

Peter's Pence

December 2016



*The Vision of St. Peter's Episcopal Church is to Love All as Christ Loves Us.
Our Mission is to be a Joyful, Welcoming Community that Expresses the
Redeeming Love of God in Christ through the Ministry, Gifts and
Spiritual Development of Every Person.*

THE REV. TERI DAILY'S LETTER

Dear St. Peter's,

As I write this the days are already short; so much of each 24-hour stretch is spent in darkness. Before the days of artificial light, people hunkered down in their own homes when the night approached. That is not the case so much anymore, but even now in the stillness of night it can seem as if everything has stopped.

The truth is, though, that a whole other community comes into play at night - the owls flutter, the deer track through gardens, possum slowly make their way across the road. It is not that everything has stopped; it is just that we cannot see what is happening.

I think that much of the work of God happens in precisely this way. It happens in the dark; it unfolds in the silence of the waiting room, in the hiddenness of the heart, in the womb of a first-century woman living in Palestine.

What hope this brings to all our waiting and searching! Silence is not a sign of God's apathy; instead, God remains active in the world although it may be in ways not yet visible to us. God is at work in us in ways yet to be revealed.

So, slow down this Advent season and simply wait. But, in the waiting, trust that God's love never sleeps but is always working in the darkest, most hidden corners of our hearts and our world.

Happy Advent!

Teri

Ready for Silence, by Madeleine L'Engle

Then hear now the silence



He comes in the silence
in silence he enters
the womb of the bearer
in silence he goes to
the realm of the shadows
redeeming and shriving
in silence he moves from
the grave cloths, the dark tomb
in silence he rises
ascends to the glory
leaving his promise
leaving his comfort
leaving his silence
So come now, Lord Jesus
Come in your silence
breaking our noising
laughter of panic
breaking this earth's time
breaking us breaking us
quickly Lord Jesus
make no long tarrying
When will you come
and how will you come
and will we be ready
for silence
your silence

CALENDAR

Reserving Facilities for Use

It's important to note that St. Peter's is a busy place! All room reservations must go through the Parish Administrator, John Churchwell for approval and posted on the church calendar. When reserving a room, you will need to take into mind the amount of time it will take to set up or clean up after your event. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the church office or email John at john.churchwell@stpetersconway.com.

Church Calendar Links

Due to the numerous events that are occurring at St. Peter's, October's calendar is better viewed by clicking on the links below. Some days, for instance December 7, has a "+2" at the bottom of the day. Click on the "+2" to view the whole day's events. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email John Churchwell, 501-329-8174, john.churchwell@stpetersconway.com

St. Peter's Church Calendar

<http://stpetersconway.org/about-us-2/calendar/>

Morgan House Calendar

<http://stpetersconway.org/outreach/the-morgan-house/>

December Preaching Schedule

December 4: Rev. Peggy Cromwell (all three services)

December 11: 7:30 and 9:00-Jerusalem Greer; 11:00-Christmas Cantata

December 18: Rev. Teri Daily

December 25: Rev. Peggy Cromwell (only one service on Christmas Day, 9:00am)

CHURCH FINANCIALS

Laying the Foundation

Laying the Foundation is our two-year campaign to fund ministries, programs, and staff this year and next year beyond what

we could accomplish with our annual stewardship campaign. The funds are needed to continue what we started with our Catch the Vision campaign. We had about \$180,000 pledged to our two-year campaign, and we have collected over \$60,000. Thank you for making your pledge payments. It is important to stay current or even ahead of schedule on your payments. Please contact Mike King if you have questions about your pledge amount or want to make a new/additional pledge. Laying the Foundation is intended to complement our annual stewardship campaign, which will soon be starting

Financial Report: January 1 - November 29, 2016

Contributed Support	This Month	YTD
Cash Offering	\$ 411.75	\$ 4,166.93
Pledged Contributions	\$ 17,545.00	\$ 213,563.70
Non-pledged gifts	\$ 5,425.65	\$ 60,622.98
Catch The Vision funds used for operating	\$ 4,167.00	\$ 45,837.00
Laying the Foundation funds used for operating	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 74,250.00
Diocesan Grant for college dinners	\$ 533.34	\$ 5,866.74
Total Operating Income	\$ 34,832.74	\$ 404,307.35
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 37,227.68	\$ 429,371.02
Difference	\$ (2,394.94)	\$ (25,063.67)
Laying the Foundation 2016 Contributions (\$ 31,652.59 contributed in 2015)	\$ 4,535.00	\$ 40,090.00

SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful to be a member of St. Peter's and have been honored to serve as the Vestry's senior warden during this past year. Being on the Vestry has enriched my deep gratitude for the many ways that St. Peter's ministers within our congregation, throughout this community, and far beyond our own borders. Each Sunday, I am filled with joy from the energy of the children and the presence of new families who have joined St. Peter's in the past months. As members of St. Peter's, we have a multitude of opportunities for worship, spiritual growth, service, and fellowship.

Last night as the Finance Committee met to begin the construction of our 2017 church budget, it became apparent that we must make some stronger commitments to our stewardship of this congregation's ministries and resources. To sustain the current ministries of St. Peter's we must find an additional \$85,000 in pledged support from our membership. Over the last several years, monies from the Catch the Vision campaign have provided the means to grow the ministries that are now contributing to the programs for children and youth, maintaining the facilities at the Morgan House, and extending our outreach in our community. The Catch the Vision funds are now expended; now our pledges to Laying the Foundation campaign must be honored.

More than ever, our pledges during the current Stewardship emphasis must reflect our commitment to support our current ministries. St. Peter's is a generous church; when there is a need, we respond. I am committing to increase my pledge for the coming year by 10%. I wish that I could give more. My gift of my treasure is but one way to express my gratitude for St. Peter's Episcopal Church and for the blessings that being part of this congregation brings into my life. I hope that you will join me by making a first time pledge; increasing your pledge, if you are able; honoring your pledge to the Laying the Foundation campaign. Our budget for 2017 will need our support if we hope to continue to be a presence in this community that reflects God's love for all our neighbors and our commitment to love mercy and walk humbly with God and one another.

Jane Harris
Senior Warden

Come celebrate all that has been and all that will be, as we bring together our stewardship pledges this Sunday, to be blessed, at this Sunday's In Gathering Services. If you do not have a pledge card, there will be extras available in the lobby.

Staff Christmas

Christmas is right around the corner and it is time to acknowledge the dedicated staff at St. Peter's. It is a tradition at our church to collect funds to be used for staff Christmas gifts. If you would like to contribute to this year's fund, you may place your donation in the offering plate (write "staff gift" in the memo line) or drop it off at the church office.

Thank you! - Jane Harris, Senior Warden

THE REV. PEGGY CROMWELL'S NOTE

An Advent Reflection

The word "advent" is from the Latin for "the coming." For school kids, it means the coming of Christmas vacation, parties,

anticipation of gifts. For the parents of those school kids, it means planning for Christmas vacation, providing those parties, and purchasing those gifts.

For some it means coming home. I think I was in my forties before I missed a Christmas Day in my mother's home - and it was only the weather that kept me from being there. For many people, Christmas centers around the coming together of families, with food and love, to share a good time. But for others, Christmas might mean the coming of a time of depression - if they have no family - or no family that wants them. Some churches, like St Peter's, have even instituted "Blue Christmas" services for those for whom Advent and Christmas are less than happy occasions. For many it means a hectic time of shopping and cooking and celebrating and traveling and general busy-ness that can lead to real frustration and despair.

For some it means the coming of the end of the year...a time of reflection on past accomplishments or disappointments. Did I do what I resolved to do way back in January? For others, the coming of the end of the year brings added financial worries - tax season is just around the corner. Seems kind of cruel that the tax season follows so hard on the heels of the biggest spending season of the year.

For us, as people of faith, it means the coming of Jesus in three different ways: in human form as the babe in the manger - "the Word made flesh"; as the Savior who comes into our hearts, lives, and actions - "the Light of all the people...the Light that shines and the darkness" and is not overcome; and finally, the future coming when Jesus will return to earth - "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

So with all this COMING...coming together, coming dread, coming to the end, coming to terms with reality - where do we GO from here? I remember when I was a kid - all right, I still watch it every year - watching the best Christmas special ever made - "A Charlie Brown Christmas" - when Linus, alone on the stage, tells the story of the shepherds' encounter with the Angel.... "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid." I used to think that meant they were so afraid it made them physically SORE! Whenever an angel appears in the Bible, immediately, the angel says, "Do not be afraid" or in the lovely language of the King James Version - "Fear not..."

All the way back to the Garden of Eden, mankind has feared God. Adam and Eve were so afraid of God that they hid from him in the Garden of Eden. There was certainly a lot of fear going on in the Gospel accounts of Jesus' early life. Mary was told not to fear being chosen to bear the Christ Child. Joseph was told not to fear taking Mary as his wife. The shepherds feared the angel. Joseph feared Herod, so he took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Later, Joseph feared going back home to Judea, which was under the rule of Herod's wicked son, so they ended up in Galilee. But in each instance, we also see God's reassurance and guidance for those who believe in Him. So can we take a lesson from Joseph? Can we listen to the words of the Angel? Can we put our trust in the Lord? Can we act without fear?

Did you know that the antithesis of love is not hate, but fear? Well, here's[1] the Good News: God doesn't want us to be afraid. The Apostle Paul reminds us, in his letter to Timothy, that "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power and love." A long time ago, God chose to come among us and be like us. He still chooses to be among us today. If we can come to see Him in one another, and remember who we are - beloved children of God - then we can live, not in fear, but in hope. We can hear that still, small voice whispering, "Fear not...I am with you always."

[1]

JERUSALEM'S NOTE

Advent has just begun, and this year the season promises to be both wonderful and brutal.

The state of the world and my Facebook feed bring so much fear and hurt to my heart, but I also see so much good happening around me. So many people doing all they can to love anyone and everyone at every turn. So many rays of light doing their part to burst through the darkness of division and pain.

This Advent, like so many before, will be bittersweet for many of us. But still we must step into the waiting, we must risk hope.

Like Mary and Joseph and the Donkey, we must begin our journey. A journey that may leads us away from comfort, a journey that will put us closer and closer to the unknown, but a journey that will us to a new beginning. Excitement and trepidation all bound together.

Christmas is not the culmination of all things, instead it is the beginning of all things. It is the arrival of a "baby God and all his blessed implications."

And we are all Mary; Worn out, raw, emotional, happy, relieved, tired.

So this Advent, if you feel sad, know that you are not alone. And if you feel joyful, know that you are not alone. They are both part of the journey, and we are all travelers together.



Much Love-
Jerusalem

PS - To help mark your Advent Journey, consider printing out this Advent Mandela (or stop by the Church office to pick one up,) and color each portion as you make your way towards the birth of Christ,

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Theology Coffee House Cancelled for December

The scheduled Theology Coffee House for December 1, has been cancelled. The next date will be announced soon for the month of January.

Chi Kung Class

Chi Kung is a Chinese healing art that combines gentle movement with breath and intent to stimulate chi (life force) for health and longevity. Its flowing movements create an almost immediate sense of peace and well-being. Our class will focus on chi kungs for deepening the breath, calming the mind, and improving balance and stamina. Please join us on Monday mornings starting in January at 10:00am in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Debra Strack at debrastrack@gmail.com

Morning Prayer

Join us every Tuesday and Thursday for Morning Prayer at 7 am in the Side Chapel, led by The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew.

Afternoon Bible Study-Mondays

Monday Noon Bible Study had changed its name and meeting time to Afternoon Bible Study which will meet Monday's at 12:15 in the Library.

Peter's Pence Submission Deadline December 22, 2016

The deadline to submit any information for January's Peter's Pence is Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 2:00pm. Please email John Churchwell at john.churchwell@stpetersconway.com, any pertinent church information that needs to be publicized.

ECW Women's Holiday Gathering The Morgan House December 3, 2016 5:00PM

"O St Lucy, preserve the light of my eyes so that I may see the beauties of creation, ..."

All the women of the church are invited for a lovely evening of becoming and belonging as we gather to celebrate the Feast of St. Lucy, complete with Scandinavian inspired eats, traditional St. Lucy activities, and a focus on sharing God's light of hope in the world!

Want to help with food or activities? Email Jerusalem.Greer@stpetersconway.com



Newcomer Gathering - Meet, Greet, & Eat for Advent December 10, 2016

6:30pm

December 10, 6:30 PM at the home of Ashley Groves
5200 Shakespeare Drive, Conway, AR 72034 (Corner of Shakespeare and
Byron)
RSVP to Ashley at redrum31@att.net

Have questions about our Newcomer Gatherings or need help with childcare?
Contact Jerusalem.Greer@stpetersconway.com



Christmas Pageant December 24, 2016

5:00pm

Join us Christmas Eve for our Family Service, featuring this years Christmas Pageant, A Mary Carol, by Katherine Willis Pershey with music by the St. Peter's Youth. There will be cookies and hot chocolate in the lobby beginning at 4:30, with the service beginning at 5:00 pm.



Blue Christmas December 18, 2016

5:00pm

For many of us, the Advent and Christmastide season is, as the character Phillip in the movie Mixed Nuts so succinctly put it, "a time when you look at your life through a magnifying glass and whatever you don't have feels overwhelming. Being alone is so much lonelier at Christmas. Being sad is so much sadder at Christmas."

And so together, we want to honor this sadness, this hard place of loss that many of us find ourselves in amidst all the twinkling lights and shiny ornaments, while holding onto the thread of hope that binds us together.

If this season is one that carries a lot of sadness and hurt for you, please consider joining us for a special "Blue Christmas" service on December 18, at 5PM in the Sanctuary. We will light candles, say prayers, and mark this place in the safety and warmth of community.

For more info contact Jerusalem Greer at jerusalem.greer@stpetersconway.com



Electronic Release Forms

Parents and Guardians - In order to better serve you and your children we have created an online registration and release form for the 2016-2017 ministry year. Please fill this form for each of your children. We will use these in cases of emergencies, outings, and trips. None of the information you provide will be made public or given out without your permission.

Thank you!

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=obf5sodab&oeidk=a07ed3hquokea889b12>

Labyrinth Walk Submission Deadline

The deadline to submit any information for the Labyrinth Walk, and for the bulletin, is Tuesday at 2:00pm. Please email John Churchwell at john.churchwell@stpetersconway.com, any pertinent church information that needs to be publicized.

Some snapshots of the Month of November!



Frozen turkeys for Thanksgiving Baskets



Baptism of Alan Scott Bell.



No Shave November Men!



EYC cleaning the Columbarium for All Saints' Day



Pin-wheels for Peace

FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Monthly Report

Date: 11/25/16

Month/Year Reported: November 2016

	Returning	New	Total
Households	151	28	179
Adults 65+	52	6	58
Adults 18-64	266	46	312
Children 0-17	175	27	202

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and made lots of great memories with your families.

We had another successful year of giving out Thanksgiving dinners. A huge thank you is in order for everyone who contributed to this ministry again this year. From the donations that poured in to the volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen, you all deserve a big pat on the back! The youth group can pretty much do this on their own at this point! They were amazing again this year...so much so that I think we can probably cut the time down going forward. This is my fourth year being involved in this wonderful ministry, and I think this was the smoothest yet. What a great group of people we have at St. Peter's!!! We used Walmart Neighborhood Market for the first time and they were awesome! They even cut the price of the turkeys in half!!! That was almost \$1,000 off of what they quoted us. If you shop at WNM and happen to see Autumn, be sure to tell her thank you for working so hard to help us pull off another successful year of giving.

Looking for ways to help the food pantry? Here are just a few things you can do. Food and monetary donations are what allow us to keep our shelves and freezers stocked. So that is always welcome! We get food from the Arkansas Food Bank, Walmart Neighborhood Market, Conway Locally Grown and Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church. We could always use more help in getting that food picked up and loaded into the pantry. So let me know if you're interested in one of the pick ups! If working in the pantry on Saturdays is something that you would enjoy, signing up is easy! Just shoot me your email address and I will send you a link to SignUp Genius. All of the Saturdays are listed and you can sign up for whatever days work best for you.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help or know of a family who could benefit from the food pantry, please contact me at cdjones1976@yahoo.com. Donations can be dropped off at the church, mailed to St. Peter's Episcopal Church 925 Mitchell Street, Conway, AR 72034, or you can place them in the offering plate during Sunday service. Thank you for your generous donations to the pantry.

Peace be with you,
Christy Garrett-Jones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

December 3 Jackson Wirtz
December 4 Will Smothers
December 8 Noah Windsor
December 15 Gina Teague
December 17 Nancy Allen
December 17 Camille LaGrossa
December 17 Danny Reed
December 18 Hutson Teague
December 19 Aiden Weidower
December 20 Jennings Burruss
December 20 Andrew Stone
December 23 Molly Welch
December 24 Tara Burnham
December 27 Brett Hardison
December 27 Dillon Leicht
December 27 Miles Weibe
December 28 Pansy Westrich
December 29 Lisa Bell
December 29 Brian Bell
December 29 David Larson
December 29 Chris Smith
December 29 Norma Smothers
December 30 Drew Bell
December 30 AJ Southerland
December 31 Kent Ballew

December Anniversaries

December 12 Roger & Kay Taylor
December 20 Ansley & Nancy Fleming
December 31 Chad and Melissa Butler

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

December 4, 2016

We give thanks for the people of St. Peter's and visitors with us this week.

We give thanks for: Bob and Dee Sanders; Andrea Savage; Sam, Dana, and Chuck Savage; Mike Schaefer and Lynn Ramage Schaefer; Charlie Schmeider; Carolyn Scott; Jacquie Seroy; Milo and Ann Shult; John, Kate Marie, and John Robert Shute; Lance, Angelia, Rowen and Felix Simpson

We give thanks for Oak Bowery Baptist Church.

We give thanks for The Better Together Multifaith Initiative.

We give thanks for our Junior Daughters of the King.

We give thanks for The Rev. Heber Ruiz and St. Martin of Tours, Totonacapan (toe-toe-neeka-pan).

We give thanks for The Rt Revd Ravikumar J. Niranjana, and the church in South India.

We give thanks for the Schools-not-Slavery Partnership at St. Martin in the Fields, Philadelphia.

December 11, 2016

We give thanks for the people of St. Peter's and visitors with us this week.

We give thanks for: Sandy Simpson; Scott, Tracy, Walker, and Wade Simpson; Krystle Singh, Cassidy Knowles; Chris Smith; Wesley Smith; Norma Smothers; Will Smothers and Toni Carter, Madison and Riley Smothers; Kenneth, Susan, and Harper Sobel; Jerry and Mary Southard.

We give thanks for The Trinity Worship Center.

We give thanks for The Unitarian Universalist Church in Little Rock

We give thanks for our Discretionary Fund.

We give thanks for The Rev. Pascuala Ventura, St. John the Apostle, Chichicastenango (Chee-chee-castin-ango).

We give thanks for the church in Kericho, Kenya.

We give thanks for the children and youth at St. Martin in the Fields, Philadelphia.

December 18, 2016

We give thanks for the people of St. Peter's and visitors with us this week.

We give thanks for Jonathan Spinks; Kathryn Spinks; Suzanne Sprague; Gray Standridge; Susan Standridge; Wayne, Ellen, Adam, and Susannah Stengel; Debbie Steward; Jayme, David and Andrew Stone; Els and Tom Strickland; Scott, Jeannie, Jack, Britt, and Sam Stroth;

We give thanks for Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

We give thanks for Lubavitch Center for Jewish Learning.

We give thanks for our Episcopal Church Women.

We give thanks for The Rev. Jose Morales Perez and St. Matthew's, Chuguexa (choo-yakes-ah).

We give thanks for the church in Armagh, Ireland, and The Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield.

We give thanks for the 8:00am Holy Eucharist Service at St. Martin in the Fields, Philadelphia.

December 25, 2016

We give thanks for the people of St. Peter's and visitors with us this week.

We give thanks for James Stroud and Jennings Burrus; Mark, Dawn Marie, Laura, and Lillian Sullivan; William Swartz; Brad, Gina, Parker, Berris, Cooper, and Hutson Teague; Taylor Tennon; Joshua Terry, Courtney Collins-Terry.

We give thanks for Harvest Church of the Nazarene.

We give thanks for Temple B'Nai Israel.

We give thanks for our Altar Guild.

We give thanks for The Rev. Tomas Calel and the Transfiguration in Chumanzana and St. Bartholomew's in Chucalibal.

We give thanks for the church in Kita Kanto, Japan, and The Rt Revd Zerubbabel Katsuichi Hirota.

We give thanks for the Music Ministry at St. Martin in the Fields, Philadelphia.

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Worship Services

Acolytes: Jerusalem Greer

Altar Guild: Dinah Reed

Wedding Consultants: Donna Hutchinson & Genie Davis

Eucharistic Ministers: Jerusalem Greer, Mike Moses

Ministry Team Leaders:

Team 1 Jeff Ward

Team 2 Carolyn Scott

Team 3 Jerry Adams

Team 4 Nancy Thompson

Adult & Handbell Choir Patty Oeste

Library: Mary Ferguson and Sarah Bryan

Christian Education

Adult Christian Education:

Steve Zeltmann, Rita Macintosh, Judy Helm, and Kevin Mequet

Family Formation: Jerusalem Greer

EKC & EYC: Jerusalem Greer

Servant Leadership School: Carolyn Scott

Education for Ministry:

Nita Brown

The Fledglings: A Writing Group: Liz Larson & Stephanie Vanderslice

Bible Study: Joe Arn

Outreach

Foyers: Dee Sanders

Bethlehem House: Tracey Simpson

Food Pantry: Christy Garrett-Jones and Sylvia Walker

Canterbury College Ministries

The Rev. Peggy Cromwell

College Dinners: Leaetta Odglen, Madison Dealing, Annika Warrick, Kate Shute

Card Ministry: Mary Ferguson & Donna Hutchinson

Eucharistic Visitors: Rita Macintosh

Website Upkeep: John Churchwell

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

STAY CONNECTED:



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, 925 Mitchell Street, Conway, AR 72034

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