

SAINT PETER'S IN THE MOUNTAINS

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ROCK CHURCH NEWS

Volume 139
December 2019

Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.
Church School: 11:15 a.m.



"To embody Christ's teaching in appropriate ways for serving the community, the nation, and the world."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 15th Annual Yuletide Festival will be at the Phoebe Needles Center on Saturday, December 7, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please bring your friends and family, as well as a potluck dish to be shared. As usual we will have some caroling along with special music by several gifted musicians.

The annual St. Peter's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 22, in the sanctuary during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour. This year, the youth and younger children along with some supportive adults will present a play entitled "Nestled in the Stable."



The plot unfolds in this way: various animals in the stable aren't happy when two strangers intrude upon their quiet night. The sparrows, cows, and sheep, along with mice and a dove are upset and wish the humans would find another place to stay. They don't want to share their grain or warm hay. And after walking for miles, the poor donkey is too tired to help Joseph and Mary. But then God fulfills his most glorious promise: Baby Jesus is born! Everything changes as each group of animals gives a special gift to comfort the baby and his parents. At last, as all finally sleep, the tired donkey stays watchful over the beautiful stable.

We are practicing each Sunday after church to hopefully prepare ourselves for a wonderful presentation in honor of Jesus' birth! We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us on December 22!

Pointsettias ... The deadline to order poinsettias is Sunday, Dec. 8. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia. To place an order, please contact Kelley Beyer at kelley@swva.net.

Sunday, December 1, at 5:30 p.m. is the Community Celtic Eucharist service. Please join us.

Please send January news items by December 24 to Gary Holden at gholden@ferrum.edu.





The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Christmas Pageant rehearsals will be every Sunday for the next three weeks; Dec. 1, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. Please make every effort to attend!!!

Baptism ... On Sunday, December 1, at our 10 a.m. service, we will baptize Gerald Vincent Young. Please remember to bring canned goods for Heavenly Manna, and pick up a tag to purchase a gift for our Christmas family.

The next Center for Lifelong Learning program at the Phoebe Needles Center is Tuesday, December 10 from 10 a.m to noon, featuring the Ferrum College Choir. We will also have an opportunity to sing Christmas carols, and enjoy a delicious lunch! Please call the Phoebe Needles Center Office at 483-1518 by Friday, December 6, to make your reservations.

Vestry Elections ... Bob Pohlard and Lana Whited will complete their term of service on December 31, 2019, and we need TWO people willing to serve in their place. If you are willing to serve on the Vestry, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact a member of the current Vestry. The election of new Vestry members will take place Sunday, December 8.

We still need helpers! Each Sunday following the service we share coffee and goodies people bring to church, but after it's all over someone needs to clean up. You're invited to hang around to help put the food away, wipe off the table and kitchen counter, empty the coffee pots, and load the dishwasher. It only takes about 10 minutes, but someone has to make it happen. See Martha Perry for details!



Saint Peter's and PNC helping out with a Habitat for Humanity project on Nov. 30.



Wreath making at Saint Peter's Saturday, November 30.



Habitat for Humanity project Saturday, November 30.

St. Peter's Outreach

Three ways to participate in Christmas Outreach:

Callaway Elementary Family

The family has four children: boys, aged 10 and 6, a daughter age 4 and a baby girl of 1 ½ months old. The children need pants, shirts, shoes and underwear. They are fans of Lego Ninjago and Lego City Friends. The parents could use warm jackets and shoes for the winter. Household items are requested, especially diapers for the baby. Please see the poster on the back pew. Delia and Peter will be delivering these gifts to the family before Christmas.

Ferrum Angel Tree

We are participating in the Elementary schools program this year. We have been assigned Angel #1. He is a Pre-K boy, 4 years old. He requires pants, shirts, shoes, socks and toys. He likes books, Paw Patrol games and musical toys or instruments. The family would like personal hygiene items, a warm blanket and canned food items. Please note that the school has a drop off deadline of Friday, 12/13/19. Therefore, you will need to return your wrapped gift for Angel # 1 on or before Sunday, December 8, 2019.

Southern Virginia Child Advocacy Center

We are collecting canned goods for this organization. Please bring one or two cans with you to services each Sunday. There are boxes for the food item collection on the back pew. The canned food will be distributed to needy families during the holiday season by Franklin County police organizations. The deadline for drop off at SVCAC is Friday, December 20, 2019. Therefore, you will need to bring canned goods for this drive on or before Sunday, December 15, 2019.

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to participate in our annual Christmas Outreach Program!

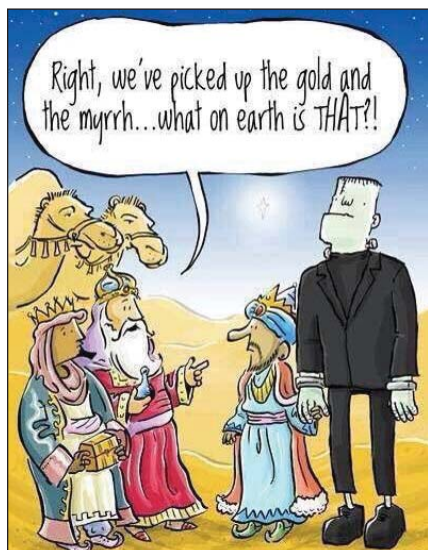
St. Peter's 2019 Outreach Calendar

Jan.	Callaway Pack a Sack Program (\$170)
Feb.	Free Clinic of Franklin County (\$276)
March	So. Virginia Child Advocacy Center (\$168)
April	Panther Packs (\$154), Easter Egg Hunt to Pack-a-Sack (\$150), Easter Egg to Panther Packs (\$250), Easter Egg to Boys Home (\$200)
May	Stepping Stone Mission (\$180)
June	Phoebe Needles Camp Scholarship (\$216)
July	Helping Hands of Franklin County (\$109)
Aug.	Ferrum Community Mission Center (\$162)
Sept.	Heavenly Manna (\$173)
Oct.	Grace House on the Mountain (\$100)
Nov.	Boy's Home (\$222)
Dec.	Christmas Families

The the following end-of-the-year charitable contributions were approved at the November Vestry meeting:

Christmas Families	\$440
ER&D California Fires	\$500
Callaway Pack A Sack	\$300
Ferrum Panther Pack	\$300
Stepping Stone Mission	\$300
Helping Hands	\$300
Southern VA Child Advocacy	\$300
Heavenly Manna	\$300

Thanks to everyone who gave to the United Thank Offering. The total was \$224.10, all of which will go to help people at home and abroad with various programs and projects to further the mission of our church. There are empty boxes at the church to begin filling for the spring ingathering.



Hereafter

My Pastor came to visit the other day and said that at my advanced age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am - in the living room, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I'm always asking myself: 'Now, what am I here after?'"

24-Hour Period

God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

Lesson in Honesty

The Sunday school teacher was just finishing a lesson on honesty. "Do you know where children go if they don't put their money in the collection plate?" the teacher asked. "Yes ma'am," a boy blurted out, "they go to the movies."

THE LIGHTER SIDE



SERVICE CALENDAR – December 2019

	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Chalice</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Children's Chapel</u>
Dec. 1	First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 Psalm 122	Rob	Dave Martha	Kelley	Peter	Zoe
	LINK					
Dec. 8	Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Katherine	Pat N. Deb	Sharon	Tyler	Peter
	LINK					
Dec. 15	Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11 Psalm 146:4-9	Dave	Katherine Charlotte	Christina Pat N.	Zoe	Tyler
	LINK					
Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday in Advent Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Pat N.	Carolyn Bob	Marilyn Maureen	Peter	Zoe
	LINK					
Dec. 29	First Sunday After Christmas Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18 Psalm 147 or 147:13-21	Gary	Marilyn Dave	Pat R.	Tyler	Peter
	LINK					

SAINT PETER'S PRAYER & CARE TEAM

We have included in the Prayers of the People at each Sunday's worship service the names of those people in need of prayer that you have made known to the church. As a way of keeping those names before us in prayer, we are going to begin a Prayer Chain at Saint Peter's. This will be a group of people who are willing to commit to praying for each person on our prayer list on a daily basis. The Prayer Chain will also be responsible for updating the list, writing occasional notes to those in our prayers, and relaying needs that might be met by the congregation. If the group once formed desires to meet on occasion for prayer and discussion that is a possibility as well. Juanita Custer has offered to coordinate the group. Anyone is welcome to be a part of this group. Please let Juanita (hodes_juanita@yahoo.com) know if you would like to participate in this group.



December Birthdays

- 3 Zoe Nix
- 10 Ursala Stevens
- 21 Christina DiEno
- 23 Matthew Simms
- 26 Pete Crow
- 31 Ella Nix



Pete Crow has a birthday in December.

2019 DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						

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)

PRAYER LIST -- December 2019

Jamie Stanley	Shannon Rosenblatt
Craig Griffin	Carolyn Thomas
Nancy Bradley	Glenda Pendleton
Linda Green	Christina Roudabush
Mary Haley	Linda Sigmon
Ruth Kuhlbars	Cindy Swinehart
Ivey Cook	Linda Thomas
Becky Hughes	Eli Sydow
Shelby DeHart	Hazel Pendleton
Sandy Grice	Betty Hood
Roger Manard	Brian Bernard
Adam Johnson	Bob Holden
Leland Southard	Joe Puzycki
Patsy Hubbard	Ed Cornbleet

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 in particular for those who serve in harms way.



CHURCH CONTACTS

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