

THE ST PETER'S POST

March , 2024

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

Preparing for Easter



Thanks to Jan Saylor for this creative Lenten banner!

- **Every Sunday 11AM Worship in person at St Peter's and online through YouTube stream.**
<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>
- **Every Sunday "God's Garden" 10AM through Lent. Ages 5-9**
- **Every Wednesday, 10AM until Noon Bible Study in the Parish House—study of the upcoming Sunday's lectionary**
- **Every Wednesday, 7PM through March 20, The Creeds—a Guide to Deeper Faith. Zoom**
<https://bit.ly/3UEBLu9> Meeting ID: 833 7014 5820 Passcode: 528834
- **Confirmation Class, Thursday nights, March 7th, 14th and 21st, 7:30-8:15PM on Zoom. These classes will continue in April and May. Zoom**
<https://bit.ly/42YG3i8>
Meeting ID: 893 1712 7905
Passcode: 505603
- **Sun., March 3 Coffee Hour immediately following the service.**
- **Wed., March 20 - Village Harvest, 3:00pm-5pm.** Setup. Tues March 19. Distribute food 3-5PM. All help is welcome for this vital St Peter's ministry. Contact Andrea to volunteer.
- **Vestry, Thursday, March 21, 2pm.**

Holy Week

- **Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:45 Liturgy of the Palms at the Parish House, 11AM Palm Sunday Liturgy**
- **Palm Sunday, March 24, 2:30pm, Holy Week Workshop**
- **Wednesday, March 27, Tenebrae, 7PM**
- **Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist, 7PM**
- **Friday, March 29, Good Friday, 7PM**
- **Sun, March 31, Easter Day worship at St Peter's, 11AM**

Server Schedule, March, 2024

All services are Holy Eucharist unless otherwise noted.

March 3, The Third Sunday in Lent

Lector Ben Hicks
Acolyte Chester Duke
Bread and Wine
Chalice Bearer Andrea Pogue
Altar Clean up Jan Saylor

March 10, The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Lector Alice Hughes
Acolyte
Bread and Wine
Chalice Bearer Alice Hughes
Altar Clean up Andrea Pogue

March 17, The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lector Linda Kramer
Acolyte Chester Duke
Bread and Wine
Chalice Bearer Johnny Davis
Altar Clean up Linda Kramer

March 24, Palm Sunday

Lector Andrea Pogue
Acolyte Arthur Duke
Bread and Wine
Chalice Bearer Andrea Pogue
Altar Clean up BJ Anderson

Wednesday, March 27 Tenebrae (no Eucharist)

Lector Elizabeth Heimbach

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

Lector Cookie Davis

Acolyte

Bread and Wine

Chalice Bearer Alice Hughes

Altar Clean up Jan Saylor

Friday, March 29 Good Friday (no Eucharist)

Lector Ben Hicks

Acolyte

Sunday, March 31 Easter Day

Lector Johnny Davis

Acolyte Arthur Duke

Bread and Wine

Chalice Bearer Johnny Davis

Altar Clean up Andrea Pogue

St Peter's Website

Have you ever taken a look at the St Peter's website? In addition to checking out the current schedule, you can see videos of worship, find sermons, with both text and video, bulletins, newsletters, the lectionary, seasonal resources, photos of various events and the church, and anything else you might wonder about or want to go back and learn more about. Here's the link.

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

Thank you to Ben Hicks for his dedication to putting together this website and updating it every week.

St Peter's Lenten Resources**Lent at St. Peter's, 2024 -**

<https://news.churchsp.org/lentatstpeters2024>

This link is to the central hub for Lenten articles and activities on the website

March Events**Lenten Study Continues -The Creeds of the Church**

The Creeds help define for us what the Church believes about God. Meditating on the words of the creeds can help to deepen our own faith. All of these classes take place on Zoom and all are welcome to attend. Each session stands alone.

<https://bit.ly/3UEBLu9> Meeting ID: 833 7014 5820 Passcode: 528834

March 6, 2024—What does the Church believe about Jesus?

March 13—What does the Church believe about the Holy Spirit?

March 20—What does the Church have to say about The Holy Catholic Church, Baptism, Resurrection, Eternal Life?

Notes from the first class, Feb 21

<https://news.churchsp.org/the-creeds-class-part-1-feb-21-2024/>

Notes from second class, Feb 28

<https://news.churchsp.org/the-creeds-class-part-2-feb-28-2024/>

Confirmation Classes Begin

Baptism is the sacrament in which we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever. In The Episcopal Church, parents decide to have their children baptized and make promises on that child's behalf. But that's not the end of the story—sooner or later, a person makes the decision to act on belonging to Christ, and that is to decide to be a follower of Jesus, to live in the ways he taught us to live and to follow him.

The act of confirming your faith in Jesus is known in the church as Confirmation, the taking up of a way of life that will challenge you, bring you joy, and take you on great adventures as you follow Jesus. The Rt Rev Gayle Harris, The Assistant Bishop of the

Diocese of Virginia, will be at St Peter's on Sunday, May 19th, the Day of Pentecost. On that day she will receive those who have decided to confirm their faith and to walk with the Lord. To prepare for Confirmation please plan to attend the confirmation classes which will be held on Thursday nights. If you are interested in being confirmed, please talk with Catherine. (540-809-7489, or stpetersrev@gmail.com).

Stations of the Cross –A Lenten Discipline



The Stations of the Cross began as the practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary.

Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed of walking the way of the cross locally. That practice eventually took the general form of the fourteen stations observed today.

Various forms of the Stations of the cross can be found everywhere, from church interiors, to gardens, and at retreat centers, including Shrine Mont. The St Peter's Stations of the Cross was created by Mary Peterman, complete with a painting and a reading for each station.

Come walk the Stations of the Cross by entering the back gate behind the church, where you'll find the Stations posted along the graveyard fence.

Holy Week, March 24-31



Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday, 10:50AM, Liturgy of the Palms, 11AM Eucharist

Gather behind the church for the blessing of the palms and join in a triumphal procession into the church, all the

while shouting, "Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The gospel is the Passion reading from Mark, the story of Jesus' suffering and death.

This year, at 2:30PM Jan Saylor will be leading the **Holy Week Workshop at 2:30PM** on Palm Sunday.

Holy Week Workshop, March 24, 2:30pm

From Jan Saylor - Remember our Advent workshop? Well, the Holy Week Workshop is the Lenten version!

Enjoy a time of fellowship and creativity as we turn our thoughts toward Holy Week. Resurrection Eggs, especially for the children, and a Calvary Hill Plant craft especially for adults are just two of the activities being offered!



And there's even an outreach opportunity for all ages making and bagging Easter Story Snack Mix which will be shared with our friends at the next food distribution.

Speaking of outreach, this is a great time to invite friends to participate too! Everyone is welcome! We hope to see you there!

Helpers are needed to staff the workshop. Talk to Jan Saylor (540-424-6150) to volunteer!

Donated items for the Holy Week Workshop (March 24, 2:30pm) and needed by March 17: egg cartons (12 egg size), terra cotta 2 1/2" pots, and 6" terra cotta drip trays (used is fine), and any leftover potting soil you might like to share. **Place items on the back pew. Thank you!!**

Wednesday, March 27, 7PM—TENEBRAE

Tenebrae (which is Latin for “darkness”) is based on the ancient monastic night and early morning services during the last three days of Holy Week. Our Book of Occasional Services has drawn elements of all these services together so that we can share in “an extended meditation upon, and a prelude to the events in our Lord’s life between the Last Supper and the Resurrection.” The use of Lamentations, the Psalms that Jesus certainly would have known and prayed during his last days, and the extinguishing of candles throughout the service provide a powerful entrance into the events of Holy Week.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday make up the Triduum, three days of prayer which conclude Lent.

Thursday, March 28, 7PM—MAUNDY THURSDAY

The name Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin “mandatum” (commandment) and refers to the new commandment that Jesus gives the disciples and to us to “love one another as I have loved you” John 13:34. The Maundy Thursday service commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus washing the disciples’ feet.

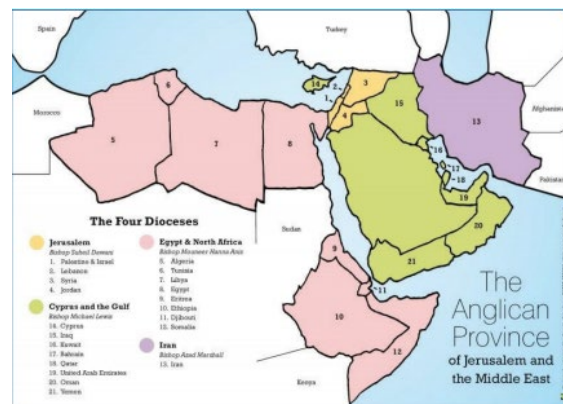
Friday, March 29, 7PM—GOOD FRIDAY

The Good Friday liturgy gives us the opportunity to reflect on Jesus’ suffering

and death on the cross. The liturgy of the day includes John's account of the Passion gospel, a solemn form of intercession known as the solemn collects (dating from ancient Rome), and devotions before the cross (commonly known as the veneration of the cross) which dates back to the fourth century.

The Good Friday Offering--From the Episcopal Church - The Christian presence in the Middle East is a key bridge to peace-building among the faiths and ethnic groups of the region. The Good Friday Offering demonstrates our support for Christians of the region, assuring them that they are neither forgotten nor alone.

If you would like to support the Christians of the Middle East, write a check to place in the offering plate with Good Friday Offering in the memo line or mail your donation to St Peter’s, PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535 Online giving is here - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/good-friday-offering/>



Sunday, March 31, 11AM - EASTER SUNDAY HOLY EUCHARIST AT ST PETER'S

The Easter Day service is the principal celebration of the church year with the resurrection of Jesus. Please plan to attend and celebrate our Lord’s glorious resurrection. The missing Alleluia will return on Easter Day.

The Missing Alleluia Returns on Easter



Alleluia is the Greek and Latin form of the Hebrew word “Hallelujah”, a word meaning praise the Lord. In the Western world, Alleluia came to be associated with the celebration of the most important season of the Church year, Easter.

On the last Sunday after the Epiphany, the children created a box in which the Alleluia could rest, symbolizing our fast from using the word during Lent. At the end of that service, they removed the Alleluia banner and placed it in its resting place. During Lent, we refrain from saying alleluia. The Alleluia banner and our shouts of joyful Alleluias will return on Easter Day.

The Gospel in March

March 3, 3rd Sunday in Lent, John 2:13-22

In the gospel according to John, Jesus visits the temple in Jerusalem and overturns the money tables and drives out the dealers in livestock early in his ministry. In the Synoptic Gospels this event takes place after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Jesus uses the Temple as a figure of speech for his own body. Jesus is the place where the Word of God becomes flesh to dwell among us (John 1:14); and this new personal dwelling-place for the Name of God both reinforces and changes the meaning of the building that is the Temple.

The Temple now points beyond itself to a living dwelling-place. Still, the Temple continues to serve as an enduring reminder of God dwelling among us in the person of Jesus Christ.

March 10, 4th Sunday in Lent, John 3:14-21

This passage about God's love reminds us that God did not send Jesus to condemn the world but to save the world. God's desire is for us is to live into God's light and become light in the world, not to live in darkness, where we know only ourselves and focus only on our own desires and own gain. In the light, we see the needs of our brothers and sisters and see the world God has created, as well as God's desire for us, which is light, life, and love. We get to choose.

March 17, 5th Sunday in Lent, John 12:20-33

John 12:20-33 speaks of the way of the Cross, which is to die to this world. Those who seek to save their lives will lose them. Jesus says those who are willing to lose (in John's Gospel the word is hate) their lives will keep them. We must be willing to die to the things of this world, the sin that separates us, along with the greed and desire of worldly ways. In order to open our hearts to God, we must be willing to follow Jesus, love others and love God, and put aside our own worldly desires and greed. Jesus models this in his life by glorifying God (Abba) and not himself. Throughout the Gospels, whenever Jesus performs a miracle, Jesus does so to show the glory of Abba God, not of himself. Jesus calls upon Abba God to glorify God's name, and God's voice echoes back like thunder. Jesus says this was for the sake of the people, not for his own—that they might turn to Abba God, Creator God, God above—and recognize that in order to truly live, they must be willing to die to the world.

March 25, - Palm Sunday - Mark 14:1-15:47

The Passion story in Mark can be broken down in the following scenes:

1. [Mark 14:1-11](#) extravagant love
2. [Mark 14:12-21](#) passover preparation
3. [Mark 14:22-25](#) Jesus' last supper
4. [Mark 14:26-42](#) agony in the garden
5. [Mark 14:43-52](#) Jesus' arrest
6. [Mark 14:53-72](#) Jesus' trial, Peter's denial

7. [Mark 15:1-20](#) Jesus before Pilate
8. [Mark 15:21-32](#) Jesus crucified
9. [Mark 15:33-41](#) Jesus' death
10. [Mark 15:42-47](#) Jesus' burial

March 31, – John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Easter celebrates the reality of Jesus' resurrection in all its many aspects--hope, Transformation, Evangelism, and a new life.

In John's gospel account, Mary Magdalene (the Apostle to the Apostles) meets Jesus in the garden at dawn and goes to tell the others. John's gospel account is an example of realized eschatology. The resurrection, the ascension, and the gift of the Holy Spirit are all aspects of the cross event itself, and flow seamlessly together in John's gospel.

In Mark's account, not even the women, who faithfully come to the tomb on that first morning, go out to proclaim the good news--instead, they flee in terror and amazement, and say nothing to anyone (vs. 8). The early church added two different endings to soften the original ending of the gospel. However, the beauty of having the gospel end on such a precarious note is that the reader is left wondering what is next in the story. That's up to us!

Contribute to the Endowment Fund during Lent

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above" – James 1:17



Many people give flowers to remember loved ones at Easter Time. **During Lent, and also at Easter, consider a gift in the name of your loved ones to the St Peter's Endowment Fund.**

Endowment fund gifts continue to live and multiply long beyond our own lifetimes. Any amount is welcome. Checks may be made out to St Peter's with "Endowment Fund" on the memo line.

These funds help the Church finance projects that the operating budget would not allow including:

A. Longer term expenses of the Church (including capital acquisitions, improvements, renovations and replacements). Often several years of fundraising are required to cover these. Money invested in the endowment fund creates earnings that are reinvested increasing the equity and thus the return in the next year.

B. Outreach ministries.

There are other ways to support the Endowment Fund and still reduce your tax bill. The Fund can also accept appreciated stock which is sold. There are no capital gains for you and you can get a deduction for the appreciated value of the stock. It's a great means of support that can increase your tax deduction and not your tax bill.

You can also go further and add a percentage of your estate which is taken off the total estate when computing estate tax.

For details consult one of our trustees, Johnny Davis, Ben Hicks or Ken Pogue. These funds are invested with the Trustees of the Funds. Diocesan Entity Investments typically double in value with every generation.

February Happenings at St Peter's

God's Garden, Christian Education for the young children, taught by Jan Saylor and Elizabeth Heimbach—The children created an Alleluia Banner and a box for its storage during Lent.

The children are learning the Lord's Prayer, using a video that includes the words and the sign language for the prayer. They also wrote the prayer on the arms of the cross, and made pretzels, which represent arms folded in prayer.



Thank you from Helmut Linne von Berg—Dear Elizabeth and ECW Ladies, Thank you so very much for making the reception after Susan's Memorial Service an outstanding gathering where hospitality, refreshments and LOVE were evident. I believe it was the way Susan would have wanted it to be! The Lord bless you all! Sincerely, Helmut

February Vestry Meeting—The Vestry elected Johnny Davis as Senior Warden, and Larry Saylor as Junior Warden. The Vestry also helped compile The Parochial Report, the report that every parish in the nation submits each year to The Episcopal Church. This report includes information about membership, attendance, and finances. Answers to the narrative questions include information about challenges the church is facing, and also information about how each parish has worked to dismantle racism.



The Village Harvest—a total of 110 people received food from the the Feb. 21, 2024 Village Harvest. Food choices at the Healthy Harvest Food Bank were limited in both January and February. The total cost of the Village Harvest in February was \$131.58 compared to \$141.89 last year and \$168.75 in January.

Souper Bowl and The Discretionary Fund

Thank you for all of the donations to the Souper Bowl Sunday. The project resulted in the collection of 41 cans of food and 33 cards for food distribution clients, plus \$75 in monetary donations for the Souper Bowl. The soup will be a blessing to all who receive it.

Thank you to those who donated \$270 to the discretionary fund in February.

Supporting the schools in Caroline County

At February's meeting, the Vestry voted to give \$150 to CERVE for school snacks. Wendy Sneed at CERVE reported "We have been regularly informed by school employees and volunteers that there is a need for snacks at all of the schools. We discussed as a group in the last meeting that we would collect funds from any who wished to contribute. One of our members from Wright's Chapel has volunteered to take the funds and purchase snacks in bulk at a wholesale store such as Costco."

St Peter's provided snacks for the **CCPS Bingo Night** held at the Port Royal Firehouse on Monday, February 26th. Approximately thirty people from the Port Royal area attended.

Support for the Caroline County

Sheriff's Department—The Vestry made its annual donation to the National Child Safety Program. Through this program, the Sheriff's Department provides safety information to Caroline County children. Churches and businesses in the county help to fund the program.

The Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities. —The Vestry voted to make a donation to this fund, which helps to support historically black colleges and honors Absalom Jones, who because the first African American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1804.

Hunters for the Hungry--The Vestry made a donation to Hunters for the Hungry to help cover the cost of processing venison donated by hunters in the area. Johnny Davis delivered around three hundred pounds of venison to the Caroline County Department of Social Services food pantry from Hunters for the Hungry.



Sacred Ground met on Thursday, February 29th. On behalf of the group, Catherine has met with Chief Anne Richardson of The Rappahannock Tribe. In the meeting, Chief Anne talked about the importance of healing the land as a way of reconciliation among us all, for we all come from the earth itself. Ongoing conversations with The Rappahannock Tribe will be to work with their historian to develop an additional sign about the Native American presence in Port Royal, to gain more understanding about possible restoration work on our bit of Rappahannock River shoreline, and how our Sacred Ground Scholarship may contribute to the Tribe's ongoing efforts to educate its young tribal members. Chief Anne spoke about the importance of the land acknowledgement that we currently have in our bulletin, as a way to anchor ourselves in respect and honor for the ancestors who have come before us and who have cared for the land on which we now worship.

The Sacred Ground group also had a discussion about food insecurity in our area based on research by Ben Hicks. We discussed various ideas about how to address this issue in addition to our current

food distribution. We also noted the efforts of CERVE, the ecumenical group of which we are a part, and talked about ways in which this group is addressing needs in the county and how we can support these efforts.

**Save the Date, Friday, April 19th
The Portland Guitar Duo will be
at St Peter's**



James Manuele and Foti Lycouridis have been playing together since 1999 as the Portland Guitar Duo. Their repertoire is broad and covers the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th Century periods **They will be at St. Peter's, Friday, April 19. Reception outdoors (weather allowing) at 6:15PM, Concert at 7PM.**

A Fundraiser for the Portland Guitar Duo will be held on **Friday, April 5** which will include dinner and entertainment. Details to follow.

**We need help advertising this concert.
Let Catherine know if you can help.
Thanks!**

**The Rt. Rev'd Gayle E. Harris
will visit St Peter's on Pentecost,
May 19**

Read more about Bishop Harris
<https://www.episcopalvirginia.org/who-we-are/our-bishops/bishop-harris/>

March, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HBD - Gloria Jewell	2
3 10:00AM God's Garden 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist Coffee hour after the service	4 HBD - Karen Richardson	5	6 Bible Study in person 10am-12pm, Parish House. 7PM Lenten Study, The Creeds on Zoom	7 Confirmation Class 7:30pm-8:15pm Zoom	8 HBD - Becky Fisher, Sammy Paterino	9
10 10:00AM God's Garden 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist	11	12	13 Bible Study 10am-12pm, Parish House. 7PM Lenten Study, The Creeds on Zoom	14 Confirmation Class 7:30pm-8:15pm Zoom	15	16
17 HBD - Marie Duke 10:00AM God's Garden 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist	18	19	20 Bible Study 10am-12pm, Parish House. Village Harvest 3pm-5pm 7PM Lenten Study, The Creeds on Zoom	21 Vestry 2pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm-8:15pm Zoom	22 HBD - Alexander Long V	23
24 HBD - Johnny Davis 10:00AM God's Garden 10:45, Litany of the Palms, meet at the Parish House 11:00AM Palm Sunday Eucharist 2:30 PM Holy Week Workshop	25 HBD - Arthur Duke	26	27 Bible Study 10am-12pm, Parish House. Tenebrae, 7pm in the church	28 Maundy Thurs., 7pm service in the church	29 HBD - Dave Duke Joseph Long Good Fri, 7pm service in the church	30
31 11:00AM, Holy Eucharist, Easter Sunday						