



St. Peter's
Episcopal Church
Conway, Arkansas

The Labyrinth Walk **Thursday, December 1, 2016**

Ingathering Sunday

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.

The Rev. Teri Daily's Medical Leave

As you know Teri is on Medical Leave for the first few weeks of Advent. To help her healing process time Pansy Westrich is coordinating meals to be dropped off at the church, and John, our Parish Administrator will be helping schedule visits.

If you would like to help with meals, please email pwestrich@yahoo.com.

If you would like to visit Teri, please email john.churchwell@stpetersconway.com.

For pastoral care needs or emergencies please contact Jerusalem Greer, Minister to Families, or Peggy Cromwell, our Deacon.

Thank you!

Volunteer of the Week

Congratulations to Mary W. Ferguson! She is our Volunteer of the Week!

In 2002 Mary transferred her membership from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Louisville, KY to St. Peter's, immediately becoming an active volunteer! Over the years Mary has been a member of the Altar Guild, served as a Lectors and was on Ministry Team 1 for several years, but retired due to lack of physical strength. These days Mary is the Coordinator for the Card Ministry (which she helped organize in 2003) and has been a steady volunteer in our church library since 2003. Mary has also served on a committee for the Catch the Vision campaign, and takes CD's with the Sunday's sermons on to share with other residents at College Square, where she resides.

Mary's no. 1 hobby is Photography, and along with that, travel. Since retiring Mary has made many trips to many countries, and has many slide carousels and photo albums! These days she says that she has "now downsized to seeing the many interesting parks, museums, etc. in my native AR. Other hobbies are bridge, reading, following sports, mainly my UCA Bears, AR Razorbacks, and Louisville Cardinals."

Mary grew up in Helena, graduated from Helena H.S., and then graduated from ASTC (now UCA). She taught for one year, then went to Memphis, where she worked in Flight Operations for American Airlines for 3 years, then moved to Louisville, KY to take a secretarial job. There Mary met her future husband in a night Spanish class at Uof L. They married, and had one wonderful son. Ten years after marrying, her husband lost a valiant battle against Hodgkin's Disease, then at age 18, her son, on summer break after his freshman year, was accidentally electrocuted while helping a friend clear out a flooding basement.

After her husband's death and going back to work, Mary returned to the Education field and chose to obtain my Master's in Library Science, and several years later the Specialist in Education degree. She was employed by the Louisville/Jefferson County School System, first in an elementary school library, then in the Central Office as a Library Media Consultant.

After retiring Mary started coming back to Homecoming at UCA every year. At one Homecoming she re-met a former

ASTC classmate whom she had not seen nor heard about since graduation. They married on July 15, 2000. This was W. C. "Dub" Ferguson, Jr. In 2002, shortly after College Square opened, they sold our two houses (700 miles apart) and downsized into a two-bedroom apartment. Unfortunately Dub died just a year after they moved, but Mary continues to be very happy living there, and especially enjoys the communities close relationship with UCA. In addition to my activities at St. Peter's, Mary takes part in many activities connected with College Square, UCA Alumni Assn., Conway Shakespeare Club and Conway 20th Century Club.

We are so grateful Mary's dedicated service, her outgoing nature, and her love for all of us here at St. Peter's! We love you Mary, thank you for all that you do!

Would you like to know how you can become involved in the Card Ministry or Church Library? Email Mary at incefer@yahoo.com.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

December Coffee House Theology Cancelled

December 1st's Theology Coffee House has been cancelled. Look for more information coming later about the January Coffee House Meeting.

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

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

Adult Forum

Adult Forum is open to all members of the St. Peter's community. We discuss various topics of interest to our members. Lecturers frequent our forum in person, but videos and books are also used. In those cases discussions are loosely led by a discussion leader. Past topics have included Pentecostalism, Quakerism, Protestantism, Judaism, various perspectives on the meaning of Jesus, the Enneagram, and the books Paradise Lost and The Divine Comedy. The following is the list of topics that will be discussed:

December 4: Islamic Experience in America

December 11: Moravian Love Feast Christmas Mass

December 18: Islamic Experience in America

Jay McDaniel (Hendrix) will be leading two sessions on Contemporary Islamic Thought in December: Dec. 4 and Dec. 18. The subject is timely. As he explains, contemporary Muslims in many parts of the world are caught between two antagonisms: a fear or suspicion of Islam on the one hand, and the reality of militant Islam on the other. Islamophobia and the rise of militant Islam have led them to take their faith more seriously, seeking to understand it as a possibility for goodness, peace, and justice in the world. Toward that end some Muslims have turned to classical sources with its rich intellectual history and some to the forward-looking thinking of the spiritual father of modern Pakistan, Muhammad Iqbal. Many have also turned to what some Muslims take to be the spiritual core of Islam: Sufism as embodied, for example, in the poetry and philosophy of Rumi. Jay will be talking about all of these issues. If you are curious about Jay's own interest in Islam, please see his How I Got Interested in Islam:

<http://www.jesusjazzbuddhism.org/how-i-got-interested-in-islam-jay-mcdaniel.html>.

#AdventWord 2016

Once again St. Peter's has decided to invite everyone to participate in an Advent program called AdventWord, the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar!

Last year, our church was one of the MOST active in the program, and because of this we were invited to be an AdventWord partner this year (you can find our name listed [HERE](#) on the partner page.)

This virtual calendar is created by Christians around the world sending in images in response to an Advent meditation from the Society of Saint John the Evangelists, an Anglican/Episcopal order of monks.

This is an opportunity for us to connect with fellow Christians worldwide as we pray in Advent as we await the coming of the Christ child and the celebration of Christmas.

To participate go to AdventWord.org and sign up to receive a daily email from the Brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelists, The email will contain a daily word and meditation, accompanied by a stunning image. You are invited respond with an image of your own on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook or you can just watch the calendar grow each day in Advent. When you sign up you will receive easy instructions on how to send in images and view the AdventCalendar.

Make sure to tag St. Peter's when you post and to use the hashtags #adventword and #stpetersadventword so we can follow along and repost your images on our feeds.

Here is a cheat-sheet if you want to start planning and taking pictures for this experience!



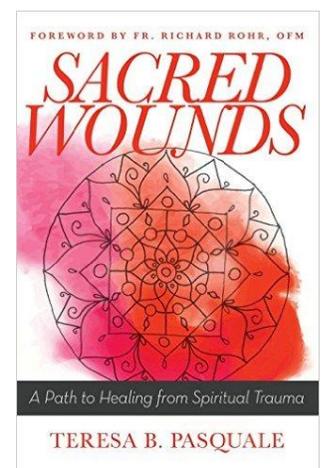
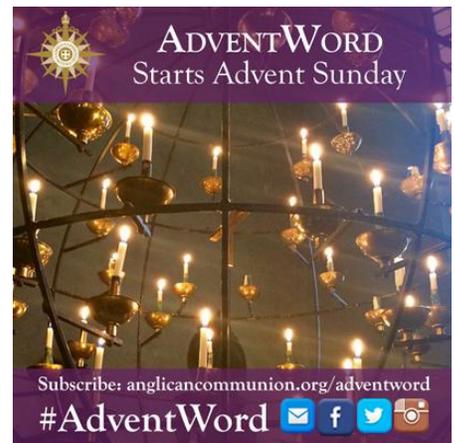
#AdventWord	
Nov 29 #WakeUp	Dec 12 #Wait
Nov 30 #Proclaim	Dec 13 #Wonder
Dec 1 #Give	Dec 14 #Accept
Dec 2 #Forgive	Dec 15 #Listen
Dec 3 #Repent	Dec 16 #Invite
Dec 4 #Worship	Dec 17 #Desire
Dec 5 #Believe	Dec 18 #Prepare
Dec 6 #Care	Dec 19 #Hope
Dec 7 #Be	Dec 20 #Look
Dec 8 #Surprise	Dec 21 #Experience
Dec 9 #Ask	Dec 22 #Pray
Dec 10 #Dare	Dec 23 #Reflect
Dec 11 #Shine	Dec 24 #Receive

If you have any questions email jerusalem.greer@stpetersconway.com or check out the AdventWord tutorial on our Facebook page.

Spiritual Growth Gathering - Sacred Wounds: A Path to Healing from Spiritual Trauma Sunday Mornings, 10:00AM, The Morgan House

Join Rebecca Billy for this Sunday morning small group discussion hour focusing on the nature of emotional wounds, trauma, and spiritual hurt that come from negative religious experience. Some of the discussion, centered about the book Sacred Wounds, will include: stories from a wide range of persons hurt by negative religious experience, healing and contemplative practices to help readers explore their own spiritual story, and practical ways to move towards personal healing. A journey through the experience of trauma in religious settings and how it is both relatable to other forms of trauma and distinctive -- outlining both facets and an exploration of the author's own personal and professional understanding of hurt, trauma, PTSD, and the power of resiliency and healing.

Questions? Email Rebecca Billy or Jerusalem.Greer@stpetersconway.com



[Check out the book HERE.](#)

PARISH LIFE AND COMMUNITY

Altar Flowers 2017

The calendar to reserve your special date for altar flowers in 2017 is available on the lobby bulletin board. Sign up early to get your first choices! Thanks to everyone who donated altar flowers this year. They were beautiful and made our worship services even more special.



Hookers and Knitters Needed!

Do you possess a moderate to keen talent with crochet hooks or knitting needles? Then we need you!

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for new members, patterns and help is provided. If you are interested please contact Pam Holt at tlholt@conwaycorp.net or call the church office.



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



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



CALENDAR

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5
7:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 2:00pm SLS Planning (Lib) 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6342 (PH) 7:00pm Bible Study (MH)	12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 4:00pm Morgan House Reserved 4:00pm Conway Locally Grown (PH) 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6057 (Cirm 2)	9:00am Food Pantry 5:00pm ECW Jingle Mingle (MH)	7:30am Rite I Holy Eucharist 9:00am EOW Eucharist 10:00am Adult Forum Family Formation Choir Practice 11:00am Rite II Holy Eucharist 12:00pm Parish Hall Reserved 12:15pm Handbell Rehearsal (Balcony) 1:30pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Lobby) 4:00pm Vestry Meeting (Lib) 7:00pm Contemplative Quaker Fellowship (Classroom 4)	11:15am Centering Prayer 12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 12:15pm After-noon Bible Study (Lib) 2:00pm EfM 6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (MH)

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 6	December 7	December 8	December 9	December 10
7:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 6:00pm Circle of Trust (MH) 6:00pm EfM	12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 5:00pm EYC (PH) 5:30pm The Fledglings Writing Group (Lib) 6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (MH) 7:00pm Evening Prayer and Prayers for Healing	7:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 2:00pm SLS Planning (Lib) 6:30pm 7:00pm Bible Study (MH)	12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 4:00pm Conway Locally Grown (PH)	9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm 24 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins 4:00pm Narcotics Anonymous Christmas Gathering (MH) 6:00pm Parish Hall Reserved 6:30pm NewComers Gathering

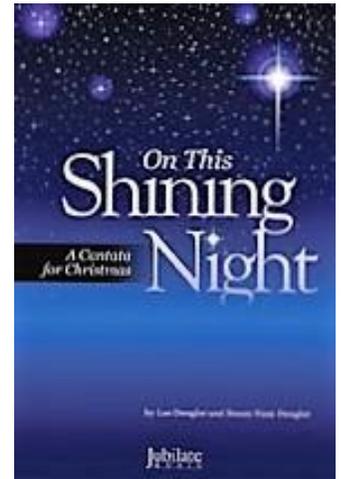
Save the Date:

December 11, 2016:
Choir Christmas Cantata *On This Shining Night*
11:00am Service

December 24, 2016
Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant
5:00pm

December 24, 2016
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
8:00pm

December 25, 2016
Christmas Sunday Service (only one service)
9:00am



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Peace, Love, St. Peter's T-Shirts - BACK IN STOCK!

Available in the office starting Monday and on Sunday mornings starting on October 16.

Or you can email:

[Jerusalem at Jerusalem.Greer@stpetersconway.com](mailto:Jerusalem@Jerusalem.Greer@stpetersconway.com)

All proceeds go to help our youth and kids go to Camp Mitchell!



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>

FOOD PANTRY

Help Out the Food Pantry

Don't forget your items to bring this Sunday! You may also drop off items in the church lobby anytime during the week. With your help we are able to provide food to those in need.

Sunday, December 4, 2016

2 mac and cheese; 2 corn muffin mix; 2 cans green beans

**If you are bringing fresh produce to donate, please contact someone with a key and see that it is placed in the Food Pantry refrigerators.

Pantry Musings

Prayer is uneasy for many of us. My 85 year old seminary friend who calls me every once in awhile said recently: "I still haven't figured out prayer!" I am inclined to agree with him at least some of the time. Prayer is not something that the disciples just did without help. They asked Jesus to teach them to pray if you remember. Buechner suggests that we pray in images more than in words and "maybe most of all by just letting up on ourselves and letting go, I think we can begin to put ourselves back in touch with that glory and joy we come from and begin moving out of the shadows toward something more like light. [p. 77, Telling Secrets] Those of you who know me will know that I am inclined to stop with letting up and letting go,. I think if we are able to relax into the moment, we know something about prayer.

We, as a culture, are a very 'up tight' people. Everything needs to be done NOW! Most of us have trouble waiting and relaxing. There is a immediacy to of electronic tools that gets translated into our brains and muscles so that resting, letting go is very difficult. Does prayer ask that of us? Is that a part of the secret of mystics, Quakers, and others? -Ann Drake

CHURCH FINANCIALS

Discretionary Fund

All \$1 bills in the offering plate will go to the Discretionary Fund.

A Note from Our Senior Warden...

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

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

SUNDAY SERVICE AND LITURGICAL INFORMATION

Liturgical Readings for Sunday, December 4, 2016

The 9:00am lector will read from
Romans and lead the Psalm.

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Romans 15:4-13
- Matthew 3:1-12
- Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Below is the link to the lectionary readings for Sunday.
http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Advent/AAdv2_RCL.html

Prayers of the People

Prayers and Petitions

Chandler; Shannon; Anisa; Kevin; Marianne and Maggie; Molly; Dee; Sara; Sam; Teri; Marilyn.

In Loving Support for:

Jenny, Doug, and Odessa; Hannha; Jon and Julie; Micah; Linda; Bob; Sam; Mouaz; Natalie.

Thanksgivings

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, Totonicapan (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.

The Departed

Gwen Emcle, Derek Shows

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

Team 1	7:30am Rite I	9:00 Enriching with Music	11:00 Rite II
Lectors	Nathan Greer	Jeff Ward	Dillon Leicht- Epistle Brad Teague-Psalms
Greeters		Harry Lance Rachel Lance	Jaylee Garrett-Jones Parker Teague
Ushers	Wylie Greer	Veronica Makepeace Kristina Ward	Claudia Wiltgen Christopher Walters
Oblationers		Charlotte Ward Ella Johnson	Olivia Larson Cooper Teague
Eucharistic Ministers (EM)	George Coleman	1-Paul McCowan 2-Linda Brown	1-Catherine Fortney 2-Bob Brown
Eucharistic Visitors (EV)		Dan Allen Elizabeth Walters	
Vestry Counters			Jerry Adams Christy Garrett-Jones
Acolytes		AM: Michael Moses CB: Madolyn Ward	AM: Michael Moses C: Harper Sobel T 1: Elise McGarrity T 2: Isabel Ruckle
Altar Guild			Team 4

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

STAY CONNECTED:



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

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