

“To embody Christ’s teaching in appropriate ways for serving the community, the nation, and the world.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

Our annual fall, back to school picnic at Phoebe Needles will be Sunday, Sept. 11, following service. Bring a dish to share and your swim trunks.

Fair Trade products: coffee, tea, chocolate bars, cocoa and olive oil will be available for purchase after service on Sunday, Aug. 14.

Chalicers needed! We are looking for a few additional people willing to serve as chalicers during the Sunday service. The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal require you to be "a communicant in good standing." Please call (483-1518) or email (johnheck@gmail.com) John with any questions.

We are still looking for a volunteer to maintain the Church's financial data on a spreadsheet. The financial information will be provided to the person to key into a spreadsheet for routine record keeping purposes.

Please WELCOME Mary ???, and Alice ??? to the Saint Peter's family. They have both been worshiping with us for the past few Sundays. They are likely headed to Arizona for a few months but promise to return when Alice's time with the National Park Service ends.

Please send September newsletter info by August 25 to Gary Holden at gholden@ferrum.edu.



SAINT PETER'S IN THE MOUNTAINS

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ROCK CHURCH NEWS

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Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.

Church School
11:15 a.m.

facebook

A CLOSER LOOK AT: John & Sondra Kirsch

By Gary Holden

You all know John and Sondra Kirsch from the second pew in the front left at church services on Sunday mornings. Until recently, Sondra sang in the choir and John was a chalice bearer during communion. Here's a little more on the Kirsches.

Sondra Lee Kirsch was born in 1937 in Bismarck, North Dakota. She spent her childhood in Akron, Ohio, and later earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and Communication from Akron University. She would later earn her Master of Science degree from the University of North Carolina. She has no brothers or sisters.

Sondra's career included positions as a high school teacher in Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and Germany, relocating every few years with husband John an officer in the United States Army. She was a county government department head, a college professor, and national executive for the American Park and Recreation Society. She retired in 1999 from her position as Associate Provost for Outreach and Extension at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Sondra was the first woman Faculty Chairperson at N.C. State (1984-85), published textbooks and monographs on supervision management, financial management and public policy. She developed, directed and taught off-campus management schools for the university in Wheeling, West Virginia, for more than 20 years.

John Carl Kirsch was born in Germany in 1924. He came to the United States in 1932, landing at Ellis Island, and spent his childhood in New York City.

"I remember being on the ship," said John. "I specifically remember there were women wearing the U.S. Red Cross Uniforms taking care of me because I was traveling alone."

John enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 while still in high school and served our country four years during World War II. While in the Navy stationed on Guam, he earned his high school diploma through a University of Maryland special program. John then enrolled at Queens College in New York City, Fordham University and the University of New York, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biochemistry in three years.

The Army also sent him for a semester to Montreal's McGill University to study human factors in engineering, before sending him to earn his Master of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan.

The United States Armed Forces are the federal armed forces of our country, consisting of Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. John Kirsch is among a rare breed of men and women who have served the United States in two or more different branches.

Following John's undergraduate education, he received a call from the U.S. Army just as the Korean War began. It seems they



John and Sondra Kirsch with Rev. John Heck during their final service at St. Peter's on Sunday, July 17.

were looking for 200 chemists. Thus, John received his Lieutenant's bars in the Regular Army, but he was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was assigned to the artillery.

"I thought I'd be using my chemistry degrees," said John, "but it turns out I ended up in the 2nd Armored Division, America's contribution to NATO."

John later spent four years as a biochemist at the Army Biological Warfare Laboratories performing highly classified weapons research.

During John's first tour in Germany during the occupation, he was stationed in Frankfurt and lived in one of the military kasernes (German for barracks). He later learned that he had stayed in the same kaserne that his father, John Kirsch, was stationed during World War I, and his grandfather had been stationed during the Franco-Prussian War ... three different generations, three different wars, 2 different nations all in the same kaserne.

John would later learn that his brother, Hans, living in Germany had become a pilot for the German Air Force. Hans' plane was shot down and he was killed in World War II by American forces.

John and Sondra met in the summer of 1961, while they were both living on a military post at Fort Detrick, Maryland. One of Sondra's neighbors told her the post was starting a community theatre. Sondra enjoyed acting and producing plays so she took the advice of her neighbor and called Capt. Kirsch, a widower who was helping to organize this community group.

"He drove me to the first meeting, but then he forgot he took me and went on home at the end of the night, leaving me there," laughs Sondra. "So I had to ask one of the soldiers for a ride back home."

That botched first encounter didn't stop John and Sondra from continuing to see each other, and they eventually married in June of 1962.

The Kirsches have seven daughters and 15 grandchildren/great grandchildren; Wendy, a retired editor of the New York Times newspaper, living in New York City; Candace, a retired

internist/cardiologist, living in California; Robin, a retired banker, living in Sacramento; Lisa, a marketing print manager, living in Seattle; Kimberly, a college professor at the University of South Florida, living in Tampa; Desiree, a high school choral director, living in Chapel Hill; and Christian, a homemaker and mother of four, living in Alabama.

John retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1967. At that time, he was offered and accepted a position as research scientist at GEOMET, a research consulting firm in Germantown, Maryland. John also worked for the Virginia State Water Control Board in regional planning, and was the North Carolina Director of the Medicaid Integrity Program, investigating criminal fraud and abuse.

Sondra followed John's military career for many years but after his retirement, John followed Sondra's career until her retirement in 1999. The Kirsches have lived, attended schools and worked in Ohio, Michigan, New York, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, as well as Germany.

After Sondra's retirement, the couple saw an advertisement for land in Franklin County. After visiting the property, located about seven miles west of Ferrum College, the Kirsches fell in love with the area and built a farm nestled about a hundred yards off Route 40 heading towards Endicott with its panoramic views of 6-7 mountain ranges. John and Sondra pursued their dream of raising horses and cattle. After 13 wonderful years, they retired from farming and living close to the land, and moved to nearby Rocky Mount, where they have lived for the past three years.

John and Sondra Kirsch have been members of the Saint Peters family since 1999. When they relocated to Franklin County, Sondra called then Ferrum College President Jerry Boone to inquire about Sunday services at the Chapel on campus. Dr. Boone let her know that they did not have regular services, then put her in touch with Dave Newcombe, who described St. Peters and invited them to an upcoming service. They joined the St. Peters family shortly afterward. The Kirsches had been part of a number of different churches growing up and as adults. Sondra remembers well that conversation with Dave.

"After talking with Dave, I remember thinking that we'd been part of so many different denominations; Catholic, Presbyterian, Moravian, Lutheran and Methodist," said Sondra. "We figured, why not an Episcopalian?" And we've loved it here ever since."



The Kirsches open a gift from the St. Peters congregation.



John and Sondra have both been very active at St. Peters and with the Phoebe Needles Conference and Retreat Center. John and Sondra served on the Vestry, the Columbarium Committee, and the Endowment Fund Board. Sondra served as a member and treasurer of the Altar Guild and sang in the choir, and at one time she served as Treasurer and Secretary on the Phoebe Needles Board of Directors. John developed and wrote the Endowment Fund Bylaws and helped John Heck plan and coordinate the Phoebe Needles wastewater treatment system.

John was elected to the USDA Soil and Water Conservation District in Prince William County, Virginia. Sondra was elected and appointed to a number of park, conservation, arts and recreation boards/commissions in both Virginia and North Carolina.

The Kirsches' many hobbies and interests over the years include reading history/biographies/mysteries; working jigsaw puzzles; practicing Mandarin Chinese; playing musical instruments; attending theatre, opera and symphonies; collecting musical instruments/stamps/skulls/canes, chess sets; riding horses, waterskiing, sailing, whitewater canoeing, hunting, shooting, hiking, camping and playing tennis. They enjoyed acting/producing/directing plays and singing in choirs.

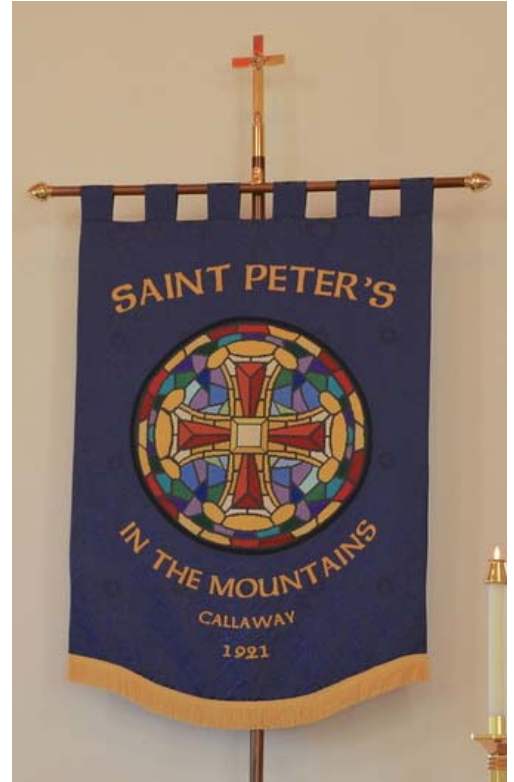
Both Kirsches are musically talented, with Sondra playing the saxophone and piano, and John playing the trumpet, accordion and bagpipes.

At the end of July 2016, John and Sondra relocated to Twin Lakes, a continuing care retirement community in Burlington, North Carolina. Burlington is less than two hours from Franklin County and all visitors are welcome. We'll have a phone number, mailing address and e-mail address for the Kirsches soon, and will share that in a future issue of the Rock Church News.

From all of us here at Saint Peters-in-the-Mountains, we'll miss John and Sondra, and wish them well in their new home.



**St. Peters-in-the-Mountains
Callaway, Virginia**



Photos by Bob Pohlard



**Our Beautiful
Church**





Sunday July 17, 2016

Fellowship after service, farewell celebration for Sondra and John Kirsch



OUTREACH REPORT

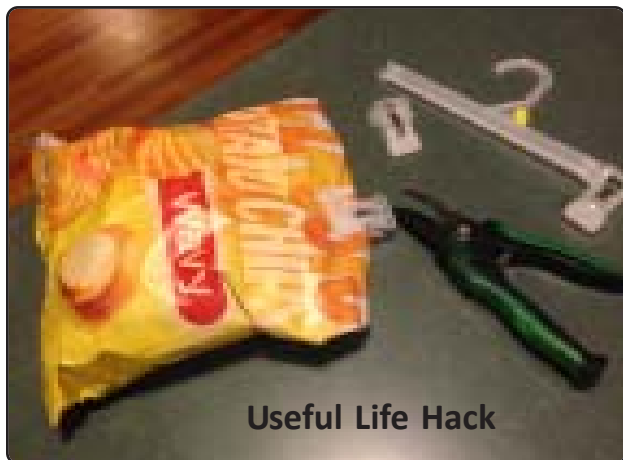
During the month of July, \$374 was sent to Helping Hands of Franklin County. Thanks to all who donated.

The vestry voted to send \$500 to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, the money will be used to aid flood victims from West Virginia.

The Outreach collection at St. Peters on Sunday, August 7, will benefit the Southern Virginia Child Advocacy Center. This non profit agency provides services to children, siblings, and non-offending caretakers who suffer from acts of family violence. Keeping children safe from abuse and neglect provides the foundation by which SVCAC develops and administers their programs and projects. Your continued support during outreach Sunday can help make a difference to the children they serve in our community.



"No thanks father...I'm driving."



TREASURER'S REPORT -- August 2016

(does not include July '16)

Operating Account

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
January	\$7,226.00	\$5,419.86
February	\$4,252.00	\$6,796.14
March	\$6,051.75	\$5,380.29
April	\$5,827.00	\$8,758.27
May	\$6,429.80	\$4,811.93
June	\$5,278.00	\$4,884.99
Year to date	\$35,064.55	\$36,051.48

Non Operating Account

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
January	\$289.30	\$482.30
February	\$538.99	\$412.09
March	\$304.00	\$274.50
April	\$303.00	\$535.00
May	\$1,076.11	\$2,142.21
June	\$559.30	\$460.70
Year to date	\$3,070.70	\$4,306.80








PHOEBE NEEDLES SUMMER CAMP

There is still time to register for day camp and residential camp. Check out the Phoebe Needles Center web site for dates, descriptions, and information – www.Phoebeneedles.org.

Parish youth who participate in diocesan sponsored programs, including Phoebe Needles camps and programs, may seek financial assistance by completing the form and submitting it to the Vestry for approval. If approved by the Vestry, Saint Peter's will pay one third of the cost. Once approved, the Treasurer will write the check for the scholarship. Blank forms are available in the Parish Hall.

SERVICE CALENDAR – August 2016

	Readings	Lector	Chalice	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Children's Chapel
7 	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40	Carl	Delia Deb	Hailu	Christy Kelly	Tyler Benton
14 	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56	Carolyn	Charlotte Katherine	Zoe	Lisa Regena Danene	Berhan Peter
21 	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17	Bob	Pat Christy	Tyler	Pat N. Christina	Hailu Zoe
28 	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14	Martha	Carolyn Bob	Peter	Marilyn	Berhan Benton
4  Sept.	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Gary	Martha Dave	Benton	Pat R. Deb	Tyler Peter

BIRTHDAYS – August 2016

August

- 1 Peter Heck
- 8 Don Osborne
- 11 Danny Custer
- 14 Christy Izard, Dave Newcombe
- 24 Delia Heck, Asa Stevens
- 26 Drew Holden
- 30 Emily Willie

Prayer for a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on these your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 830)

If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please let us know at gholden@ferrum.edu.



SAINT PETER'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS PRAYER LIST – August 2016

Debra Lustig
Dale Green
Brenda Goens
Susan Strong
Paul Lynch
Craig Griffin
Taylor Dutton
Susan Smith
Elaine Craighead
Carla Frechette
Teresa Sanders
Nell Herring
John Newcombe
Matt Hubbard
Eli Sydow
Jake Bailey
Darlene Jordan
Rebecca Stevens
Dee Sarver
Sally Hollandsworth

Linda Wingfield
Ricky Gibson
Jim & Marcia Vance
Benjamin Austin
Garrett Sweigert
Nakia Bailey
Kim Johnson
Joey Jones
Karen Zell
Stanley Prokopiak
Hazel Pendleton
Claire Parker
Hazel Hamilton
Betty Hood
Mia Walk-Hardy
Jamie Stanley
The Kiser Family
Diane Holliman
Linda Thomas
Kate & Mac McCalley

We pray for the people of Nice, France who were killed and injured, for the many families and friends who grieve, and for the whole country shaken by senseless tragedy.

We pray for John our priest, Mark our Bishop, and Michael our Presiding Bishop. May their ministries be guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

We pray also for all those who were killed this week as a result of war and terrorism, and for families whose lives are being torn apart. Almighty God whose will it is to hold both heaven and earth in the peace of your kingdom: Give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

We pray for those serving in the military, and particularly for those who are serving in harms way.

If you would like to add/remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the Rev. John Heck at johnheck@gmail.com or 483-1518. If you would like to have the flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone, please see a member of the Altar Guild.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Danny Custer, 493-5333

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Shelby DeHart, 483-0790

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Katherine Grimes
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Prayer List

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Ferrum Campus Ministry

Pat and Dave Newcombe
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Nancy Bradley
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Danny Custer
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Carl Durant
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