

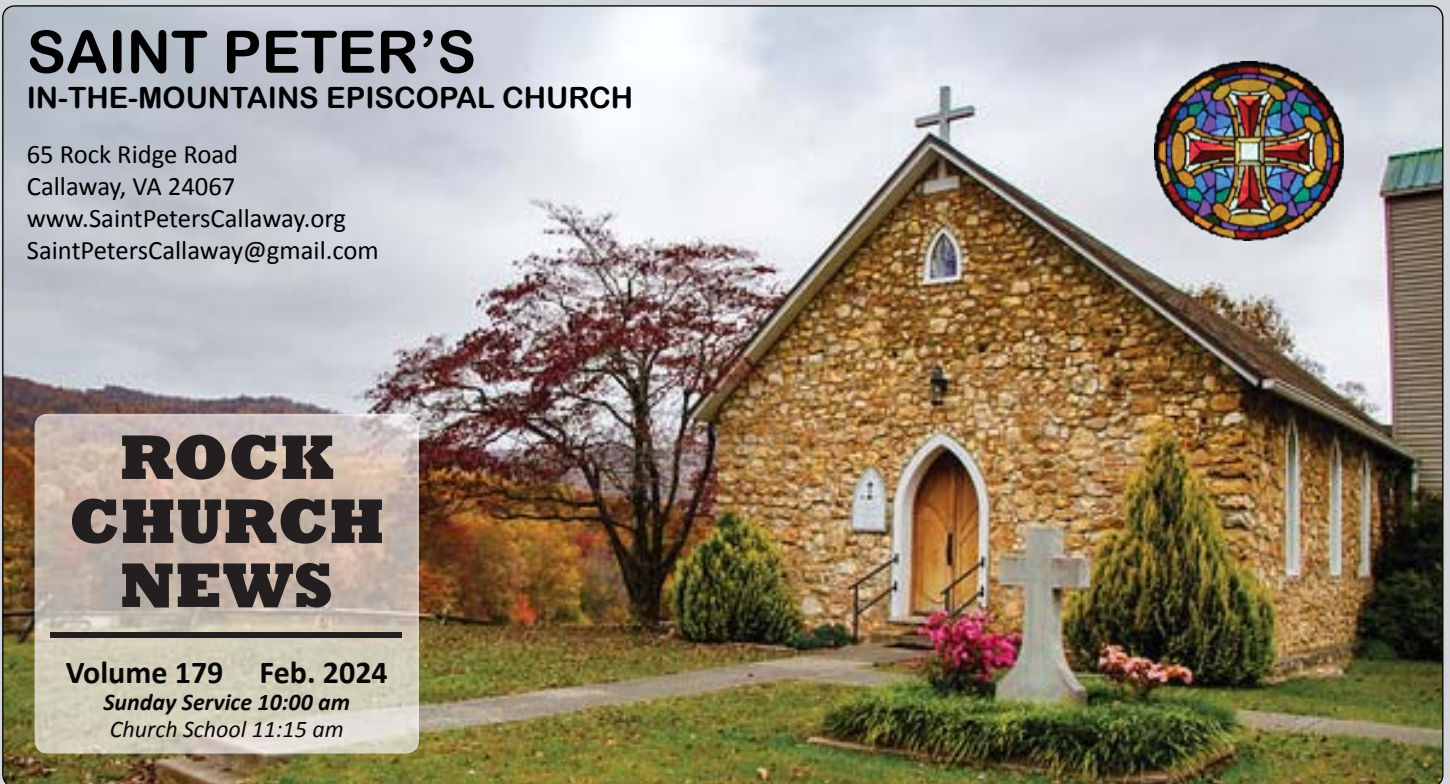
# SAINT PETER'S IN-THE-MOUNTAINS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## ROCK CHURCH NEWS

Volume 179 Feb. 2024  
Sunday Service 10:00 am  
Church School 11:15 am



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

## News, Notes & Faces

### In Honor and Appreciation of The Rev. John Hathaway Heck

Rev. Heck's vision, passion, and perseverance over 25 years, expanded the Phoebe Needles Center as a place of joy, adventure, and learning for thousands of children and adults. Only two buildings stood on this site when he arrived. Under his leadership, the campus now includes McCauley Hall, Webb Lodge, pavilions, swimming facilities, ropes courses, Stations of the Cross, playgrounds, nature trails, a historic home, and more. Through sound management, fiscal responsibility, and direct hands-on involvement, he created camp programs, community mission work, and a spiritual presence that builds on the history and shapes the future of the Phoebe Needles Center. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who experience Phoebe Needles Center. The local community and those impacted by this place are grateful.

July 2023

The Phoebe Needles Center honored Rev. John Heck on Saturday, December 16, 2023 with a retirement dinner. John served as Executive Director of the Phoebe Needles Center for over 25 years. Thanks to all the St. Peter's-in-the-Mountains parishioners who were there to support John and his family. Thanks to Bob Pohlad for taking lots of photos, many are scattered through this newsletter.



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## News, Notes & Faces

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The Bible study on the Gospel of Mark will continue each Sunday following the service. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you have participated to this point, please read your book.

Please check out the parish survey attached to the newsletter. The Vestry is looking for input on how Saint Peter's might make a great impact on our community. We are asking everyone to complete a survey and leave it in the box on the front pew of the church or email it to Charlotte Hubbard @ charlottehubbard7@gmail.com. There will be copies available next couple of Sundays at the church.

At the Vestry meeting on Monday evening, the following officers were elected: Maureen Roudabush, Senior Warden, Paul Simms, Junior Warden, Andy Buckman, Treasurer, and Charlotte Hubbard, Vestry Clerk.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be February 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Center at Phoebe Needles. Please bring your family and friends. Anyone who is helping to cook should arrive at 4:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted for an outreach project yet to be determined.

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Peter's Church.

### Three Teaching Points for Ash Wednesday

As Ash Wednesday approaches, here are three teaching points to consider as you invite your community into a meaningful experience of Lent. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the season of Lent, the forty days set aside to prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. In early Christian communities, the time spent "getting ready to come close to the mystery of Easter" (as we say in Godly Play) was much shorter. Now, we spend forty days preparing just as Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and getting ready for his public ministry.

Sundays in Lent do not count towards the forty days because Sundays are always celebrations of the Resurrection! As Ash Wednesday approaches, here are three teaching points to consider as you invite your community into a meaningful experience of Lent.

### The Call to A Holy Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. In the Episcopal tradition, our liturgy directly invites us into a holy season of specific practices aimed at helping us reconnect with God in preparation for the celebration of Easter. "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

(Book of Common Prayer, page 265)

Ash Wednesday, or the time leading up to Ash Wednesday, provides an appropriate time to explore with people of all ages in your community what it means to "observe a holy Lent." Find out what people have done in the past that helped them feel that they engaged in a "holy Lent." Inquire about the practices they plan to adopt this year.

This is also a great opportunity to provide some specific guidance on the practices suggested by the Book of Common Prayer. What are some practices for self-examination that people might use during Lent? What are some prayer practices that people of different ages could engage in doing Lent? What particular scripture might folks engage with during Lent?

### We Are Dust

Many Ash Wednesday liturgies provide an opportunity for worshipers to receive the mark of the cross in ashes on their forehead accompanied by the words, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." There are many layers of meaning within this simple, powerful ritual. There is the call to remember God created us from the earth (Genesis 2:7). It is by the grace of God that we live and move and have our being and we are inextricably linked to the earth from which we were created.

There is also the call to remember our connection to the rest of humanity. We are all made from the same "stuff." We come from dust and we dwell in skin, bone, blood, and cartilage. And there is the call to remember we will return to the earth from whence we came (Genesis 3:19). Ash Wednesday provides us that rarely comfortable, but certainly important opportunity to sit with our own mortality.

### Repentance

Lent is a penitential season in the church, a season with a particular emphasis on repentance. To repent is to both acknowledge that we have not loved God with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves AND to make every effort to do things differently. Repentance is about turning away from behavior that is not in alignment with these two great commandments. Rather than something to check off the to-do list, repentance is a practice.

Being human means we will never be fully without sin and we will never outgrow the need for God's forgiveness. While repentance is certainly a powerful teaching point around Ash Wednesday, we must not focus so heavily on sin during this season that people forget they are beloved children of God.

*from BUILDING FAITH by Sarah Bentley Allred (Sarah is the daughter of the Rev. Susan Bentley of our Diocese)*





### Phoebe Needles - John Heck Retirement Dinner

The Phoebe Needles Center hosted a retirement dinner for John Heck on Saturday, December 16, 2023. The event honored John for over 25 years of service to the Phoebe Needles Center.





# February 2024

## SERVICE CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>		<u>Lector</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Feb. 4	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>LINK</b>	Rob	Lisa	Lucas
Feb. 11	Last Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>LINK</b>	David S.	Sharon	Grace
Feb. 18	First Sunday in Lent	<b>LINK</b>	Katherine	Maureen	Sammi
Feb. 25	Second Sunday in Lent	<b>LINK</b>	Lana	Danene	Lucas
Mar. 3	Third Sunday in Lent	<b>LINK</b>	Gary	Pat	Grace

## February Birthdays

- 2 Patricia Rushmore
- 9 Deb Durant
- 12 Grace Campbell



Grace Campbell (left), Patricia Rushmore (center), and Deb Durant (top) all celebrate birthdays in the month of February.



## Summary of 2023 Outreach

St Peter's uses its resources to serve others through our outreach efforts. Funds are budgeted each year for this purpose, and additional offerings and gifts are made by the congregation. During 2023 our contributions included:

- Stepping Stone Mission: \$750, work hours by youth
- Helping Hands: \$830 plus office supply donations
- Phoebe Needles Center: \$750 plus many work hours
- Episcopal Relief and Development: \$1,208.46
- Ferrum Panther Packs: \$441.50
- Callaway Pack-a-Sack: \$441.50
- Boys' Home: \$300
- Christmas Families at Callaway and Ferrum Elementary Schools: \$671.54 plus a flood of gifts and supplies from congregation members

Thank you for your generous contributions, your prayers and your hours of support for these outreach efforts!



# News, Notes & Faces





## PRAYER LIST - February 2024

Peter Lustig  
Karl Hubbard  
Jennifer Claytor  
Kelley Beyer  
Teresa Atkins  
Amy Marsh  
Claiborne Miller Davis  
Billy DeHart  
Sandy Holden  
Fred Sloan  
Gene Herrick  
Carol Osborne  
Sara Bier  
Jaxon Akerman  
Ken Cullen  
Steve Swinehart  
Carol Ann Wade  
Helen Puckett

Linda Sigmon  
Debra Connolly  
Rob & Margie Wiltshire  
Larissa Feazell  
Cindy Swinehart  
Nancy Bradley  
Helen Campbell  
Dana Ellis  
Michael Riley  
Sam Campbell  
Jamie Stanley  
Linda Green  
Sandy Grice  
Corey Newcombe  
Tommy Dudley  
Bill & Jane Pohl

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.



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## SAINT PETER'S PRAYER & CARE TEAM

We include in the Prayers of the People each Sunday the names of those people in need of prayer who have made known to the church. As a way of keeping those names before us in prayer, we also have a Prayer Chain at Saint Peter's. This is a group of people who commit to praying for each person on our prayer list on a daily basis. The Prayer Chain updates the list, writing occasional notes to those in our prayers, and relaying needs that might be met by the congregation. The group may also meet occasionally for prayer and discussion.

Please contact Juanita Custer, our Prayer and Care Team coordinator, at [hodges\\_juanita@yahoo.com](mailto:hodges_juanita@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate.



## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Bishop:** Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas  
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**Senior Warden:** Maureen Roudabush

**Junior Warden:** Paul Simms

**Clerk:** Charlotte Hubbard

**Treasurer:** Andy Buckman  
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