

THE ST PETER'S POST

September, 2023

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Season of Creation



- **Every Sunday, In person worship at St Peter's and online on YouTube.**
<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopchurchpo677/streams>
- **Sun, Sept. 3 – Coffee Hour after Church**
- **Every Wednesday, 10AM until Noon Bible Study in the Parish House—Study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary.**
- **Sun, Sept 10, Youth Fall Pool Party at the Davis house, after church!**
- **Tues, Sept 12, Sacred Ground Group meeting on Zoom at 7PM**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85488115724?pwd=K0tjTTV1VTA4Z3RLUWhUZIUwdlkdz09> Meeting ID: 854 8811 5724
Passcode: 539098
- **Thurs, Sept. 14, Vestry meeting, 2PM in the Parish House.**
- **Every Sunday, starting on Sept 17, 10:30AM, God's Garden in the Parish House—A gathering of children ages 5-9 for Sunday School activities and fun, led by Elizabeth Heimbach.**
- **Wed., Sept 20– Village Harvest, 3:00PM-5PM.** If you'd like to help, please contact Andrea Pogue, 540-847-9002.
- **Mon., Sept 25, 3PM ECW Tea in the Parish House**

- **Tues, Sept 26, 5:30-7PM** National Family Day, Caroline Community Kickball with Caroline County Public Schools

Server Schedule, Sept., 2023

Sunday, September 3, 2023 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist

Lector: Linda Kramer
Chalice Bearer: Johnny Davis
Altar Cleanup: Jan Saylor

Sunday, September 10, 2023 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist

Lector: Andrea Pogue
Chalice Bearer: Alice Hughes
Altar Cleanup: Andrea Pogue

Sunday, September 17, 2023 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist

Lector: Cookie Davis
Chalice Bearer: Elizabeth Heimbach
Altar Cleanup: Linda Kramer

Sunday, September 24, 2023 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist

Lector: Jennifer Collins
Chalice Bearer: Andrea Pogue
Altar Cleanup: BJ Anderson

Prayer Corner

Please continue to pray for Nathaniel Schnakenberg, whose first kidney transplant was not as successful as all had hoped. He will be put back on the waiting list for a kidney.

Lisa Herbert, friend of Nancy Collins, has had a recurrence of cancer, after a seemingly successful initial treatment. So please pray that the treatments to come will be successful and with permanent positive results.

Jean Devitt has asked for prayers for her son, John Ryan Kirwin.

Pray for all who have been affected by natural disasters around the world.

During the Season of Creation, pray for the well-being of our planet and prayerfully consider what you can do to make a positive difference in the state of the environment.

St Peter's Directory Changes and Additions

Many of you have the online edition of the St Peter's Directory. Update your directory with these following changes and additions. If you need a paper copy of the directory, several are available in the back pew at church. Call Catherine, (540) 809-7489, if you need help in obtaining a paper copy. Update your directory with these following changes and additions.

Please add Jean Devitt.

Devitt

Jean Devitt
12371 Chester Ct
King George, VA 22485
Jean's email Waiakea.1490@yahoo.com
Jean's cell [540-907-0179](tel:540-907-0179)
Jean's birthday May 19

Thom Guthrie's address has changed.

Guthrie

Mr. Thomas W. D. Guthrie (Thom)
Autumn Care of Norfolk
1401 Halstead Ave, Rm 500
Norfolk, VA 23502
Thom's cell 757-748-0301
Thom's birthday 08/13

Lamar and Morgan Key have a new address as well as a new son, Colton.

Key

Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Key (Lamar and Morgan)
Theodore (Theo)
Colton Roger
103 Lee St
Bowling Green, VA 22427

Lamar's email keyslope@gmail.com

Lamar's cell 804-296-6010

Morgan's email morganrosekey@yahoo.com

Morgan's cell 804-572-8311

Lamar's birthday 4/21

Morgan's birthday 2/29

Theo's birthday 01/06

Colton's birthday 07-20

Brad Volland's cell phone number

(540) 419-4692

Special Events at St Peter's in September

Sunday, September 10 One last "Summer" Pool Party for Kids at the Davis House after church. Questions, call Cookie Davis, 804-370-5285.

Monday, September 25, 3PM, ECW Tea. All women are invited to enjoy some time together visiting. Welcome Jean Devitt, and we will decide which groups to send money to as we give thanks for the many blessings we have received here at St Peter's.



ECW

*Please come to Tea
Monday, September 25 at
3PM
In the Rectory*

Tuesday, September 26 5:30-7PM at St Peter's Caroline County Kickball in conjunction with the Caroline County Public Schools and in celebration of National Family Day, Caroline County Public Schools **The Heimbach field will be the kickball field, and St Peter's will be contributing snacks and water for the event. If you would like to help, please donate granola bars, small**

boxes of raisins, and other healthy snacks, and water for those coming out to play. Last year's event was a big success!



Thank you, St Peter's—Reaching out to the world in love

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's mission trip to The Victoria School in Jamaica. Your contributions are making a difference in the lives of the children who attend the school, and making a difference in what the school is able to provide for the children. Thank you to Andrea and Ken Pogue, and Laura Carey, who made the trip to Jamaica this year.



Thank you to all who contributed to the Bishop's Fund for the Diocese of Hawai'i. The \$2000 we sent will help the ministry [A Cup of Cold Water](#) run by the four Episcopal churches in Maui to get needed supplies to those people

displaced by the wildfires on the island. (The photo is of a sunrise on Oahu.)



Sacred Ground Resumes

Please consider joining Sacred Ground, the group at St Peter's working specifically for racial reconciliation in our lives, in our community, in our nation and in the world. All are welcome. We are meeting on Zoom on Sept. 12.

Members of the group are coordinating with Germanna Community College Workforce to seek a recipient for the St Peter's Sacred Ground Scholarship as we move forward.

We are seeking information from the Diocese about the history of St Peter's, so that we can understand our history more fully as we learn about how our past is intertwined with the institution of slavery.

We hope to deepen understanding of the history and culture of the Native Americans of the Rappahannock and Patawomeck Tribes by planning a field trip to the Patawomeck Museum and Cultural Center in Stafford and working to establish a connection with the Rappahannock Tribe.



The group will also choose a book to read and to discuss as we to continue increase the knowledge that will help us to improve our work for racial reconciliation.

Join the meeting on Zoom, 7PM on Tuesday, September 12.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85488115724?pwd=K0tjTTV1VTA4Z3RLUWhUZlUwdlkzdz09> Meeting ID: 854 8811 5724 Passcode: 539098

Your Vestry is hard at work thinking about St Peter's future

The Vestry has been giving some thought to the future of St Peter's. As our membership continues to age, we hope to ensure that St Peter's will continue to move forward in its mission to do God's will out in the world long after we are gone.

In August, several Vestry members met with Michael Williams, Senior Wealth Advisor for South State Bank. Michael talked with us about the St Peter's Endowment Fund. Our Endowment Fund is invested with the Diocese of Virginia Trustees of the Funds. Right now, by Michael's calculations, if we had to turn to the fund for building expenses, we have enough in the fund to ensure the care of the buildings for about sixteen years, based on current building and ground expenses. The current purpose of the Endowment Fund is to make capital improvements and to fund mission and outreach projects. Over the next several months, the Vestry will be working on the Endowment Fund by-laws to see if any updates are needed, and will also be working on ways to grow the Endowment Fund, so that those who come after us will have the needed resources to continue to care for our church buildings and graveyard after we are no longer able to do so. This is an ongoing conversation and all contributions to the conversation are welcome!

The Gospel in September

Get the lectionary readings here
<http://lectionarypage.net/#sept>

Sept 3 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus' ministry in Galilee has come to an end and he is headed for Jerusalem. Knowing what is to happen in Jerusalem, he prepares the disciples, who are distressed by the news he has shared, because they expect the Messiah to conquer and reign. Peter protests. Peter is thinking as human beings do, and not as God does. And so Jesus rebukes Peter, calling him a stumbling block, in contrast to a firm rock on which the church will be built. Jesus then tells the disciples that they must take up their crosses to follow him, that is, making a commitment of faith to follow wherever it is that God will lead, even though suffering and death. Jesus clearly states that we will be held accountable for how we have lived as his followers. The Gospel of Matthew, by Curtis Mitch and Edward Sri.

Sept 10 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 18:15-20

In Matthew' gospel, firm action must be taken against a serious offender. However, people who find themselves in the position of correcting their neighbors are liable to potential sins themselves—hypocrisy, judgmentalism, and even spiritual arrogance. The fact that Jesus is in the midst of each stage of the outlined procedure for correction and the fact that Jesus conferred the power of binding and loosing reminds us that if "Christian fellowship is to survive the strains imposed upon it by human failure, it will survive only because the risen Lord sustains it." Interpretation: Matthew, by Douglas R. A. Hare

Sept 17 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 18:21-35

As disciples, we are held to a very high standard of mercy. Jesus emphasizes to his disciples that they will receive mercy only if they show mercy to others. "When we remember how much God has forgiven us then we can avoid becoming like the unforgiving servant, who, though he was forgiven much, failed to forgive others." Hopefully, we can have compassion for those who have hurt us,

and pray for them rather than carry a grudge against them. The Gospel of Matthew, by Curtis Mitch and Edward Sri.

Sept 24 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 20:1-16

In the Gospel's parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a foreman who hired laborers early in the morning, then successively throughout the day at the third, sixth, ninth, and eleventh hours. A twelve-hour day of manual labor, with the "burden of the work and the heat of the day" is a long day. That evening the foreman settled accounts, paying those who had worked a meager one hour the same as those who had worked twelve hours.



"Do you begrudge my generosity?" God's grace is for all. The parable reminds us that the gift of eternal life is not the reward of how long or of how hard we have worked in the vineyard of life, but a free gift of divine grace. The Gospel of Matthew, by Curtis Mitch and Edward Sri.

Season of Creation, 2023



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

The Season of Creation-- Sept 1 - Oct. 4. The season began in 1989 when the Eastern Orthodox Church set aside a day of prayer for the environment. The World Council of Churches extended the celebration until October 4, the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi. Each year a different scripture is chosen

as the theme. This year the theme is from the Prophet Amos – "Let Justice and Peace Flow."

Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24). We are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

"A mighty river" is the symbol chosen to go with this theme, representing biodiversity at risk. The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. When we join the river of justice and peace together with others, we create hope instead of despair.

We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty river.

Prophet Isaiah proclaims "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43: 19)

Effects of Climate Change

The average global temperature has risen a little more than 1.1°C since 1880 due to emission of greenhouse gases due to human activities. This summer has set new heat records.

It is likely that warming will exceed 1.5°C, the goal of the Paris Accords 2015 during the 21st century. It could go up to 2.8°C. Current carbon-cutting efforts, while improving, are insufficient to ward off a climate catastrophe.

Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health (ecosystems and biodiversity) .

The greenhouse effect on Earth raises our temperatures and creates a set of related actions

- erratic weather,

- loss of the glaciers, declines in agriculture,
- increase in sickness (respiratory illness),
- increased run-off and flooding associated with extreme events in wetter seasons, which can cause slope instability, shoreline erosion, overfilling of wetlands, and exceeding the capacity of sewer infrastructure;
- increased stream flows in wetter months that could interfere with water disinfection and treatment;
- marine shoreline erosion associated with rising sea levels;
- increased pressure on coastal waters that require heightened maintenance for shoreline access, water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational infrastructure; and Disruption to agriculture production.

What we can do about climate change



Each Sunday, the Prayers of the People include a prayer for the earth. During the Season of Creation, make praying for the earth part of your individual prayer discipline.

Creation Care Prayer

God, maker of marvels,
 you weave the planet and all its creatures
 together in kinship;
 your unifying love is revealed
 in the interdependence of relationships
 in the complex world that you have made.
 Save us from the illusion that humankind is
 separate and alone,
 and join us in communion with all inhabitants
 of the universe;
 through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
 who topples the dividing walls by the power of
 your Holy Spirit,
 and who loves and reigns with you, for ever
 and ever. Amen.

-Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation Reported to the 78th General Convention

Consider ways to address climate change in your home

Homeowners and renters can take advantage of tax incentives for capital expenses based on recent federal legislation.

energy.gov/save/homeowners

www.energy.gov/save/renters

- **Swap your furnace for a heat pump, (Tax Credit : 30% of the cost paid by the consumer, up to \$2,000/year,)**
- **Swap your gas stove for an electric stove,** which will also lower indoor air pollution (rebate amount has not been publicized yet)
- **Install a programmable thermostat model to turn off the heat/air conditioning when you're not home.** You can save between 1.5 and five per cent of your heating bill for every degree of heating or cooling you save. In warm weather turning up the thermostat in your home by even a degree or two will save energy. In the winter, turn the thermostat down for savings and less impact on the environment.
- **Insulation tax credit.** Drafts waste five to 30 per cent of energy. Make sure that doors, windows and chimneys have tight seals. Try testing with incense. Where the smoke wavers, a draft is blowing in, (Tax credits for new insulation, 30%, up to \$1,200 maximum . Bulk insulation products can qualify, such as batts, rolls, blow-in fibers, rigid boards, and expanding spray. Products that air seal (reduce air leaks) can also qualify, as long as they come with a Manufacturers Certification Statement.)
- **Get a home or workplace energy audit to identify where you can make the most energy-saving gains. (Tax credit 30% of the cost of the audit paid for by the consumer, up to \$150)**

- **Consider Solar**- This is a significant expense but can vary depending on the company you choose. There are offsets to the cost:

30% federal tax credit via Inflation reduction Act. State - - A property tax exemption for the increase in home value after going solar.

Solar Renewable Energy Certificates

(SRECS), are financial incentives for generating clean electricity. You gain one SREC for every 1,000 kilowatt-hours generated by your solar panels, and you can sell the credits to local electricity providers and other organizations that are subject to renewable energy mandates. As of 2023, each SREC can be sold for around \$45 to \$70.

Solar alternative - Even if you can't install solar panels, you can still be a part of the clean-energy economy. Check out - Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) odec.com. ODEC has entered several long-term purchase power agreements for energy generated by wind, solar, and landfill gas resources.

Non-capital costs

- **Change to energy-efficient LED bulbs.**
- **Wash clothes in cold water.** Hang-dry your clothes when you can.
- **Reverse ceiling fans.** Many ceiling fans have a reverse mode. When fans turn clockwise, they push down warm air that pools near the ceiling and circulate it through the room.
- **Change furnace filters.** Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase your furnace's energy demand by making it work harder. Replace filters at least every three months during the heating season. Consider switching to a washable filter, which reduces waste and is more effective.

"Cool Congregations"

Interfaith Power and Life (IPL), has been working since 1998 to create state affiliated

organizations. This group seeks to expand the concept of stewardship to include caring for Creation.

IPL supports and honors the link between religious faith and the environment. IPL inspires and mobilizes people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change in their own facilities.

The IPL has a Cool Congregations initiative. A congregation works to cut its carbon footprint by at least 10%. Four levels of recognition are available, for 10%, 20%, 30%, and 40% carbon footprint reduction.

St Peter's could work to establish a baseline of energy use and then set a goal of achieving a 10% reduction in emissions. Energy use includes the amount of fuel used to heat, cool, and power buildings, plus water, waste, and recycling.

There is a no fee to apply for certification to become A *Certified Cool Congregation*. Each *congregation* receives a paper certificate, a listing on the IPL website, an inclusion in the US Green Building Council's Green and the pride knowing we are taking steps to reduce our carbon emissions at St Peter's.

Good News! Climate Change Improvements

Since last year, there have been some improvements in trends. The increase in emissions is being reduced. People and enterprises are taking this subject seriously. The need for a reduction in emissions is being addressed by countries, companies and at many levels of government.

Goal-- Net Zero position by 2050. Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) that's produced and the amount that's removed from the atmosphere. People have a long way to go by 2050 to get to Net Zero.

1 The rate of increase in emissions has slowed somewhat since 2005.

From C2es.org " We estimate that U.S. net greenhouse emissions (in 2021) are now **17**

percent below 2005 levels. Electric power sector emissions have fallen nearly 36 percent (2005 – 2021) as a result of a shift from coal to natural gas, increased use of renewable energy and leveling of electricity demand.

The transportation sector emissions fell almost 9 percent, while industrial sector emissions fell by a little more than 4 percent over the same period.”

2. 45 countries in the world including the United States, the UK, and most western democracies are in fact cutting their emissions or are planning to do so.

The goal for the United States is 100 percent clean power by 2035 and slashing 2005 climate pollution levels in half by 2030.

3. Disclosures provided from companies

In March, 2022 the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) released a statement outlining proposed rules that would require publicly held companies to provide climate risk data and greenhouse gas emissions to regulators and investors. Companies would also be responsible for reporting annually on progress toward their targets.

Example – Alphabet (Google)

Alphabet is the world’s largest corporate buyer of renewable energy, which includes more than 50 projects totaling 5.5 GW of renewable energy projects under contract worldwide. This accounts for an annual deficit of approximately five million tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. By 2030, Alphabet plans to become the first major company to operate full-time on carbon-free energy. It plans to do so by continuing to invest in renewable energy generation and storage technologies that can also benefit other businesses.

4. Virginia

The Virginia Clean Economy Act mandates that Dominion Energy switch to renewable energy by 2045, though there are recent questions whether this goal is achievable. Appalachian Power, which serves southwest Virginia, must go carbon-free by 2050.

Almost all the state’s coal plants will have to shut down by the end of 2024 under the new law.

Fredericksburg - In 2019, City Council passed the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution, which committed the City of Fredericksburg to have 100% renewable energy power municipal operations by 2035.

5. Climate change is being included in budgets.

The Oslo Norway Climate Budget, was put forward for the first time in 2016. A climate budget is a governance tool. It structures and organizes how we can get from climate target policies and words to action and results. It also makes all parts of the administration in Oslo a stakeholder to the climate goals. The climate budget, which is measured in tons of CO2 emissions, is fully integrated in the municipal budget.

6. Consultants

Project Drawdown - Drawdown refers to the future point in time when levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere stop climbing and starts to decline.. Central to the project is the compilation of a list of the "most substantive solutions to global warming." The list of 100, which encompasses only technologically viable existing solutions, was compiled by a team of more than 200 scholars, scientists, policymakers, business leaders, and activists and is now online.

7. Laws

Inflation Reduction Act - The IRA directs nearly \$400 billion in federal funding to clean energy, with the goal of substantially lowering the nation’s carbon emissions by the end of this decade. The funds will be delivered through a mix of tax incentives, grants, and loan guarantees. Clean electricity and transmission command the biggest slice, followed by clean transportation, including electric-vehicle (EV) incentives. 270 new clean energy projects have been announced since 2022. These investments are expected to be accompanied by more than 86,000 jobs.

8. Small positives. Do you use Google maps for travel ? In 2021, Google instituted a new

feature to guide users along the most environmentally friendly routes possible. Today, Google estimates that has saved a total of 1.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions (250,000 internal combustion engines).

Climate Change Challenges

The increase in greenhouse gas emissions leads to higher temperatures which are still growing despite slowed increases. For the first time ever, global temperatures are now more likely than not to breach 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). We are currently at 1.1% Celsius above pre-industrial levels. 1.5°C is the preferred limit for global warming in the 2015 United Nations Paris agreement on climate change. To limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, the world would have to cut carbon emissions by 45% on 2010 levels by 2030, and to net zero by 2050. Emissions are 51 billion tons per year.

1 Time is more important than technology Early action pays dividends. About three quarters of what we need to do to stop climate change are emissions cuts just in the 2020s and early 2030s. The actions we take early in the 2020s will pay off the most handsomely because they have the longest to accumulate between now and the 2050s. Those in the 2020's will make up 76% of the total.

2. Emergency Brakes are solutions we can adopt now but also have a fast response in the atmosphere. We don't have to wait for new technologies or infrastructure.

For example, stopping deforestation immediately, preventing trees from being burned everywhere in the world, as fast as we can, would have an immediate impact on climate change. Cutting methane leaks, because methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas and warms the planet so much. 30% of the leaking methane coming from natural gas wells happens from only 1% of the wells. Shutting down those leaks can have a huge impact on methane emissions.

3 The next wave of climate actions will take longer to unfold because of the need for whole new systems for electricity, for

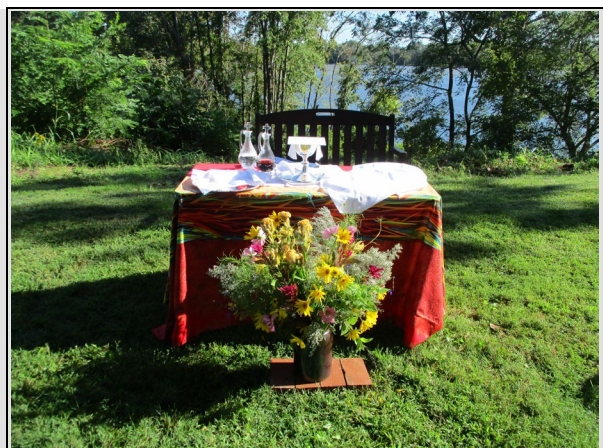
buildings, transportation, industry and even farms and agriculture.

Updating the electrical grid illustrates the difficulties. Electricity is 27% of the 51 billion tons per year of emissions. Changing America's entire electricity system to zero-carbon sources would raise average retail rates by between 1.3 and 1.7 cents per kilowatt-hour, roughly 15 percent more than what most people pay now. That \$18 a month for the average home—pretty affordable for most people, though possibly not for low-income Americans, who already spend a tenth of their income on energy.

Wind power is a problem when the wind isn't blowing. Sun is ongoing but requires storing excess electricity in batteries (prohibitively expensive) or pushing the energy back to the grid which would depend on electric company to accept it.

Nuclear produces 20% of power for the US but is expensive to build. Human error can cause accidents. Uranium, the fuel for nuclear, can be converted for use in weapons, not a great use! The waste is dangerous and hard to store.

In 2008, Bill Gates founded TerraPower to develop the next generation of nuclear technology. His company is experimenting with Sodium, a liquid sodium-cooled fast reactor (rather than water-cooled reactor) that is over 50% cheaper, safer, and even more environmentally friendly than current nuclear power. However, it will not be ready until the 2030's.



September, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 HBD Denise Gregory
3 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist 12pm Coffee Hour	4 Happy Anniversary: Wendy, Alan Gayle	5 HBD Cleo Coleman	6 Bible Study 10am	7	8	9
10 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist Youth Pool Party at the Davis house after church	11	12 7:30PM Sacred Ground meeting on Zoom	13 Happy Anniv.- Fred, Crystal Pannell Bible Study 10am	14 Holy Cross Day Vestry, 2PM	15	16
17 Hildegard – author, composer Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 AM God's Garden class for kids, in the Parish House 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist	18	19 Chancellor's Village Eucharist, 1PM	20 HBD Catherine Hicks, Tom Segar Bible Study 10am Parish Village Harvest 3pm-5pm	21 HBD – James Upshaw, Trenton Schnakenberg St. Matthew, evangelist	22	23
24 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost HBD Robert Bryan 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist	25 ECW Tea, 3PM	26 HBD Anne Tyree 5:30-7PM Caroline Community Kickball with CCPS	27 Bible Study 10am	28 HBD Marian Mahoney	29 St. Michael	30