

# THE ST PETER'S POST

November, 2023

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

## Giving Thanks in November



- **Every Sunday, In person worship at St Peter's and online on YouTube, 11am.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepisopalchurchpo677/streams>
- **Every Wednesday, 10AM until Noon Bible Study in the Parish House**—Study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary.
- **Thurs., Nov 2-Sat Nov 4 Diocesan Annual Convention.**
- **Sun., Nov. 5, 11AM All Saints' Sunday Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour**
- **Wed., Nov. 8, 2:30PM.** St Peter's Field Trip sponsored by Sacred Ground to the **Patawomeck Museum and Cultural Center, 638 King's Highway, Fredericksburg, VA 22405.** Check the website to find the cost of your ticket. Please sign up ahead of time at this link. Choose the self-guided tour, even though we will have a guide that day. Please let Catherine know if you plan to attend. Here's the link.  
<https://tribalstore.square.site/shop/museum-village-and-cultural-center-tickets/40>
- **Thurs., Nov 9, 7PM on Zoom. St Peter's Planning meeting for 2024.** Join in planning our best year yet! What would

like to see on our church calendar? What do you think we should be doing? All are welcome to attend. Here's the link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86586929772?pwd=SnFiUnFOVUJZM1NGc01Vamdhd1VzUT09> Meeting ID: 865 8692 9772  
Passcode: 408230

- **Tues., Nov 14, Mutual Ministry Review—8:30AM-12:30PM the Vestry will gather.** The purpose of this meeting is to consider where we've come as a community and where we want to go together in ministry as a church. The Rev. Deacon Salli Hartman will lead this time of discernment. If you are not on the Vestry, but would like to attend, please let Catherine know. All input is welcome.
- **Wed., Nov. 15- Village Harvest, 3:00pm-5pm.** If you'd like to help, please contact Andrea Pogue, 540-847-9002.
- **Sunday, Nov 19 God's Garden (children 5-9) meets at 10:15 AM. Children will make cards for grandparents.**
- **Sunday, Nov 26, 3:30 PM Advent workshop. Families, come make a family Advent wreath. Cost to cover supplies will be announced. Kids can make nativity scenes, pinecone bird feeders and decorate cookies.**

## Server Schedule, Nov., 2023

**Sunday, November 5, 2023 The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Cookie Davis

Chalice Bearer: Johnny Davis

Altar Cleanup: BJ Anderson

**Sunday, November 12, 2023 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Johnny Davis

Chalice Bearer: Alice Hughes

Altar Cleanup: Andrea Pogue

**Sunday, November 19, 2023 The Twenty-fifth after Pentecost, 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Elizabeth Heimbach

Chalice Bearer: Elizabeth Heimbach

Altar Cleanup: Linda Kramer

**Sunday, November 26, The Last Sunday after Pentecost, Christ the King, 11AM, Holy Eucharist**

Lector: Ben Hicks

Chalice Bearer: Andrea Pogue

Altar Cleanup: Jan Saylor

**Prayer Corner**

On All Saints' Sunday, the first Sunday in November, we remember those who have died in the past year. Please pray for the families and friends of these people during November.

**James Abourezk** (friend of Linda Kramer), **John Anderson** (brother of Jim Anderson), **Bethune Andrews** (sister of Linneth Feliciano), **Ruby Barnes** (sister of Laura Carey), **Mattie Beale** (friend of Mary Peterman and Denise Gregory), **Easton Buchanan** (cousin of Andrea Pogue), **John Thomas Carter** (Barbara Wisdom's stepfather), **Roger Chartters** (friend of the Segars), **Pansy Cohen** (relative of Andrea Pogue), **Herb Collins** (friend of Cookie Davis and Port Royal), **David Fannon, Lynn Garrett, Edward Geraci** (brother of Marion Mahoney), **Louise Gossett** (friend of the Hicks family), **Taylor Hayden** (member of Scout Troop 304), **Joan Johnson** (Andrea Pogue's family), **Billy Long** (Larry Saylor's brother in law), **Bill McKnight** (Chris Fisher's uncle), **Nancy Newton Nolen** (friend of Barbara Segar), **Beverly Pauken** (Mary Peterman's sister), **Sandra Smith, John Stoddard** (friend of the Upshaws), **Paris Swisher** (friend of Tom and Alice Hughes), **Edith Taylor** (friend of Cookie Davis), **John Vartonklan, MD., Robert Walker, Jane Harrington Webber** (Linda Kramer's aunt), **Jeremiah Williams**

National and world events continue to be mind boggling. People suffering from gun violence and war need our prayers. The following prayers address our deep desire for peace, gun violence, and also special prayers for the people of Israel and Palestine.

**The Episcopal Peace Fellowship Peace Prayer**

Holy God, open our eyes to a fresh vision for a peaceful world, along with the will to seek alternatives to revenge and violence. Awaken in us compassion for the victims of war; soldiers of all nations, grieving families, civilians, the wounded creation. Open wide the eyes of world leaders to see a path toward peace in all conflicts that tear apart the one human family, especially in Ukraine and in the Middle East. Grant us eyes wide open to peace. **Amen.**

**A Peace Prayer for Israel and Palestine**

Two peoples, one land,  
Three faiths, one root,  
One earth, one mother,  
One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny,  
One broken heart, One God.  
We pray to You: Grant us a vision of unity.  
May we see the many in the one and the one in the many.  
May you, Life of All the Worlds, Source of All Amazing Differences,  
Guide us gently and firmly toward each other, toward peace. **Amen.**

**A Prayer in response to gun violence**

Let us lament with all those who are touched by gun violence.  
Let us lament the shooter's choice for violence.  
Let us lament laws that allow violent people easy access to guns.  
Let us lament our politicians' unwillingness to work for change.  
Let us lament with the hearts broken by loss today.  
Let us lament all the lives cut short, for those who have lost their lives in Maine this past week.  
Let us lament, O God, and then let us rise from our knees to work for change.

In the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace.  
**Amen.**

Please pray for all on our prayer list. You can find the prayer list online on the back of the Sunday bulletin.

## Directory Updates

Helmut and Susan Linne von Berg have moved to Fredericksburg. Here's their new address. Please make this change in your directory.

### Linne von Berg

Mr. and Mrs. Helmut Linne von Berg (Helmut and Susan)

**820 Salem Drive**

**Fredericksburg, VA 22407**

Email [hslvb60@gmail.com](mailto:hslvb60@gmail.com)

Helmut's cell 540-645-9398

Helmut's birthday 02/01

Susan's birthday 11/14

## Annual Convention Nov 2-4

At the 229<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, clergy and lay delegates from each of the churches in the Diocese of VA will elect and appoint leadership, hear reports, and vote on submitted resolutions and the budget for the coming year. This year the convention will be held at the Fredericksburg Convention Center 2371 Carl D. Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Catherine and our lay delegate Elizabeth Heimbach, and alternate Andrea Pogue will be attending.

## All Saints Nov 5



"The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs" (selection) by Fra Angelico

On All Saints' Day, we have the poignant joy of remembering all who have gone before us—those we have loved but see no longer. But they are still present with us. Whenever we come to the table each Sunday, we get a glimpse of that heavenly banquet table around which they are gathered.

### A Short History of All Saints' Day

The term "saint" was used by the Apostle Paul to designate all baptized Christians (Romans 1:7; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1), even the unruly ones (1 Corinthians 1:2)!

The early Church honored martyrs, those who had died for their faith. By the fourth century many parts of the Church had set a day of observance for their martyrs, their confessors (those who had been punished for their faith but did not die), and the virgins, all of those known by name and unknown.

In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV officially established All Saints' Day in order to honor all the saints at one time. Our yearly observance of All Saints' Day continues this ancient tradition in the church's history.

## Snacks for Bowling Green Elementary, Nov. 5

Our CERVE representative Elizabeth Heimbach notes that Bowling Green Elementary is in need of snacks. **Thank you to all who donated snacks for the cancelled kickball night. Those snacks will go to the school. We will also be collecting snacks on Sunday, November 5.**

**Place your contributions ( granola bars, individually wrapped bags of trail mix, etc.) on the back pew at church. Thank you!**

## ECM offers Thanksgiving help



From Ken Pogue. "Each year the Episcopal Church Men help St Peter's provide support to those in need during the holidays. The men coordinate with the Caroline County Department of Social Services to provide families in the area with gift cards."

"Your donations are greatly appreciated by the ECM and the recipients of the gifts in the Port Royal community, Thank you so very much in advance from a grateful community."

**If you'd like to donate for the Thanksgiving offering, please make a check to St Peter's with ECM in the memo line by Sun., Nov. 5.**

### Sacred Ground Group meets with Germanna Community College



Ten people from the Sacred Ground group met with Jessica Thompson, Executive Director of the Germanna Educational Foundation, for lunch at Castiglias in Fredericksburg on Oct. 10, 2023. The goal was to determine how we could move forward with a new focus on the Sacred Ground scholarship for students.

This coming year, the scholarship money will be available to people who are on the workforce track at Germanna. The workforce classes are funded from various grants, but the student must come up with the first third of the cost of the training. For some students, this initial payment, which can range anywhere from \$500 to \$1000, is a challenge. The Sacred Ground scholarship will provide money for these initial payments. The classes begin at various times throughout the year.

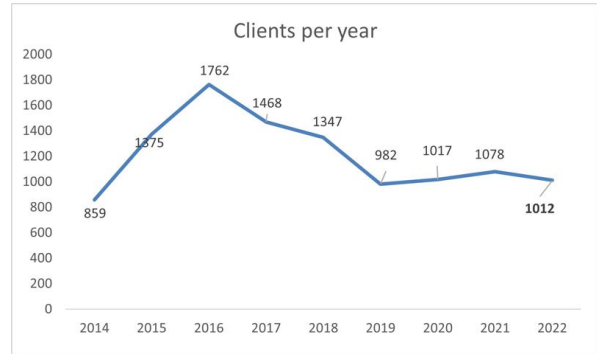
The Germanna Educational Foundation is hoping to provide us with a list of names to consider for the scholarships in the latter part of November.

### Village Harvest - another year completed

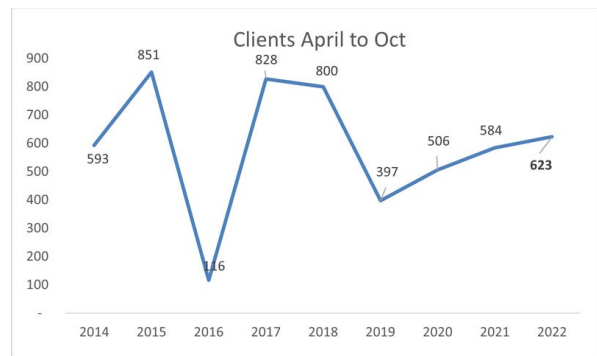
By Ben Hicks

The Village Harvest began with its first distribution in Nov. 2014. **Nov. 2023 will begin the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the harvest.**

For the 12-month period ending Oct. 2023, we served 1012 customers. That is the lowest since Nov 2019 to Oct. 2020 due to the pandemic. We have been on a declining trend since 2016. However, 2023's decline is related to the lower 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2023 clients. For the first quarter, we served only 218 clients in 2023 much lower than in earlier years (2020, 310; 2021, 295; 2022, 296)



Reviewing the period after the first quarter (April through Oct) provides a much different result. We served 623 in 2023 (April through Oct). This result exceeded 584 (2022) and 506 (2021) The first quarter of this year was clearly an anomaly that affected the 12-month results and the Harvest's figures since the first quarter are impressive. The April-Oct figures currently are below that of earlier years which were a minimum of 800



Complete article <https://bit.ly/3SqKtLJ>

## "God's Garden" update

By Elizabeth Heimbach

This fall, Jan Saylor and Elizabeth Heimbach have been meeting each Sunday with a wonderful group of children who have been enthusiastic about singing, talking, listening, and learning. The curriculum Jan and Elizabeth have used is called God's Garden. It was developed by the Episcopal Relief and Development organization, and it is designed to help children see God's gifts around them everywhere in the world of nature. The first lesson focused on water; other lessons centered on animals, seeds, and soil. A favorite part of the animal lesson involved packing little bags of treats for cats and dogs. The class was delighted to distribute the treats to pet lovers as part of the service celebrating St. Francis. Looking forward, Jan and Elizabeth hope to continue with a second session later in the year.

## Gospel in November

The month begins at All Saints on Nov 5 from Matthew 5, the Sermon of the Mount.

### Nov 5 — All Saints - Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus' words describe the life that believers are to live in relation to one another and to the world. The Beatitudes begin the Sermon in a manner similar to the way the Ten Commandments introduce the law, so that the analogy to Matthew's mountain may well be Sinai, with Jesus re-presenting the law as the "New Moses."

There is an A/B pattern of characteristics of the believer with the reward they will receive:

Poor in spirit -> will receive the kingdom of heaven  
 Mourn -> will be comforted  
 Meek -> will inherit the earth  
 Hunger for righteousness - will be filled  
 Merciful -> will receive mercy  
 Pure in heart-> will receive God  
 Peacemakers-> will see God  
 Persecuted -> theirs is the kingdom of heaven  
 Reviled -> will receive blessings

True faith, Jesus says, may be tough and costly. The more elaborate statement of the last statements in the passage develops this idea and forms a crucial parallel between suffering for righteousness' sake and suffering for Jesus' sake.

### Nov 12—23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 25:1-13 is the parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. Jesus tells a story about a party of ten bridesmaids or torchbearers for a procession, chosen to participate in a wedding. Each of the ten virgins is carrying a lamp or torch as they await the coming of the bridegroom, which they expect at some time during the night. Five of the virgins are wise and have brought oil for their lamps. Five are foolish and have only brought their lamps.

At midnight, all the virgins hear the call to come out to meet the bridegroom. Realizing their lamps have gone out, the foolish virgins ask the wise ones for oil, but they refuse, saying that there will certainly not be enough for them to share. While the foolish virgins are away trying to get more oil, the bridegroom arrives. The wise virgins then accompany him to the celebration. The others arrive too late and are excluded.

Each of the wise bridesmaids has made her preparation; she is prepared spiritually but preparedness cannot be transferred to others, so their refusal to give oil to the foolish bridesmaids may be intended to show that each one of us is expected to make our own preparation - by living a godly, ethical life.

Two surprising events, the door being shut (v. 10) and the failing to recognize the foolish bridesmaids (v. 12), are probably another way of saying that the unprepared will be refused entry to the Kingdom - just as the wicked servant will be punished. We are to be prepared at all times for the end of the age, the Second Coming of Christ.

### Nov 15 —24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 25:14-30

In the previous parables, Jesus tells us that we need to be prepared for the Second Coming at all times.

A master, before leaving on a journey, entrusts his slaves with his money, "each according to his ability." (A talent was about 15 years' wages for a laborer, a large sum of money.) Two servants invest the money and earn more; the third simply buries it. When the master returns, he praises the investors; they, he says, will be made responsible for "many things", and will "enter into the joy of your master". But the third slave, admitting that he was afraid of his master's wrath, simply returns the original sum. The master chastises him for his wickedness and laziness. This slave loses what he has been given and is condemned to "outer darkness." This would have caused a stir in Jesus' day, for a rabbinic maxim commends burial of money as a way of protecting it.

"Weeping and gnashing of teeth" is a stock phrase for condemnation of the wicked at the Last Day. One interpretation of this parable is that the master stands for God and the servants for various kinds of people. Yes, God both rewards generously and is a stern judge. God hopes that we will be good stewards of his gifts – not just hoard them but see their potential. We will be commended and rewarded for faithfully carrying out God's mission. Failure to use what God gives us can separate us from God, who is the essence of goodness. God hopes that we will make the gifts that God has given us to grow.

**Nov. 22 — Last Sunday after Pentecost - Christ the King Sunday - Matthew 25:31-46**

Having answered the disciples' question concerning the "when" and the "sign" of his "coming and the end of the age", Jesus gives his disciples a visionary description of the day of judgment. In that day the righteous, the blessed ones, will be separated from the unrighteous, the cursed ones. The righteous are blessed because they are compassionate, a compassion that is theirs in Christ.

It is one of Matthew's themes that there are sheep and goats, evil and righteous, wheat and weeds (Mt 13:24-30) in the church at the present time. The sorting of people at the end of time is not up to us, but up to God.

A second theme is judgment. Throughout the Gospel, we are continually made aware of a tension between obedience and disobedience.

A final theme is discipleship. The call to obedience that is not prescription or law or sacrifice but joyful living in mercy without calculation is what God hopes for us. In this passage ending the month, the compassionate who alleviate thirst, hunger, provide clothing and medical care, the ones who visit those in prison, and those who welcome the stranger will inherit the kingdom.



## Giving Tuesday , Nov. 28

**Support St. Peter's Village Harvest!**



#GIVINGTUESDAY

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses, and communities in all 50 states and in countries around the world to encourage people to do good and to promote generosity.

The date of Giving Tuesday this year is **Tuesday, Nov. 28**. For the past few years, St Peter's has collected money for the Village Harvest from Giving Tuesday. To date the Village Harvest costs about \$190 a month or

about \$2,250 a year. With those funds, we are able to provide food for 90-100 people each month.

Your donation for Giving Tuesday helps offset the cost of this ministry. **This year's goal-- \$575 to fund about 25% of next year's Village Harvest.**

**Two ways to donate:**

**1 On or before Nov. 28 make out a check to St. Peter's with "Giving Tuesday" in the memo line.**

**2 Go online on and use St. Peter's PayPal account where you can donate via credit card or bank account.**

**<https://news.churchsp.org/givingtuesday2023/>**

More about Giving Tuesday –  
[givingtuesday.org](http://givingtuesday.org) or  
[facebook.com/GivingTuesday](https://www.facebook.com/GivingTuesday)

**Thank you for your donation!**

### **Planned Giving Considerations – end of 2023**

Planned Giving is a way to provide long term support to those institutions which reflect your values and beliefs. Planned Giving is also for individuals to maximize their own finances. Several steps to consider:

**1. Give to St. Peter's General Endowment Fund . This fund provides money for capital improvements and for outreach ministries that will come up in the future.** St Peter's money is invested through The Diocese of Virginia Trustees of the Fund. The money you give to the endowment fund is for the future of St Peter's. Giving throughout the year supports current ongoing expenses and needs. **Any donation from any person is welcome and helps to assure the future of this church. Write a check to St Peter's and put Endowment Fund in the memo line. Your money will be added to our account with the Trustees of the Funds.**

**2. Give a distribution from your IRA depending on your age.** Do you have an IRA and 72 or older? You are subject to a minimum distribution from your IRA. The age for withdrawing from retirement accounts was increased in 2020 to 72 from 70.5. The SECURE 2.0 Act, though, raised the age for RMDs to 73 for those who turn 72 in 2023. **Therefore, your first RMD must be taken by April 1 of the year after which you turn 72 (73 in 2023).** The amount you must withdraw depends on the balance in your account and your life expectancy as defined by the IRS.

These funds are taxable unless you use a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). **If you don't need the funds, you can donate them to St. Peter's. You exclude the distribution from your taxable income lowering your tax liability while simultaneously helping to guarantee the future of the church.**

Contact the holder of your IRA to transfer funds to St Peter's, funds to St. Peter's or to compute your minimum distribution. You cannot just write a check as you would do for a gift to the Endowment Fund. If you have not taken your 2023 minimum distribution you need to do this by Dec. 31, 2023. Otherwise wait until 2024.

**3. Do you need additional regular income during the year and have an IRA ?** The Consolidated Appropriations Act (2022) also allows a one-time transfer of **up to \$50,000 directly from an IRA to fund a charitable gift annuity (CGA) which provides a regular income stream for you.**

**A charitable gift annuity is a vehicle that pays guaranteed income for life to the beneficiary.** While your gift does not qualify for an income tax deduction, it does escape income tax liability on the transfer and counts toward all or part of your required minimum distributions.

**4. Tax deduction considerations for charitable giving.** The limit is up to 60% of AGI for cash gifts, while the limit on

donating appreciated non-cash assets held more than one year is 30% of AGI. Contribution amounts in excess of these deduction limits may be carried over up to five subsequent tax years.

5. **Giving appreciated stocks before they are sold to St. Peter's will save you from some capital gains taxes. This will count toward your pledge. Consult with your financial advisor if you would like to consider this sort of gift.**

### St. Andrew, Nov. 30

St. Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was the older brother to St. Peter. He is the patron of Fishermen, singers, and Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras. His day is Nov. 30.

According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills.

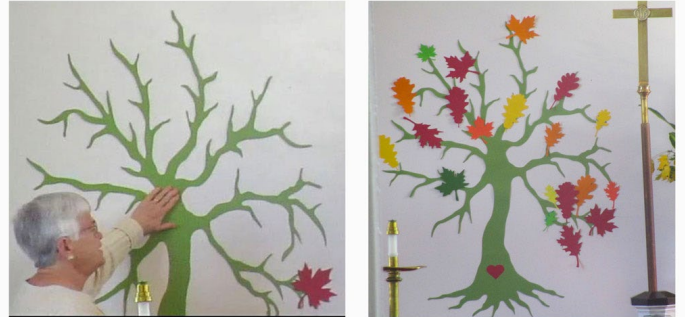
Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. He called the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

The Gospel of John tells a separate story, stating Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" It is then that Andrew and another made the decision to follow Jesus.

According to Christian tradition, after Jesus' resurrection, Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras. He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire." Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way,

because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus."

### The Stewardship tree has leaves!



Jan's Stewardship tree on Sun., Oct. 8, at the beginning of the pledge campaign and then 3 weeks later on Oct. 29! **Thank you for your giving estimates!**

Stewardship pledges for 2024 are due by Sun., Nov 19th. By pledge (Estimate of Giving) card which you can mail or place in the offering plate, or online  
<https://news.churchsp.org/eog2024>



## November 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			<b>1</b> Bible Study 10am	<b>2</b> <b>Annual Convention</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Annual Convention</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Annual Convention</b>
<b>5</b> Daylight Savings Time ends HBD Andrea Pogue Donations for the ECM Thanksgiving due Snacks for Bowling Green Elementary due Eucharist, Rite II 11:00am Coffee Hour 12pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Happy Anniversary Clarence, Betty Kunstmann  Happy Birthday Johnathan Davis	<b>8</b> Bible Study 10am HBD Johnathan Davis  2:30PM Patawomeck Museum and Cultural Center Field Trip – meet at museum	<b>9</b> Planning meeting for 2024 on Zoom 7PM	<b>10</b> HBD Kimberly Fisher	<b>11</b> HBD Jim Heimbach  HBD Jackie Collins
<b>12</b> HBD Jim Anderson Eucharist, Rite II 11am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> HBD Susan Linne von Berg  Mutual Ministry review— Gather 8:30AM in the Parish	<b>15</b> HBD Dominic Paterino  Bible Study 10am  Village Harvest food distribution 3:00-5pm.	<b>16</b> HBD Owen P. Long	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Eucharist, Rite II 11am  God's Garden meets, 10:15AM	<b>20</b> HBD Alexander Long IV  HBD Alexander Long V	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Study 10am	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Eucharist, Rite II 11am. Last Pentecost 3:30PM Advent Workshop	<b>27</b> HBD Toni Faibisy	<b>28</b> Giving Tuesday – Contribute to the Village Harvest	<b>29</b> Bible Study 10am	<b>30</b> St. Andrew		