

# THE ST PETER'S POST

October, 2023

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

## October—Rooted in Love



"Untitled (River Landscape)" (1863),  
Robert Duncanson

- **Every Sunday, "God's Garden" for ages 5-9 in the Parish House 10:30am, led by Elizabeth Heimbach and Jan Saylor**
- **Every Sunday, In person worship at St Peter's and online on YouTube, 11am.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepicopalchurchpo677/streams>
- **Sun Oct. 1 - Coffee Hour after Church**
- **Sun Oct. 8 - Stewardship campaign, "Rooted In Love," begins**
- **Mon, Oct 9- Vestry 2PM in the Parish House**
- **Tues, Oct. 10, 10am- Sacred Ground at the Meyer Gallery in Fredericksburg**
- **Every Wednesday, 10AM until Noon Bible Study in the Parish House—Study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary.**
- **Wed., Oct. 18- Village Harvest, 3:00pm-5pm.** If you'd like to help, please contact Andrea Pogue, 540-847-9002.

## Server Schedule, Oct 2023

**Sunday, October 1, 2023, Last Sunday of the Season of Creation, 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Cookie Davis

Chalice Bearer: Andrea Pogue

Altar Cleanup: Jan Saylor

**Sunday, October 8, 2023 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Elizabeth Heimbach

Chalice Bearer: Alice Hughes

Altar Cleanup: BJ Anderson

**Sunday, October 15, 2023, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Ben Hicks

Chalice Bearer: Johnny Davis

Altar Cleanup: Jan Saylor

**Sunday, October 22, 2023, The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Johnny Davis

Chalice Bearer: Andrea Pogue

Altar Cleanup: Andrea Pogue

**Sunday, October 29, 2023, The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Morning Prayer**

Lector: Andrea Pogue

Altar Cleanup: Jan Saylor

## To Be a Church Rooted in Love

Grace and peace.

This is the month when we consider how we'll support St Peter's financially in the coming year. We have an opportunity to consider what being part of a church means, and where we are in our commitments not just to God, but to this body of Christ of which we are a part. Are we a church rooted in love? And if so, how do we continue to grow into God's love for our own good and for the good of the world around us?

To be a church rooted in love is to be a church that does two things well. **The first thing is to be a church that opens its doors to any person who comes.** This person may simply be curious. Perhaps this person may desire community with others, and/or desire a

deeper knowledge of God. These desires may surface only after the person walks through the open door and finds a loving, accepting community within those walls, a community of people who model the meaning of loving God and one another.

**The second thing that a church that is rooted in love must do well is to grow strong, faithful disciples, those who will follow Jesus, no matter the cost, and will support one another in their life in Christ.**

We do this together through worshiping, praying, studying, giving in support of the church, sharing fellowship with one another, and reaching out into the world to share God's love. These strong faithful disciples are the ones who throw open the doors and welcome others in, hoping that they too will decide to join fully and to become disciples themselves. These disciples are the ones who worship, pray, study, give, share together in one another's joys and sorrows, hoping to deepen their relationships with God. These are the ones who reach out into the world on God's behalf.

Our ongoing challenge as disciples is to grow stronger and ever more deeply in our love for God and in our desire to follow Jesus, more giving, and more compassionate toward one another and toward those who may never walk through our doors, but who are desperately in need of God's love—our ongoing challenge is to be more complete and more loving in our welcome.

For those of us who are on the fence, and that's all of us at some point or another, torn by so many things that keep us away from God and halfhearted toward one another: Jesus asks us to decide to move beyond seeking, or being halfway committed, and to commit to becoming a whole hearted disciple, one with a new heart and a new spirit of love, ready to follow wherever Jesus calls us to go as this community of faith. And Jesus calls us to be patient with one another in our varying levels of commitment, to have compassion for one another, to encourage one another, and to help

one another to be rooted in love as we grow together, and welcome the stranger in.

Catherine+

## October is the month to plan your financial giving to the church for 2024



The practice of intentional giving deepens our walk with Christ and supports life giving ministries to our community and beyond

Toward the end of each year, the Vestry asks you to consider what you plan to give for the mission and ministry of St Peter's in the coming year.

This year the process begins on Sunday, October 8, when Elizabeth Heimbach, Stewardship Chairperson and also our Senior Warden, gives you a letter from me, Catherine, which explains where your money goes and how the church uses it, and asking you to support this work in the coming year.

Included with this letter is a card on which you can list what you plan to give to St Peter's in 2024. You may also pledge online this year. Your online pledge goes directly to Jim Heimbach, the St Peter's Treasurer, as do the pledge cards that you fill out and turn in. Your financial commitment is something to consider prayerfully.

During the month of October, you'll see a large tree on the wall of the church made by Jan Saylor. This tree starts off with no leaves. Without its leaves, the tree cannot live. When you decide to make a financial commitment to St Peter's for the coming year, please choose a leaf to add to the branches, bringing new life to our life together, rooted in love.

As Bishop Robert W. Ihloff, Retired Bishop of Maryland says, "When the church asks us to give, we are really being asked to invest, to invest in ministries and programs that change

people's lives. Often these are programs that have changed or enhanced our own lives: meaningful worship, education, mission in places close by and far off. Our investment enables us to reduce the suffering of the poor and marginalized, open new options for the downtrodden, and offer new hope for those who feel lost. It is hard not to feel good about such investments."

Giving money to support the work that we do together as the church is a way to practice your faith in God, who has created us and has blessed us with all the resources at our disposal. Giving money to the work of this church is a way we express gratitude, generosity, service and care as we reach out to the world in love.

Your money can change lives through our work together. People from our food distribution tell me what a difference this food makes in getting them through the month in good physical and financial shape. One woman prayed for us and for our ministry as she offered her prayer of gratitude and blessing. Help from the discretionary fund not only helps people keep their electricity on and their rent paid, but also gives them a chance to move forward—one woman needed just one month of help with keeping her internet connected to keep her job, which help her to gain financial security. She was so grateful not to have to start over and to look for another job.

Sharing money for God's work through St Peter's is a way to care for something you hopefully value and treasure, that is, this church. Your giving in 2024 helps us to maintain and grow our own community of love, to provide worship, which has to be planned and carried out, not only for those who come to church in person, but those who join online. Your giving allows us to enjoy fellowship with one another in well maintained buildings surrounded by the beauty of our grounds.

Responding with financial support to St Peter's in 2024 is your chance to say, "Yes, Lord, I will do this, because I believe in what we are doing

as a church, and who we are becoming as followers of Jesus."

**See a description of St. Peter's ministries on pages 11-13. Your 2024 pledge will help to make them thrive!**



## Prayer Corner

First of all, thanks be to God for the fact that Barbara Deal, who has Stage 4 lung cancer, had a clear scan at her last check-up. Please pray for Daryl Potter, a good friend of Alice Hughes. Daryl has a very painful cancer, and needs our prayers. Herbert Wilkerson, Johnny's brother-in-law, has several challenging health issues for which he needs prayers. Dale Brittle has been in rehabilitation and is working to regain her strength. She welcomes our prayers. Please continue to pray for Tommy Segar, Ken Pogue, Nathaniel Schnakenberg, Bill Wick, Thom Guthrie, the Linne von Bergs and the Faibisys, and for Laura Carey's sister-in-law, Ruth Smith, who is in hospice care. Boyd Wisdom has a malignant mass in his lungs, and Andrea Pogue is awaiting test results to determine the makeup of a mass in her lungs. Please keep all of these people in your prayers.

## Help plan the new year together as we Walk in Love

The new church year starts on the first Sunday in Advent, this year on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Vestry has decided that the coming year's theme will be **Walk in Love**. Each season will have a particular focus. The focus of the Advent and Christmas season will be **Walk to the Manger**. The season after The Epiphany will be **Walk in the Light**. The seasons of Lent and Holy Week will be **Walk to the Cross**. The Season of Easter will be **Walk in New**

**Life.** The season after Pentecost will be **Walk in the Way.** Catherine and the Vestry will be working on what we do together as the church with these themes in mind. We need a planning committee! **If you are interested in helping with the fun of planning the new year, please give Catherine a call (540-809-7489). All input is welcome.**

### Sacred Ground Group to meet on Tuesday, October 10—Field trip to the Meyer Fine Art Gallery in Fredericksburg

All are welcome to join in a field trip to the Meyer Fine Art Gallery on Tuesday, October 10 at 10AM. The gallery is located at 1015 Caroline Street in Fredericksburg, VA. Michael Meyer, the owner of the gallery, has gathered a collection of the paintings of Robert Duncanson, a Black, self-taught artist who lived and worked successfully during the decade immediately preceding the Civil War. Meyer has spent fifteen years studying the artist's work. He has mapped every location that Duncanson painted and has traveled the routes that Duncanson followed. Meyer is convinced that given the context of what was going on in the United States in the 1850's, Duncanson's works can be viewed as "instruction manuals for enslaved Blacks attempting to escape north." Michael will give us a tour of his Duncanson paintings, and will explain his theories about the Duncanson's work. After the tour, the group plans to eat together and to discuss progress on distributing Sacred Ground scholarship money and other business.

Here is a link for a video, newspaper article and a PowerPoint on the painter Robert Duncanson.

<https://bit.ly/3ter2Lq>

### More about the Sacred Ground Group

The Sacred Ground group was formed in 2020 to watch and discuss **Sacred Ground: A Film Based Dialogue Series on Race and Faith** in 2020. The 10 week study session was created

by the Episcopal Church to explore the roots of racial conflict in the United States through the effects of race and racism throughout American history.

After completing the series, the group has continued reading various books to learn more about the impact of racism in the United States. The group is currently reading How we can win: Race, History and Changing the Money Game that's Rigged, by Kimberly Jones.

The group has also set up a Sacred Ground Scholarship, a fund available to Black and Native American students, as a way to combat the historical inequities in education caused by



### Patawomeck Museum & Cultural Center

racism. In 2022, two young women from Caroline County High School received scholarships to attend Germanna Community College. For the coming year, the group will be working with Germanna to help students who want to enter the various trade trainings, but do not have the downpayments to get started. The cost for getting educated for a specific trade can be anywhere from \$500 to \$800. Some of the programs have higher costs. The group hopes to help several students during the school year.

**The group also hopes to visit the Patawomeck Museum and Cultural Center in Stafford, which has recently opened. This visit may take place in November.**

**Consider joining the St Peter's Sacred Ground Group. All are welcome!**

### A poem about forgiveness

Forgiving can be difficult. Forgiveness does not necessarily mean forgetting, but forgiving

does mean that we let go of the acid of unforgiveness inside of us that is eating away our hearts and slowly killing us. The following poem from Jan Richardson reminds us of the importance of working on forgiveness as part of the discipline of living a full and joyful life.

*The Hardest Blessing*

If we cannot  
lay aside the wound,  
then let us say  
it will not always  
bind us.

Let us say  
the damage  
will not eternally  
determine our path.

Let us say  
the line of our life  
will not always travel  
along the places  
we are torn.

Let us say  
that forgiveness  
can take some practice,  
can take some patience,  
can take a long  
and struggling time.

Let us say  
that to offer  
the hardest blessing,  
we will need  
the deepest grace;  
that to forgive  
the sharpest pain,  
we will need  
the fiercest love;  
that to release  
the ancient ache,  
we will need  
new strength  
for every day.  
Let us say  
the wound  
will not be

our final home—

that through it  
runs a road,  
a way we would not  
have chosen  
but on which  
we will finally see  
forgiveness,  
so long practiced,  
coming toward us,  
shining with the joy  
so well deserved.

—Jan Richardson  
"The Hardest Blessing" © Jan Richardson  
from *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings  
for Times of Grief*. Used by  
permission. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)

### ECW approves 2023 donations



ECW  
Tea  
Sept 25, 2023



By ECW President, Elizabeth Heimbach

The September meeting of the St. Peter's ECW was held at the Heimbachs' house because tree work at the church made parking limited. After everyone enjoyed tea and snacks, we welcomed our new member, Jean Devitt. Then, Elizabeth reported that the ECW account currently totaled \$2280.89, and the group agreed to donate \$100 to CERVE, (the Caroline Emergency Relief through Volunteer Efforts), \$250 to Catherine's Discretionary Fund, \$500 to Village Harvest, and \$500 to Social Services for their Christmas program, to help out the Episcopal Church Men, who are raising money for this project. Since an anonymous member

gave an additional \$70, the ECW account will have \$1000 after these donations are made. Nancy Long has agreed to do some research to find out about the cost of repairing the brass altar vases which were a gift to St. Peter's from the ECW, while Alice said that she would try to find out the possible value of the large bas-relief currently stored upstairs in the rectory.

The group also discussed plans for the coming months including a visit to Chancellor's Village, and a tour of the Patowomeck Museum and Cultural Center. In addition, we talked about providing refreshments for the Epiphany and Presentation Services when the St. Peter's Choir will join the choir of St. Asaph's for those services. We also agreed to prepare dinner for the Episcopalian students at Mary Washington, and, perhaps, to supply snacks for them during exam week in early December.

Finally, several people had ideas for events for which we could sell tickets to raise money so that we'll have funds for outreach next year. Jan suggested a Mother's Day brunch, Catherine suggested a croquet match, and several people talked about the possibility of an event like a concert that could include a barbecue.

### ECW Fall Meeting, Nov. 11 – St. Mary's Colonial Beach



Joy in Service

The **Keynote Speaker** is The Rt Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson and **speaker** The Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill Jr.

**Theme:** "Do not be afraid; I will restore you; I will renew you"

#### Schedule:

9:00 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast,  
10:00 Meeting,  
Noon Lunch ,  
1:00 PM Holy Eucharist.

**The registration is \$25 with Nov. 1 as the deadline. Form**

[https://ecw.thediocese.net/Content/ecw\\_thediocese/CMS/files/FALL\\_MEETING\\_Registration\\_Form.docx](https://ecw.thediocese.net/Content/ecw_thediocese/CMS/files/FALL_MEETING_Registration_Form.docx)

### Village Harvest, Sept., 2023



By Ben Hicks

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (July-Sept) Village Harvest trends for this year are consistent with the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (April-June) in terms of people served but well above in pounds of food provided for each person.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (July through Sept) we served the same number of clients – 262 as the second quarter (April-June). This total was above both 2022 and 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 251 and 188, respectively.

Food provided at 3,654 pounds was much higher in the third quarter 2023 than the second, 3,457. 3,654 in 2023 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was higher than 2022 3,258 and 2021 3,312, respectively as well.

The year-to-date for 2023 number of people served remains below 2022 and 2021. We had a low number of clients in the first quarter 2023. We served 218 in the first quarter 2023 compared to 296 in 2022 and 295 in 2021. The second and third quarters were much better.

### "God's Garden" for ages 5-9



Two experienced teachers, Elizabeth Heimbach, and Jan Saylor, are gathering each Sunday with four young students for God's Garden, a Christian Education class for young people. On the first and second Sundays of the class in September, the lessons focused on the theme of water, a fitting topic for the Season of Creation. After a song on creation, the class looked at why water is necessary for agriculture, for our own health, and for the thriving of the natural world. With a little prompting, the children brought up some stories about water in the Bible, including the great flood and Jonah being swallowed by a whale. Water is necessary but there are hazards! And water shaped the life of Moses in many ways.

### Goodbye, our faithful friend



As most of you know, during September, the Vestry had to make the hard decision to remove our old pear tree behind the parish house. This tree has amazed us through the years by continuing to stand despite a long and ominous crack, and a large hollow in the trunk. The tree had a habit of blooming at odd times of the year. The pear tree's fruit varied from inedible for all but the yellow jackets and the groundhogs and then this year, a delicious harvest for all. The pear tree was probably

planted by the wife of Rev Ware, who served at St Peter's from 1888 to 1918.

She planted an orchard of fruit trees on the church property. This pear tree was probably the last member of her fruit tree orchard, connecting us to the faithful witness of past St Peter's members.

Our large sycamore tree now stands as a sentinel with no branches. The branches that remained after the freak storm at the end of July did not have enough support from the tree trunk to safely remain on the tree. The sycamore tree will probably bush out in the spring with small branches and leaves. Meanwhile, it too provides a witness to our past.

### Gospel in October

Get the lectionary readings here

<http://lectionarypage.net/#oct>

**Oct. 1- 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -  
Matthew 21:23-32**

This is the first of five times that those in power in the temple challenge the authority of Jesus. At the end of the confrontation, Jesus' authority is intact. In the second part of this gospel reading, a father asks his sons to go work in the vineyard. One who says yes to working in the vineyard and then doesn't, and the second says no, but then goes to work. Jesus points out that those unrepentant people who believe that they are doing God's work but don't bother to listen to God are like those who say yes, but don't go to the vineyard. The people, even the tax collectors and prostitutes, who repent and then do God's will are like the second son who ends up going to work as the father had asked. Jesus says to the chief priests and the elders (the ones who have challenged his authority) that they did not believe John the Baptist, who came in the way of righteousness, but that the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and they repented. They will go into the kingdom of God ahead of the chief priests and the elders of the people. What do we need to do to repent and to follow God's way of righteousness?

**Oct. 8- 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -  
Matthew 21:33-46**

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants is about an absent landowner who sends two sets of slaves to collect his rent from those who are leasing his vineyard. Instead of paying their rent, the tenants kill all of the slaves. And so then, the landowner sends his son to collect the rent, but the tenants kill the son as well. At the end of the parable, Jesus says plainly that the kingdom of God will be taken away from those people who have ignored God's will and have put their own power ahead of God's. The kingdom will be given to people that produce the fruit of the kingdom. The elders and the chief priests, like the tenants, have abused their power. How do we use our power as the church—in obedience to God's will? Or has the world co-opted the church's power to use for good in the world? Do we seek to make God's vineyard our own, or do we tend it as the faithful stewards that God means for us to be?

**Oct. 15- 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost-  
Matthew 22:1-14**

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Once again, this parable is addressed to the chief priests, the elders and the Pharisees. In this parable, a king gives a wedding banquet for his son, but those who are invited refuse to come. In fact, they even kill those bearing the invitation to the banquet. The king is enraged and so he sends his troops to kill the murderers. Then he sends more messengers out to invite anyone they can find to the banquet. Both the good and the bad respond and come to the banquet. When the king arrives, he sees on wedding guest who is not wearing a wedding robe, and so he has this person tossed out of the banquet.

Matthew's intention in this story is not to describe God, but to warn those whose behavior does not conform to what God has been asking. Are we prepared to lay aside the things that keep us away from God and to come to the banquet? As Sidney Saunders points out in his commentary on Matthew, "Good and bad alike can come to the banquet,

but they most respond to the invitation and come wearing the right clothes—repentance, faithfulness, humility, and forgiveness. Is the church a place for this kind of celebration? What clothes do we wear?"

**Oct. 22- 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost-  
Matthew 22:15-22**

"Give therefore the things to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's."

In this passage, Jesus is asked to publicly declare himself for against the Roman tax.

As Saunders states in his commentary, "Jesus invites his hearers to be honest about whose empire they serve, whose economy they trade in, whose benevolence they depend on, and whose salvation they seek...the question before Christians, then, is always 'Whose world is it?' Then we sort carefully and critically through our responses to the obligations set before us by the world. Who is Lord? Whom do we serve? Can we offer allegiance to both God and nation? Can we pay tribute to both the God of Jesus Christ and the gods of commerce, consumption, comfort, and control? "

**Oct. 29- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost-  
Matthew 22:34-46**

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

When asked what the greatest commandment is, Jesus answers in a way that ties all the commandments together into one great whole. The first of the great commandments focuses on loving God, while the second focuses on loving the neighbor. All of the law and the prophets depend on and are tied together by the two. Saunders' example is a door hanging on hinges. The door doesn't work without hinges, and the hinges are useless without the door. "The greatness of the two commandments lies not in their distinction from the others, but in their capacity to articulate the root and foundation of the whole tradition."



### St. Francis Oct. 4

The Feast Day of St Francis on the church calendar is October 4<sup>th</sup>, the official end of the Season of Creation, which we have been observing at St Peter's for the past month.

St Francis is probably one of the best known saints, for he captures our imaginations with his joyful and complete giving of himself to God, and his recognition of the fact that we are all God's creation. His relationship to the rest of creation is that of radical and transforming love. He thought of all of creation as his beloved relatives. He sought to live in harmony with all of nature.

The witness of Francis' life is also that our faith in God and our living out of that faith is a process. Francis didn't go from a rich, pampered young man to a barefooted wanderer preaching God's word overnight. He grew in his faith and his understanding of God and creation throughout his life.

Francis lived from 1181-1226; his ministry was predominately in Italy, particularly Assisi. Francis was born the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. As a child and young man, he was pampered and worldly, living an indulgent life.

One day, in a church in San Damiano, he heard the Jesus on the crucifix say three times: "Francis, go repair my house which is in ruins." Believing that this was a command to rebuild the specific church in which he stood, Francis began selling off some of his father's things to pay for a church renovation. When his father found out, he was furious. He dragged Francis to the local bishop, to insist he be repaid. It was there that Francis removed his rich garments, renounced his father, and left his wealth. The bishop took pity on him and gave him a rough garment to wear. Sometime after that, Francis was worshiping in another church when the reading was Matthew 10:7-20. "As you go, proclaim the good news, the kingdom of heaven has come near. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. speaking through you."

In that moment, Francis understood the words as a literal call and began his life as an itinerant: living a simple life and preaching the gospel to anyone he met—including the birds.

During his lifetime, Francis was most known for his joyful asceticism, his powerful preaching, and his service to the poor.

Francis was a man transformed by God's grace who with dogged determination tried to put the words of the Gospel into practice. He sought to live in harmony with nature. He once preached to a flock of birds, reminding them that everything they had was due to God's gracious gift and encouraging them to use their beautiful voices to praise God in song.

St Francis is also credited by being the person to create the first living nativity scene as a way to deepen the faith of those who would come to witness it. He included animals in his living nativity, saying that "Surely the animals praised the new Messiah just as the shepherds and the angels did."

One Christmas, Francis brought animals into the church and invited people to dress as Mary and Joseph, shepherds and angels, to portray the Christmas story. When asked why he included animals, Francis said, "Surely the animals praised the new Messiah just as the shepherds and angels did." He is often credited as the founder of the live nativity scene carried out in churches around the world.



## October, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Last Sunday of the Season of Creation</b> Happy Anniv. Helmut, Susan Linne von Berg <b>God's Garden-10:30am</b> <b>11:00AM, Holy Eucharis,</b> <b>12pm Coffee Hour</b>	2	3	<b>4</b> <b>Bible Study 10am</b>  St Francis	5	6	7
<b>8</b> <b>Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost</b> HBD Mary Peterman <b>God's Garden-10:30am</b> <b>11:00AM, Holy Eucharist</b> <b>Stewardship campaign begins, Rooted in Love</b>	<b>9</b> Happy Anniversary Ken, Andrea Pogue  Vestry, 2PM in the Parish House	<b>10</b> Sacred Ground at the Meyer Gallery, 10am  HBD Autumn Hicks	<b>11</b> <b>Bible Study 10am</b>  HBD Woody Everett	<b>12</b>  HBD Evan Davis	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>God's Garden-10:30am</b> <b>11:00AM, Holy Eucharist</b>	16	17	<b>18</b> <b>Bible Study 10am</b>  St. Luke  <b>Village Harvest 3pm-5pm</b>	<b>19</b> HBD John Wall	<b>20</b> HBD Tom Kramer	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</b> HBD Cindy Fields, Hamilton Duke <b>God's Garden-10:30am</b> <b>11:00AM, Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>23</b> HBD Allison D'Aguilar  <b>St. James of Jerusalem</b>	24	<b>25</b> <b>Bible Study 10am Parish</b>	<b>26</b> HBD Sydney Davis	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>God's Garden-10:30am</b> <b>11:00AM, Morning Prayer</b>	<b>30</b> HBD Steve Price	31				

## St. Peter's Ministry Connections

**Village Harvest** - The Village Harvest food distribution of fresh produce and meats, in conjunction with the Healthy Harvest Food Bank, is held on each third Wednesday of the month from 3-5PM, and is open to anyone in need of food. This ministry benefits approximately 90 people monthly in this area each month.

**Sacred Ground** – This is a project of the Episcopal Church to combat systematic racism. The St Peter's Sacred Ground group works to further our education regarding the history of Black and Native American people in our nation and to work to combat racism. The group established a scholarship for Black and Native American students who seek higher education as a way to combat the historic inequities in education because of systemic racism.

**Choir** – Our choir, and Brad Volland, our organist, lead worship by supporting congregational singing and providing anthems and instrumental music throughout the church year.

**ECM – Episcopal Church Men.** With the help of Caroline County Social Services, St. Peter's adopts families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas and provides meals and gifts based on the needs of the families. They have also helped men in the congregation with various issues and provide opportunities for fellowship.

**ECW – Episcopal Church Women.** Leads the United Thank Offering each year; Collects funds used for local, national and international non-profit organizations, supports worship through the Altar and Flower Guilds, sponsors events for local children and other outreach efforts as they come up, and provides an opportunity for the women to gather, to support one another, and to enjoy each other's company. **Altar Guild** – The Altar Guild helps to make worship at St Peter's possible. Our worship space is beautifully prepared and straightened up after worship each week by the women of the church. The Altar Guild also provides the bread and wine for each Eucharist.. **Flower Guild** The ministry of the flower guild is to assist in beautifying our worship space with floral arrangements, considering the seasons of the church year and the types of services.

**Acolytes**—This ministry is returning after a long hiatus. Adults and young people contribute to worship by serving at the altar in a variety of ways.

**Lectors**—This group also helps to lead worship by presenting the scripture readings and the prayers of the people each week.

**Shred-it** - Spring event ongoing since 2012 to provide a source for secure shredding in the community. This raises funds for St. Peter's outreach and mission.

**Chancellors Village Eucharist** –This is a new ministry of the Region that provides a weekly Eucharist for residents of Chancellor's Village. Catherine is at Chancellor's Village once or twice a month to lead this Eucharist.

**Pastoral Care** – Visiting during the week at parishioner homes, hospitals and care facilities. This care is provided not only by the priest, but by all of us as we care for one another.

### Christian education –

#### Adults

A. **Bible Study** Every Wednesday at 10AM a group meets to learn from one another as we share our viewpoints about the scriptures that will be heard in church on the following Sunday. During this time we also pray for one another, and for those in our congregation and community who are sick, suffering, or in need.

B. **Courses presented internally**, such as the Psalms (2023) and Season of Creation (2022).

C. **Youth** - Zoom discussions around Christian education and life discussions. Special events are planned for times to get together, have fun and learn in the process.

D. **Children** – “God’s Garden” - A gathering of children ages 5-9 for Sunday School activities and fun

**Discretionary Fund** – The money in the Discretionary Fund is provided by the loose offerings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of each month and mainly through the generous donations of those who attend St Peter’s. The Discretionary Fund is used solely for the purpose of helping those in need who call and ask for assistance with a variety of financial challenges. The fund is administered by the priest and is overseen by the Treasurer and the Vestry.

**Concerts** – Free concerts have been offered annually at St Peter’s since 2013 as a form of outreach to the local community, and to bring people to St Peter’s and to Port Royal to enjoy a variety of music. The next concert scheduled for Spring, 2024, is the Portland Guitar Duo.

#### **-LOCAL PARTNERS-**

**Caroline’s Promise** – We work together with this group by contributing supplies for schools and outreach during the Christmas season.

Caroline County Social Services—We work directly with Social Services to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas support for families in Caroline County. Left over fresh produce and other food from our food distribution goes to the Social Services Food Pantry each month.

**Caroline County Public Schools** – We provide support for various activities as planned in the Port Royal area, such as kick ball and bingo.

**CERVE** – We are a part of CERVE, which is made up of Caroline County churches who work in conjunction with Social Services and the Caroline County Sheriff’s Department to meet emergency financial needs in the county.

#### **-STATE AND NATIONAL PARTNERS-**

**Healthy Harvest Food Bank**- We buy food for St. Peter’s Village Harvest through this food bank in Warsaw, VA and support this organization financially.

**Hunters for the Hungry** - St. Peter’s provides a yearly donation to this group. Hunt clubs donate deer each year to this program so that hungry people in Virginia have access to fresh meat. Hunters for the Hungry (HFH) has been fighting hunger for 30 years.

#### **-INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS-**

**Victoria School in Jamaica** – St. Peter’s supports this school by providing for needs for students and for awarding educational funds, as well as providing equipment for the school. We have sent two mission teams to the school to provide a personal connection with the staff and students, and the Victoria School principal has visited St Peters as well.

**UTO (United Thank Offering)** A ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for that. UTO receives the offerings, and distributes funds to support innovative mission and ministry projects. We raise funds once or twice yearly through “ingatherings” in the church.

**Heifer International** - This group mission is to end hunger and poverty by training people in sustainable farming. This is followed by mentorship to help project participants build a

business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. They reach thousands of households, mostly in Africa and Asia but also in the Americas.

**Episcopal Relief and Development** - Works with churches to rebuild after disasters and empower people to create lasting solutions. They also promote sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering. We have donated funds through the Church and ECW for their disaster relief projects as well as to the organization.

**Five Talents** - This group partners with local churches in some of the world's poorest countries to provide training in adult literacy, savings-led microfinance, business development and trauma healing. We channel donations through the ECW