



St. Peter's
Episcopal Church
Conway, Arkansas

The Labyrinth Walk **Thursday, December 8, 2016**

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

On this second week of Advent, we celebrate our Volunteer of the Week - Claire Lasardo!

Claire and her family have been at St. Peter's for four years. Claire loves to help out in the kitchen setting up, cleaning up, and cooking when needed. She has been a great help during recent events such as our Advent Family Feast, Pie Fest, and Turkey Basket Day. Claire also loves being a lecturer and would love to do it more often. This week Claire began volunteering in the church office, helping to answer phones and greet visitors.

Claire's serving heart extends beyond St. Peter's as is evident by the fact that she is raising two of her grandsons, Dalton who is in UCA studying to be an Elementary Teacher and Austin who is a tenth grader at Greenbrier High School.

Claire was born in Salem, Massachusetts and raised in Marblehead, Massachusetts. She has told all her grandkids (9 total and 3 great grandkids) that she is a witch but says they don't believe her anymore. Claire says that "Halloween in Salem was and still is a great memory and time for me and my family." To help keep those memories alive, Claire and her grandsons put on a great show each Halloween, turning their yard into a haunted graveyard, coffin vampire and all.. This year Dalton was Frankenstein and Claire was a Ghoul, and one little boy called even called her the "Queen of Halloween."

When not serving or decorating for the holidays, Claire enjoys reading, sewing, swimming and taking care of my six cats, three dogs and of course the boys. Claire recently said this about the boys and St. Peter's:

"They (Dalton and Austin) are my life. I have gone through a lot in my life and still am and if it weren't for Mother Teri and my St. Peter's family I think I'd be lost. I thank God for them every day. Thank you for being there for me."

Claire St. Peter's would be lost without you as well! Thank you for your sunny disposition and all your service - to us and to your family. We love you!

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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 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.)

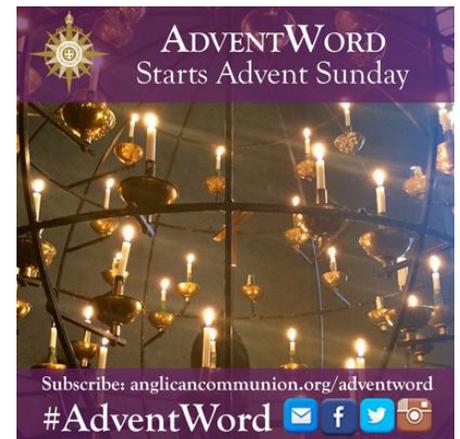
This virtual calendar is created by Christians around the world sending in images in response to an Advent meditation from the Society of Saint John the Evangelists, an Anglican/Episcopal order of monks.

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

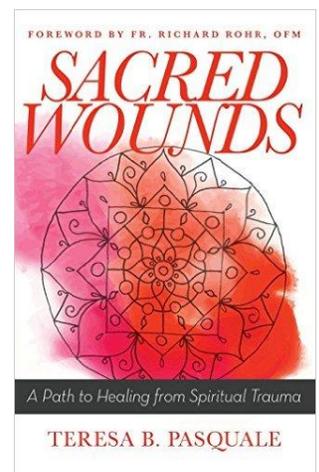
Nov 29 #WakeUp	Dec 12 #Wait
Nov 30 #Proclaim	Dec 13 #Wonder
Dec 1 #Give	Dec 14 #Accept
Dec 2 #Forgive	Dec 15 #Listen
Dec 3 #Repent	Dec 16 #Invite
Dec 4 #Worship	Dec 17 #Desire
Dec 5 #Believe	Dec 18 #Prepare
Dec 6 #Care	Dec 19 #Hope
Dec 7 #Be	Dec 20 #Look
Dec 8 #Surprise	Dec 21 #Experience
Dec 9 #Ask	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.](#)



Episcopal Church Women

An invitation to St. Peter's Episcopal Church Women

If you like chocolate chip cookies and enjoy spending time with other women, join ECW as we explore part 2 of "How to put the crumbled cookie back together again." Don't worry if you missed Part 1! We have lots of cookies to taste and crumble. Meet at Art Experience at 1027 Front Street in Downtown Conway on Monday Dec. 12th at 6:00 PM. Light refreshments and lots of chocolate cookies.

Marilyn Rishkofski

PARISH LIFE AND COMMUNITY

Noon Advent Prayer and Organ Recital

On Wednesday, December 14, we will have our regular Advent Prayers, but afterwards, John Churchwell will be giving a 20 minute organ recital. Come and enjoy!

Christmas Meals

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will not be hosting Christmas Meals nor a Christmas lunch this year.

Help a Child, Shop for Joy!

CASA is collecting toys for our local foster children and St. Peter's is helping! There are 170 local children who need our help in experiencing the magic of Christmas morning. Please consider bringing new, unwrapped toys, for children under the age of 13, to the church between now and December 20 and place them in the gathering box in the lobby. Have questions? Contact Jami Lupkey or Jerusalem Greer. Thank you for helping bring joy to a child this holiday!



Garrett-Jones Family Update

Most of you know of the journey Sarah and I started back in June when we opened our home to foster and adopt children. We wanted to keep you all updated on that journey. Many of you had the pleasure of meeting Jacob, Matthew and Bella when they were with us at church and you were extremely generous in helping us when they joined our family. Our church family was amazing in the prayers lifted up for us, in the donations of clothes, money, diapers and even bringing us food to help with the additional responsibilities of caring for 3 more children. We could never say thank you enough for all that you did to help with the transition of them into our home.

After 5 months of loving and caring for Jacob, Matthew and Bella, Sarah and I had to make the very difficult decision of asking that they be moved to another foster home. Taking care of all 3 of them, in addition to caring for our own 2 children, was becoming very straining on our family and we did not feel like it was something we could continue to do for another 8 months or longer.

The children were moved on November 21st. We have built a relationship with the family that Bella and Jacob are now with so we will be able to watch them grow as long as they are in their care. We do not personally know the family that Matthew is with, but we have mutual friends who have let us know that they are a patient and caring family. We feel peace in knowing that the 3 of them are in loving homes.

On Tuesday, November 29th, we opened our home to a 14 year old girl named TJ. She has been in foster care for 10 years and comes to us with a lot of emotional and behavioral concerns. We did not go through the training to foster and adopt thinking things would be all rainbows and sunshine. We knew going in that things would be difficult. But we also know that God is with us and he will carry us through the difficult times. This letter is not a request for any financial help. It is simply to invite you to stay with us on this journey and ask for continued prayers for us as we make TJ feel at home. We ask that you welcome TJ into our church family and lift her up in prayer as well. Hopefully soon she will learn to trust that there is still good in the world and people who love her.

Advent Vigil

The 24 Hour Prayer Vigil, scheduled for this weekend, has been cancelled. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Arn or John Churchwell.

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.



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



2017 Women's Winter Interlude III Arkansas ECW Friday, January 6, 2017 at 3:00 PM - Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 4:00 PM

Relax and unwind after a busy holiday season.

Please join us for a weekend of fun, prayer and a great program by Rev. Patricia Matthews, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry for Christ Church, Little Rock. She will explore strong women from the Bible and from myth as models of how we can be strong women as we move through all the stages of our life.

There is an opportunity for a book club session led by Susan Carter.

To register please visit: <http://arkansasecw.org/>

Please note: there is a fee for online registration and credit card processing.



CALENDAR

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12
7:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 2:00pm Enneagram (Lib) 7:00pm Bible Study (MH)	12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 4:00pm Conway Locally Grown (PH)	9:00am Food Pantry 2:30pm Lobby Reserved 4:00pm Narcotics Anonymous Christmas Gathering (MH) 6:00pm Parish Hall Reserved 6:30pm NewComers Gathering	7:30am Rite I Holy Eucharist 9:00am EOW Eucharist 10:00am Adult Forum Family Formation Choir Practice 11:00am Rite II Holy Eucharist 12:15pm Handbell Rehearsal (Balcony) 12:30pm DOK (MH) 1:30pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Lobby) 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) 6:00pm ECW (Art Experience)

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17
7:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 6:00pm Circle of Trust (MH) 6:00pm EfM 6:30pm Art Pray Love Meeting (Lib)	12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer/Advent Organ Recital 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 Finance Meeting (Lib) 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6342 (PH) 7:00pm Bible Study (MH)	12:00pm Advent Noon Prayer 4:00pm Conway Locally Grown (PH) 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6057 (MH)	9:00am Food Pantry 9:00am Parish Hall Reserved 10:00am Secretariat (MH)

Save the Date:

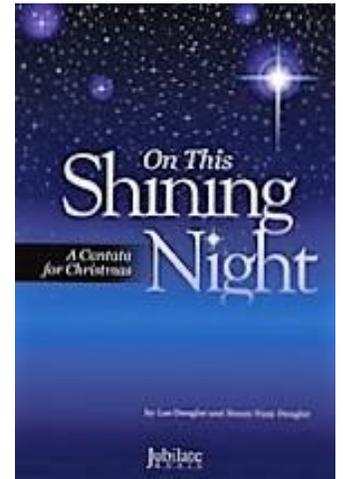
December 11, 2016:
Choir Christmas Cantata *On This Shining Night*
11:00am Service

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

December 26 - December 30, 2016
Parish Office Closed



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=a07ed3hquakea889b12>

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 11, 2016

2 cans of soup, 1 16oz peanut butter, 1 jar jelly (no glass)

**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

"Jesus came among us as word, I believe God remains among us as music (and the Holy Spirit as the breath that brings both word and music to life)." . . . And she would add silence which may be pregnant with God. [Taylor, Silence, p.120] I am glad that Taylor added music to her understanding of God. I know it is a cliché to say that music is a universal language. Certainly, music is a matter of taste. I am sure that what appeals to my grand-niece is not likely to appeal to my taste, but the rhythms and the complexity or simplicity of the melodies may appeal to us all in different forms and shapes over time. I am certain that I acquired a foundation in my theological reflections from hymns and anthems and at times solos that I have heard or sung. I also learned patterns of worship through various forms of music. A Gregorian chant calls for a different response than an African American spiritual. Both tell me something about God and call for a very different worship posture and experience. Both are legitimate, they are just different. How does music make a difference in your view of the world and how you know God? Do the hymns seem to fit with the sermon and the scriptures? Do hymns mean something to you? Do you sometimes hum them?
-Ann Drake

CHURCH FINANCIALS

Stewardship Update

We have received 61 Pledge Cards for the 2017 Proposed Operating Budget. Thanks to this initial response, we are more than halfway to our goal of \$475,500.
It's not too late to get into the giving! Pledge Cards may be put in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.

Discretionary Fund

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

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 11, 2016

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

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

**Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.**

**A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets

Matthew 11:2-11

**When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."
As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,**

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Prayers of the People

Prayers and Petitions:

Chandler; Shannon; Anissa; Nikki; Mason; Kevin; John; Freda; James; Jimmy; Aurea; Teri; Dave; Rita; Katie; Nick; Lauren; Robert; Tali'deen; Hollis; Liz; Marilyn and Family.

In Loving Support for:

Jenny, Doug, and Odessa; Hannah; 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: 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.

The Departed:

Dorothy Steele, Derek Shows

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

Team 2	7:30am Rite I	9:00 Enriching with Music	11:00 Rite II
Lectors	Douglas Young	Donna Bowman	Donna and Eric Hutchinson
Greeters	Joe Am	Kent Ballew Pansy Westrich	Judy Helm Carolyn Scott
Ushers		Patsy Evans John Phillips	Marilyn and David Larson
Oblationers		Kent Ballew Carolyn Scott	Kelley King Robert Wickser
Eucharistic Ministers (EM)	Wylie Greer	Steve Eddy Beth Brady	Leigh Ann Warriner Dan Allen
Eucharistic Visitors (EV)		Deanna Weindorf Tanya Buchanan	AM:Wylie Greer C: Kathryn Spinks T1: Jaylee Garrett-Jones T2: Christopher Walters

Vestry Counters			John Phillips Jane Harris
Acolytes		AM: Wylie Greer CB: Cady Gray	
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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