

THE ST PETER'S POST

June , 2024

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Season after Pentecost The Green and Growing Season



- **Every Sunday 11AM Worship in person at St Peter's and online through YouTube stream.**
<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>
- **Every Wednesday, 10AM until Noon Bible Study in the Parish House— study of the upcoming Sunday's lectionary**
- **Sun, June 2 9:30am in the church. The Rev Shirley Smith Graham, the Diocesan Transitions Minister will be with us to talk about the search for a new priest.**
- **Sun, June 2 Coffee Hour immediately following the service, which is another opportunity to talk with The Rev. Graham.**
- **Tuesday, June 11, 10am-noon. Regional clericus will be meeting at St Peter's.**
- **Wed., June 12, Shred-it. 1:30pm**
- **Tues, June 18th, 1pm – Chancellor's Village Eucharist**

- **Wed., June 19 – Village Harvest, 3:00pm-5pm. Setup. Tues June 18.**
Distribute food 3-5PM. All help is welcome for this vital St Peter's ministry. Contact Catherine to volunteer
- **Tues, June 25, 1pm – Chancellor's Village Eucharist**
- **Sun, June 30, 12pm Farewell reception for Catherine**

Server Schedule, June, 2024



June 2 The Second Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, 11AM

Lector Linda Kramer
Acolyte Arthur Duke
Chalice Bearer Andrea Pogue
Altar Clean up Jan Saylor

June 9 The Third Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, 11AM

Lector Alice Hughes
Acolytes Hamilton and Chester Duke
Chalice Bearer Alice Hughes
Altar Clean up Andrea Pogue

June 16 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, 11AM

Lector Andrea Pogue
Acolyte
Chalice Bearer Johnny Davis
Altar Clean up Jan Saylor

**June 23 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost,
Holy Eucharist, 11AM**

Lector Cookie Davis

Chalice Bearer Andrea Pogue

Altar Clean up BJ Anderson

**June 30 The Sixth Sunday after
Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, 11AM**

Lector Jennifer Collins

Acolyte Arthur Duke

Chalice Bearer Johnny Davis

Altar Clean up Elizabeth Heimbach



A note from Catherine



Dear St Peter's,
As my time at St Peter's ends, I have so much I'd like to share with each of you. I hope to be in contact with each of you individually in some form or fashion over the summer. Meanwhile, I have some general things to share with you.

I am grateful for the hard work of the Vestry, under the leadership of Johnny Davis, as they've put together what is needed to find my replacement. Thank you, Vestry, and to all who are serving on the Search Committee. I encourage all of you to be at church on June 2nd, to meet the Diocesan Transition Officer, Shirley Smith Graham. If you have questions at any time about the search process, the person to contact is Johnny. (804) 241-4076



The Vestry has also been working on who will be doing what when it comes to the various things that I have been doing. Ben has been the person who has taken care of communications. I am sure that the Vestry will let you know who to contact when you have questions of any sort about various activities in church.

Some of you have asked about how we might be in touch when I am no longer serving as your priest. We have been together for fourteen years, and I certainly have no intention of losing contact with you all. I love each one of you! So we can certainly be in touch, as friends.

Before your new priest comes. I will be available, if you want me to be, to provide pastoral care, including hospital visits and including funerals, should that be necessary. Once your new priest is in place, the new person will be the one to do pastoral visits, funerals, weddings, or any other sacramental rites that you and your family will need. The new priest needs the time, the experience of working with you and the presence with you to establish a

relationship with you. There are exceptions to this—for instance, The Rev. Karen Woodruff officiated at the wedding of Justin and Karen Long, for Karen had been the priest that Justin had known through his childhood. But Justin asked me first if I would mind if Karen officiated. I was delighted to say yes to that request, of course, for Karen had been a part of Justin's spiritual formation as a child. Always check with the new priest first in any situation of this sort. You will need to honor your next priest's ministry among you, just as you have honored my presence with you.

One of the best things about St Peter's is your wonderful welcoming spirit for all who walk through the doors of St Peter's. When I came to you as a brand new priest, you all blessed me with your welcome, and have continued to do so throughout the time we've spent together. I know that you will do the same for the next person who comes to serve in your midst. That person will be deeply blessed to be with you, as I have been.



Last words are hard, so I'm going to borrow these words of Apostle Paul to the Philippians.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now..."

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine

what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."

Love one another, respect the dignity of every human being, love and care for God's creation, and know that each one of you will always hold a special place in my heart.

Peace, Catherine



A Note about Ben and some parting words from Ben

As you know, Ben has given an incredible amount of time to St Peter's through his work on compiling the bulletins each week, and helping me to produce this newsletter. Thanks to Ben, our website contains a wealth of information about St Peter's. Ben has taught adult ed classes, and has helped in numerous other ways. And as all of you know, St Peter's is the most photographed church in America, thanks to Ben. When you hire a priest, you are hiring one person, but Ben has added significantly to what I could have managed alone. I am so thankful to have had a companion in ministry while I've been at St Peter's.



As we would all expect, Ben has some parting words that he would like to share. Here they are.

Thoughts for the future from Ben

1. Do the job that needs to be done in good times and bad. Carefully plan what you do. St. Peter's came together over decades leading up to 1836. It was not overnight.
2. Know your mission to do God's will, united in love for God, one another and our neighbor. Never forget the mission! We have learned how to extend our reach in the community. Celebrate the diversity of our Parish.
3. Maintain the important links – close connection with parishioners and through them the community. We need the support of both.
4. Accept the generosity of parishioners. They live through what they give you and find meaning to their lives and enhance your life as well. Encourage them to expand and create new ministries.
5. Tell your stories and retell. Relish who you are and where we have been and never forget the blessings that have been received along the way.
6. Remember the past but don't live in it. We can look back but can only move forward.

Thank you, Ben.



The History Page on the Website



Water Street circa 1930's- St. Peter's is on the left

This is an "old-new page" on the website at <https://news.churchsp.org>

Much of the history content was available until 2018 when there was a change in web databases. Due to the time spent in the process of transferring data, the history portions were left out until a later time to work on this section. That later time is now!

The History Page is available at <https://news.churchsp.org/the-history-page-2/>. **Online, the menu with this page is in the header of the website at the top.**

These are the current sections of the page:

1. General History, the organ, families
2. Photo collections
3. Writings by Rectors

4. Vestry Minutes 19th century
5. Highlights by year 2013-2024
6. Annual Parish Meetings 2011-2024

The latter two sections are new.

There are also links at the top of the page to subsections covering the period. 2010-2024– Adult Education, Mission and Outreach and Building and Grounds.

Shred-it, Wed., June 12, PM

Shred-It is scheduled on Wednesday, June 12, at 1:30pm.



This is the 12th year that St Peter's has sponsored Shred-it. If you don't have anything to shred this year (recommended donation \$5 a box), consider donating to support this helpful project for the community. The event is supported by your donations.

Shred-it is an essential ministry because it involves a number of people around a common necessary task that is best accomplished by professionals

Why support Shred-It?

1. For You Shred-it's goal is to safely dispose of records no longer needed. It may be old Tax returns, bank statements, investment records, any expired document etc. They lie around gathering dust and may contain personal information that needs to be kept secured even if the records are no longer pertinent or useful. For obvious reasons we don't want to put them in the regular trash or even recycling bin.

Dispose of sensitive documents safely and securely, and free up needed space at home or work

2. For the Environment – one less document in a landfill. A majority of people in the US still sends their trash to the dump. Harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases are released from rubbish in landfill sites.

Recycling helps to reduce the pollution caused by waste.

3. For the Church –It is also a fundraiser for our outreach ministries. The funds we earn less the cost of the Shred-it truck helps our outreach ministries, such as the Village Harvest food distribution, which plows funds back into the Port Royal community. **We have netted \$2,875 over the last 11 years for outreach ministries.**

Sacred Ground Group

The Sacred Ground group met on May 30th to review what we have accomplished in our time together. This group formed to learn more about the issues around racism in our country. We started out by participating in the Sacred Ground curriculum put out by The Episcopal Church. Since then, we've continued educating ourselves by continuing to read books about racism, and going on some field trips together. We've examined ourselves, and thought of what we can do to reverse the damage done by systemic racism in our nation. We created the Sacred Ground Scholarship was created to address historic inequities in education. We've made some connections with the Native Americans in our area and we have a land acknowledgement in our bulletin which honors the land, the legacy of the ancestors, and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe. This group plans to continue its work. Consider joining!



Year to date we have served 487 people compared to 415 last year representing a 17.3% increase. The client total also exceeds both 2022, 447 and 2021, 465. However, it would be under the pre-pandemic years of 2019, 593, and 2018, 501 (with one month cancelled). Still, it represents an important improvement over the last few years.

In the same 5-month time period, we have provided 6,087 pounds of food this year compared to 5,421 in 2023 showing a 12.3% increase. Unlike the client trends total food is lower than the previous two years, It is 300 pounds under both 2021 and 2022 when it was 6,300.

The imbalance between clients and food affects the pounds per person. Pounds per person reflects the relationship between clients and food and show what was available on average for a client. Pounds per person this year is 12.5 compared to 13.1 last year and lower than the average of 14.0 between 2021 and 2022. Food supplies has not kept up with an increase in clients and year over year grew slower than clients.

The cost for the harvest has been \$878 this year compared to \$884 last year over 5 months. This decrease is despite the increase in pounds in 2024; The cost per pound this year has been \$0.14 compared to \$0.16 in 2023. 2023 was an anomaly as both 2022 and 2021 were \$0.13 per pound.

A Productive Village Harvest in May

By Ben Hicks

May featured the largest number of clients, 119 since Nov. 2020 when it was 135. (A year ago the number was 93). The pounds available in May was 1,400 the largest since Dec. 2022 at 1,468 pounds (A year ago in May, 2023



Canned Goods



Spaghetti and Sauce



Raisins



Carrots

News from the National Church General Convention is back!

The General Convention is the governing and legislative body of The Episcopal Church. Every three years it meets as a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, composed of deputies and bishops from each diocese.

The 81st General Convention will take place June 23 – 28, 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Kentucky International Convention Center. [Link](#)

This General Convention marks the conclusion of Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry's primacy and the election of his successor, the 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. [There are 5 nominees.](#)

What is the main work of the convention? Work on the resolutions that come before the convention make up much of its work. Resolutions arise from four different sources: 1) "A" resolutions from interim bodies whose work is collected in what is referred to as the "Blue Book" 2) "B" resolutions which come from Bishops 3) "C" resolutions which come from diocesan conventions and 4) "D" resolutions which originate from Deputies. Each properly submitted resolution is referred to a convention committee which makes its recommendation to the House. When one house has acted on the resolution it is sent to the other house for consideration.

Who is going to be there? Deputies from each of the 110 dioceses in the United States and abroad, lay leadership and diocesan bishops, as well as members of the Episcopal Church Women, and other visitors.

Youth. There is the General Convention Official Youth Presence (GCOYP.) This group was established by a resolution at General Convention in 1982 and has been further defined at subsequent conventions, with legislation passed as recently as 2000. Up to two youth from each of the church's nine

provinces will be selected to participate in the Official Youth Presence The GCOYP have seat and voice on the floor of the House of Deputies and can testify at hearings held before and during General Convention.

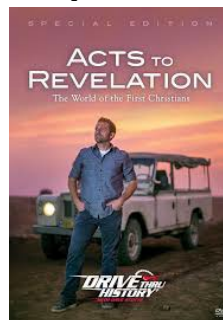
Special topics

1. [The Blue Book Reports](#) reports by entities- each standing committee, the Executive Council, the House of Deputies, and the House of Bishops.
2. [Calendar of the Convention](#) – What happens each day, including the election of the next presiding bishop
3. **Virtual binder** - The Virtual Binder is how the Deputies and Bishops of the General Convention will follow the progress of legislation and elections <https://www.vbinder.net/>
- 4 Live Coverage - <https://bit.ly/4aDkm9N>
5. [Organization chart](#)

Scripture on the Screen

By Ben Hicks

Two online shows. both educational and entertaining in how they cover the scriptures, are attracting a fan base.



The oldest show is "**Drive Thru History**" (DTH).

Dave Stotts is the host and is a seminary graduate. He writes "At Drive Thru History®

(<https://www.drivethruadventures.com/>), "We think history education should be culturally engaging, fact-filled, and super fun. That's why for the last 15 years, I've traveled the world to share history on location. We call it 'Adventure Learning'." IN this show, the photography is excellent and the scenery can be breathtaking. Stotts also has a wry sense of humor.

In this series, using a Stotts takes you to sites such as the Upper Room and Solomon's

Gate in Jerusalem as well as Paul's birthplace of Tarsus, now in Turkey and the road to Damascus where Paul "saw the light" and moved from a persecutor of Christians to a leader that would undertake missionary trips. Scripture leaps off the page in this series and you can hear it and see where it took place. Stott quotes scripture but links it together into a story. It flows together well.

You can see a portion of all the 18 episodes here through amazon - amzn.to/3vJFuwu. DTH is only one of many series they have done.



The second show is **The Chosen**.

From Prime Video- "This drama about the

life of Jesus Christ introduces Jesus and the calling of his initial disciples, with a discussion after each episode." The focus does not center just on Jesus but also the Apostles such as Peter and Andrew but also those who followed him including Nicodemus. The reviews have been positive based on the acting and their approach to the Gospels.

From VOX – "Issues that plague the modern Christian church get their fair share of attention in the series. Poverty is a constant reality for the disciples and most people they meet. Multiple episodes focus on the racial tension between the Jews and Samaritans with Jesus roundly castigating his followers for their own prejudice."

But is it accurate? Here is "The Chosen's" response – "The Chosen is based on the true stories of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialog have been added. However, all the bible and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. "

Most people who have seen one of these episodes get instantly hooked. The quality of the acting and dialogue are superb. Here is an interview with some of the actors and actresses -

<https://hopenation.org/video/the-chosen-is-more-than-just-a-tv-show-to-its-cast/>

The entire story is in seven seasons. Four seasons have been completed and released. Filming for season 5 is underway.

The Chosen will be translated into many languages and shown around the world.

Links

1. Web site. <https://thechosen.tv/> . To watch the chosen - <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>
2. You can also download their app in the various app stores – Apple apple.co/3TTEiyv and Google - bit.ly/49qL04R
3. Educational – For discussion groups discussion guides - bit.ly/4aMIAYz







June, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30am. The Rev Shirley Smith Graham, the Diocesan Transitions Minister to talk about the search for a new priest. Eucharist 11am Coffee Hour Lunch 12pm	3	4	5 Happy anniversary – Johnathan, Odessa Davis Bible Study 10am	6	7 HBD, Odessa Davis	8 Happy anniversary –Jim, Elizabeth Heimbach
9 Eucharist 11am	10 HBD Tucker Fisher	11 Regional Clericus meets at St Peter's, 10am until noon	12 HBD- Chester Duke, Happy Anniversary Newmans Bible Study 10am Shred-it, 1:30PM	13	14	15
16 Happy Anniversary- Phil, Catherine Fitzhugh Eucharist, 11am	17	18 Happy anniversary –Chris, Becky Fisher Chancellor's Village Eucharist 1PM	19 Bible Study 10am Village Harvest 3pm – 4pm	20	21	22
23 Eucharist, 11am General Convention begins	24	25 Chancellor's Village Eucharist 1pm	26 Bible Study 10am	27	28 HBD- Ben Hicks	29
30 Eucharist, 11am, Catherine's last Sunday. Reception in the Parish House after the service						