



# The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake



The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Graduating Senior Sunday & Mothers' Day  
May 10, 2026  
8:30 AM & 10:30AM Holy Eucharist

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Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent; for this is the house of God.  
Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you;  
after the service (and during the peace) speak to one another.

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## Mother's Day & Graduating Senior Sunday

Today in the life of our parish and the larger community we give thanks for some of our many blessings. First, we are thankful for the love, guidance, and ministry of those we call 'mom'. As I remember my own blessed mother today, I can hear the words in my mind of our beloved Deacon Judy Cole. During the prayers of the people on this day she would always say a prayer that went something like this: "We give thanks today for the love and gifts of our mothers. Whether with us now, or with the saints in glory, we have been strengthened by their ministries, and we are thankful."



Second, we pause on this day to give thanks for those in our church who are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, the Military, and the EFM program. We pray for those who are taking those first steps beyond home, church, and community and are heading out to engage the larger world. Please let them know that they go with our continued prayers for a life of service, faith, and fulfillment. We're proud of all our graduates, and wish them godspeed as their journey through life continues.

Faithfully,

Father Ron

# The Liturgy of the Word

**PRELUDE** May God bless you during this time of quiet reflection and personal prayer.

**OPENING VOLUNTARY** *excerpt from Crown Imperial – William Walton*

**ENTRANCE** *God is Love, let heaven adore him*

**Hymnal 379**

**EASTER ACCLAMATION**

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**The Collect for Purity**

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**8:30 am:** *Celebrant:* Lord have mercy **BCP Pg. 356**

*People:* **Christ have mercy**

*Celebrant:* Lord have mercy

**The Gloria (10:30 am)**

**Hymnal S 280**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, Amen

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

*Reader:* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles .

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 66:7-10, 14-16, 18

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;  
8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

## The Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22

*Reader:* A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sequence Hymn:** *My song is love unknown* – (stanzas 1, 2, 7)

**Hymnal 458**

**The Gospel** (*standing*)

**John 14:15-21**

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

8:30AM Joe & Jacob Hamby

10:30am Ethan Graham & Freya Gustis

**The Nicene Creed** (*standing*)

**BCP pg. 358**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

### **The Prayers of the People Form IV**

**BCP pg. 387**

*(said responsively by celebrant and congregation)*

Deacon or other leader: *Let us pray for the Church and for the world.*  
*Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.* *Silence*

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

*Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.* *Silence*

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

*We pray for all indigenous people, especially the Cherokee and Catawba nations, that in bonds of kinship and strength we may be good stewards of God's creation.* *Silence*

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

*Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.* *Silence*

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

*For all young people, growing in the faith of Christ, and passing it on to generations yet to come.* *Silence*

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

*Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Silence*

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

*We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Silence*

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **Confession and Absolution**

**BCP pg. 360**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Leader and People:*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## Announcements

### The Liturgy of the Table

**The Offertory**      *Is He Worthy? – arr. Daniel Semsén*

Greta Gustis, soloist

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do.)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do.)  
But do you know that all the dark won't  
Stop the light from getting through? (We do.)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.)

Is all creation groaning? (It is.)  
Is a new creation coming? (It is.)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is.)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is.)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,  
He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? (He is)

Does the Father truly love us? (He does.)  
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does.)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? (He does.)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does.)

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? He is!

## At the Presentation

### Doxology

Hymnal 380, stanza 3

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### The Bidding Prayer

*Celebrant:* This is the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is made ready for all. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, You who have been here often and you who have not been here long, You who have tried to follow and those who struggle to find the path. Come, because it is God who invites you. It is God's will that those who desire to do so should meet God here.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

BCP pg. 367

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Preface of the day.)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS

S - 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*The people kneel or sit.*

**Celebrant:** We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,  
 We proclaim his resurrection,  
 We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant:* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People:*           **AMEN.**

**Danish 3-fold (10:30)** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 364**

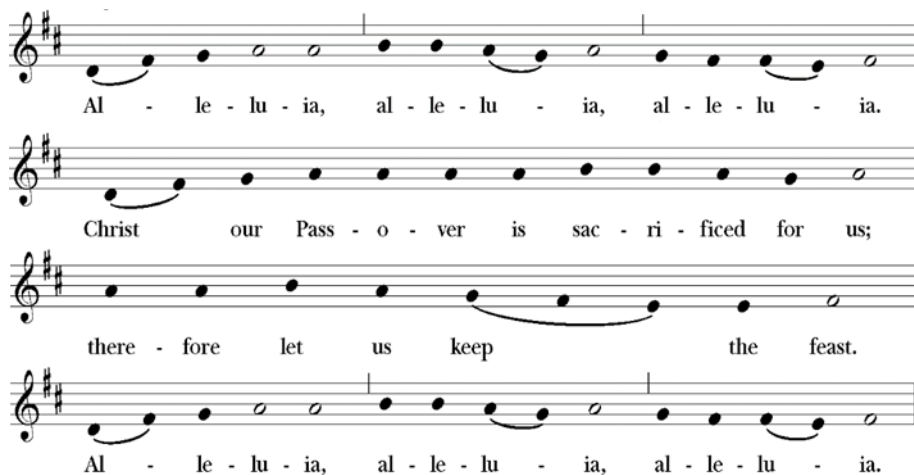
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People:*       **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## The Fraction Anthem



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Administration of the Sacrament

### Communion of the People

Communion Hymn *Great is thy faithfulness*

Songbook 30-31

Post Communion Prayer (Celebrant and People)

BCP pg. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Blessing

Sending Hymn:

*Love divine, all love excelling*

Hymnal 657

Easter Dismissal

BCP pg. 340

*Celebrant:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*People:* **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Closing Voluntary:

excerpt from *Crown Imperial* – William Walton

## **SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS**

**CENTERING PRAYER** 10AM, Meets downstairs every Wed. Please join us!

**COFFEE HOUR** Sign up in Fotinos Hall or call the office.

**MUSIC MINISTRY: Chancel Choir** rehearsals, Wednesday 7PM in the Nave until 5/13.

**Handbell Choir** rehearsals are taking a break for the summer.

**SUMMER CHOIR** During the summer months, we will assemble a Gathering Choir each Sunday at 9:45AM beginning on May 24 to learn an easy-to-sing anthem for that same Sunday. Think of it as a Flash Mob Choir! Children and Youth are welcome too! Questions – Contact David Wilcox music@spbtl.com.

**COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY** Gather in Fr. Ron's office at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for a relaxed, casual conversation based on questions you may have regarding faith, church, and society. We hope you can join us!

**SPBTL Theater Group** The Green Room Theater 2026 Season

Sundays at 3:00 p.m. w/lunch \$16.00/ticket

\$10.00/person lunch at 12:15 p.m. in Furr Hall

- Four Old Broads 6/21/26

All are welcomed. If you have not participated in the past, please join us for good food, fellowship, and entertainment. Contact Cathy Littlejohn @ 704-650-4947 with any questions.

**East Lincoln Community Chorus and Orchestra**

June 25 & 26 | 7:00 PM and June 28 | 3:00 PM

North Lincoln High School Auditorium

Honoring the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of independence on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.

**Vision Board Night** This month, we are excited to host our Vision Board event on Thursday, May 14th, at 7 PM. Please bring along some magazines and your vision for your boards. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join in on the fun. \*Light refreshments will be provided. EYC had some recent fun with Vision Boards - *Check out Fr. Ron's on his office door!*

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**—Join us TODAY after each service. The men of the parish will host breakfast for us in honor of all the Moms!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** --- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 5/17/26:

**8:30 AM**

*Chalice Bearer*—Jennifer Baker  
*Ushers* - Cathy Melesh  
*Acolytes* - Cathy Hiney  
*Reader* - Cathy Melesh

**10:30 AM**

*Chalice Bearers*— Beckye Smith, Diana Mushill  
*Ushers* - Dick Lunney, Gra Wagner  
*Acolytes* - Beckett Rinkus, Greta Gustis  
*Reader*—Daphne Wagner  
*LLR*— Cyndi Jarvis  
*Livestream* - Bill Reid, Beth Lunney

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Chris and Laura Thornhill in celebration of their 34th wedding anniversary and to honor all the ladies of St. Peter's on Mother's Day.*

Scan the QR Code with your phone — this will take you directly to St. Peter's gift entry screen.



**Please use the "NOTE" field to indicate where the gift is to be directed (pledge, tithe, flowers, etc.)**

March YTD	Actual	Budget	Variance YTD
Revenue	\$111,546	\$119,957	-\$8,412
Expenses	\$123,000	\$119,957	-\$3,043
Net Total	-\$11,455	\$0	-\$11,455

Notes:  
 - Contributions given for support clergy are excluded from Revenue since non-budgeted  
 - Paid in full annual pledge contributions received are pro-rated for YTD Revenue

# CONGRATULATIONS!



## High School Graduates

**Andrew Anzalone** is graduating from East Lincoln high school. He will be attending NC State in the fall.

**Makenna Garrett** is graduating from East Lincoln High School and plans to continue her education at Gaston College with a view to becoming a medical or dental technician.

**Ethan Graham** is graduating from North Lincoln High School and will be attending Western Carolina University in the fall, studying Business Administration and Law.

**Freya May Gustis** will be graduating from North Lincoln High School. She will be attending Furman University in the fall and majoring in business administration with minors in international business and sustainability science

**Jacob and Joseph Hamby** are graduating from East Lincoln High School and both are going into the Fire Service.

## College Graduates

**Caroline Clements** graduates from Auburn and will have her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

**Ijeoma Eziri** is graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Health and Societies / Finance.

**Morgan McPeak** is graduating from US Navy flight school and will be flying Helicopters.

**Bailey Nicole Parton** will be graduating from University of Colorado Anschutz Medical with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Magna Cum Laude.

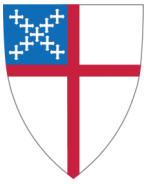
**Joseph Plyler** graduated from UNCC in December with a degree in business analytics. He also graduated from US Coast Guard training center this spring and is now *Seaman Joseph Plyler* stationed at Coast Guard station Key West.



## EFM (EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY)

**Stephanie Heil**  
**Frances Smith**





## **The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake**

8433 Fairfield Forest

Denver, North Carolina 28037 (704-483-3460)

<https://www.saintpeterbythelake.net/>

### **Jesus Christ, Head of the Church**

**Ministers:** All members of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, **Bishop**

**Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

**Assisting Priest:** The Rev. Nick McDonald

**Christian Formation Director:** Ginia Edwards

**Director of Music:** David Wilcox

**Director of Music Emeritus:** Leigh Ann Johnston

**Licensed Lay Reader:** Libby Motto

**Ushers:** Mike & Angela Matousek, Diana Mushill, Roger Simpson

**Chalice Bearers:** Michele Moss, Scott Major, Mary Sansbury

**Acolytes:** Michele Moss, Audrey Prouty, Ethan Graham

**Readers:** Libby Willis, Freya Gustis

**Altar Guild Team 2–** Jill McPeak, Betsy Clements, Marge Fairbanks, Cathy Melesh,  
Michele Moss, Karen Taylor, Claire and Bob Tracy, Diana Mushill, Rene Sliwoski,  
Tricia Wagner

**Livestream Tech:** Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman

**Coffee Hour: Mothers' Day Brunch**

### **THE VESTRY**

**Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil**

**Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury**

Tracey Engel, Pat Higbie, Steve Hiney,  
Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Michelle  
Moss, John Stewart

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner

### **THE STAFF**

**The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Taylor, Rector**

canismajorm41@yahoo.com

**The Rev. Nick McDonald, Assisting Priest**

nickmcd@spbtl.com

**Ginia Edwards, Director of Christian Formation**

gedwards@spbtl.com

**David Wilcox, Director of Music**

music@spbtl.com

**Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator**

kate@spbtl.com

**Sherree Brady, Finance Administrator**

financeadmin@spbtl.com

**Jim Heil, Treasurer**

jheil164@yahoo.com

### ***MISSION STATEMENT:***

***BE DISCIPLES:***

***ENGAGE THE WORLD***

