel Schakenberg, Becky' Fisher's nephew, in his twenties, desperately needs a kidney transplant.

Susan Linne von Berg—Susan is now in the Westmoreland Rehabilitation and Healthcare for care and physical therapy, with the hope that she can return home when she has gotten stronger. If you would like to send her a card, the mailing address is Westmoreland Rehabilitation and Healthcare, 2400 McKinney Blvd, Colonial Beach, VA 22443.

Jim Heimbach, continuing to recover from a fall.

Larry and Jan Saylor, both recovering from a respiratory illness that has affected Larry's hearing.

Dominic Paterino, the Wisdom's son-in-law, who is recovering from ear surgery.

Boyd Wisdom, who is experiencing shortness of breath.

The Gospel in February

Most of the Gospel readings this month are from the Sermon of the Mount. At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, closest disciples of Jesus (5:1) are listening; when he ends, the audience is much broader (7:28). The primary theme of the sermon is righteousness or justice. Jesus' teaching opens with the beatitudes (5:3-11).

Feb 5 Matthew 5:13-20

The disciples are to be salt and light by living the commitments and virtues Jesus explains in the Beatitudes (5:1-12). "Salt" and "light" also relate to the functions of Jesus' faithful followers in the world.

Salt and light are similar in that they are not useful by themselves - the value comes in application to other things. In Jesus' usage, the light is not simply to allow others to see whatever they wish but it is for others to witness the acts of justice that Jesus' followers perform. Beyond that, see God's light in the world helps the audience to recognize the cause of these actions, the God of heaven.

Feb 12 Matthew 5:21-37

Only love as the basis for action could render possible the ethics proposed in this gospel by Jesus. Jesus expects his followers to uphold the dignity and humanity of our companions in this world. The New Community is not a "new and improved" old community. Rather, it is a reconciled and beloved community in which all people are treated with dignity and affirmation.

Feb 19 Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain. When they arrive at the top, Jesus' face and clothes are transfigured with light.

The Gospel story is an appropriate conclusion to Epiphany which began with the baptism of Jesus. In both cases, God ("the voice") proclaims "This is my Son, the Beloved...". The heavens and the earth intersect.

Feb 26, First Sunday in Lent - Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus is tempted Following his baptism in the Jordan River in Epiphany, Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil after Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights.

On the February Church Calendar

The Presentation, Feb. 2



"Today is a day of purification, renewal, and hope." The Presentation of our Lord commemorates Mary and Joseph bringing the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem where he is greeted by Simeon and Anna. By law every first born male was to be consecrated to the Lord. The consecration of Jesus happens on the church calendar forty days after Christmas.

The Holy Spirit had told Simeon, an old man, that he would not die until he had seen Jesus. When Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple, Simeon takes Jesus in his arms and blesses him. His song begins "Lord, now

let your servant depart in peace." In The Book of Common Prayer, Simeon's song appears as Cantic 17, The Song of Simeon or Nunc dimittis which means "now lettest thou depart." The scripture is Luke 2:29-32

Candlemas, a feast day, is also celebrated on this day, which occurs between the December solstice and the March equinox. Many people traditionally marked that time of the year as winter's "halfway point" while they waited for the spring. All the candles that were to be used in the church during the coming year were blessed - so it was the Festival Day (or 'mass') of the Candles. Candles were important in those days because they were the main source of light in buildings. Some people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine. When a person was dying, a lit candle was placed in the person's hand, and the person passed away in the belief that it might light the way to Paradise.

Absalom Jones, Feb 13



Religious denominations often accept members from other denominations that have been affected with adversities through policy decisions, change of beliefs or disagreements in relationships. Imagine coming to a new church after achieving success another denomination.

That's what happened to Absalom Jones (b 1746), whose day we celebrate on Feb. 13, the day he died in 1818. Jones became not only the first trained black minister in any denomination but the first black minister ordained into the Episcopal Church and the

first to create a Black religious organization in Philadelphia.

Jones and friend Richard Allen formed the Free African Society (FAS) in Philadelphia in 1787 whose main goal was to provide aid to newly freed blacks so that they could gather strength and develop leaders in the community. This was among the first organizations of its kind in America

In 1790, the city had 2,000 free black residents, a number that continued to increase. In the first two decades after the war, inspired by revolutionary ideals, many slaveholders freed their slaves, especially in the Upper South Northern states largely abolished slavery. Numerous freedmen migrated to Philadelphia from rural areas of Pennsylvania and the South The FAS provided social and economic guidance, and medical care

In 1792 Jones and Allen, with the assistance of local Quakers and Episcopalians, established the "First African Church" in Philadelphia which opened its doors in 1794.

Jones was a successful minister. constantly visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his congregation and by the community. St Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. The parishioners formed a day school and were active in moral uplift, self-empowerment, and anti-slavery activities. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Read more -

<https://www.churchsp.org/absalomjones/>

February Saint--St. Matthias The Apostle, February 25th

After the Ascension of Jesus, the Apostle Peter, in a "general assembly of the faithful" declared the need for a 12th apostle, since Judas was no longer one of the twelve. Twelve was a very important number to the Chosen People: twelve was the number of

the twelve tribes of Israel. If the new Israel was to come from the disciples of Jesus, a twelfth apostle was needed.

The new apostle must become a witness to Jesus' resurrection. He must have followed Jesus before anyone knew him, stayed with him when he made enemies, and believed in Jesus when he spoke of the cross and of eating his body -- teachings that had made others melt away.

Matthias was chosen by lot. Clement of Alexandria says that Matthias, like all the other apostles, was not chosen by Jesus for what he already was, but for what Jesus foresaw he would become. He was elected not because he was worthy but because he would become worthy.

Matthias was one of the disciples about which little was written. However, the Book of Acts records that he had been a consistent follower from Jesus' baptism until the Ascension. We do know that he was present at the Pentecost.

February, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HBD Helmut Linne von Berg Bible Study in person 10am-12pm, Parish House	2	3	4
5 HBD Kathryn Davis 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist	6 Monday Morning Meditation 6:30am	7 HBD John Hess CCPS Bingo Night at the Fire House, 6-7:30pm	8 Bible Study in person 10am-12pm, Parish House. Village Dinner 4:30-6pm	9	10 HBD Elizabeth Heimbach	11 HBD Ramon Feliciano
12 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist Souper Bowl	13 Monday Morning Meditation 6:30am	14 HBD – Clarence Kunstmann Anniversary - Cheryl, Dennis Ryan	15 HBD McKenna Long Bible Study 10am Parish Village Harvest 3pm-5pm	16 Vestry, 2PM 5:30-6PM Youth Bible Study	17	18 HBD – Gibby Fannon
19 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist - Congregational Meeting	20 HBD – Edgar Harper Monday Morning Meditation 6:30am	21 Shrove Tues pancakes! 5pm-6:30PM Parish House	22 Bible Study 10am Parish Ash Wed Service 7pm	23 5:30-6PM Youth Bible Study on Zoom	24	25 Coldest Night of the Year Walk for Micah, 4PM, Hurkamp Park,
26 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist . First Sunday In Lent	27 Monday Morning Meditation 6:30am	28 HBD Barbara Wisdom 02/28 Mary Ann Betchy 02/28 Morgan Key 2/29				