



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



The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026
8:30 AM & 10:30AM Holy Eucharist

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.

Welcome Back Sunday 2026

Here at St. Peter by-the-Lake, Welcome Back Sunday is our annual call to recommit ourselves to the Christian disciplines of worship, formation, and service. And the Gospel lesson for this day reminds us of Jesus' call for his followers to be people who forgive others as we have been forgiven. Jesus speaks of this discipline in the prayer that he taught those first believers, the same prayer we pray every Sunday: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

There's a true story from the days of the Civil Rights movement that makes the point clearly. A young African-American elementary school student named Ruby was being escorted to school by U.S. Marshalls during the time of school integration. This young girl was continually yelled at and spit at by angry people filled with bigotry and hatred. The Marshalls made sure she was physically safe, but the toll on her spirit and psyche must have been tremendous. A psychologist was assigned to try and help her get through this difficult time. But the psychologist was puzzled because through it all, Ruby slept through the night. She didn't have nightmares. Her eating habits did not change, her appetite seemed unaffected. Ruby would always answer that she was just fine. One day, the psychologist noticed that as she was walking through the angry mob Ruby looked as if she was talking to herself. The doctor asked her what she was saying as she walked past that line of angry people. She told him, "I say, Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing."

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Choral Prelude on Rhosymedre* - Ralph Vaughan Williams

ENTRANCE *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Songbook 7

GENERAL ACCLAMATION

BCP pg. 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

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, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 14:19-31

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114



1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in

honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *The Gift of Love*

Songbook 71

The Gospel (*standing*)

Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave

you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Kid Chat Children's Sermon

Kingdom Kids dismissal

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

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.

God of peace and mercy, on this anniversary of September 11th, we lift up the souls who perished that day. Comfort their families and friends. Help us to mourn alongside them with a constant compassion that can only be rooted in You. May we look to the first responders that day to inspire us to live bravely and courageously, and to selflessly protect others in need. Having seen the face of evil and darkness, may we be steadfast and faithful in pursuing justice, freedom, and peace. *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 *When We Are Living*

Songbook 167

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. Amen.

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 C)

BCP pg. 369

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: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned

against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People: **We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rachel, and Rebekah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Celebrant and People: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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

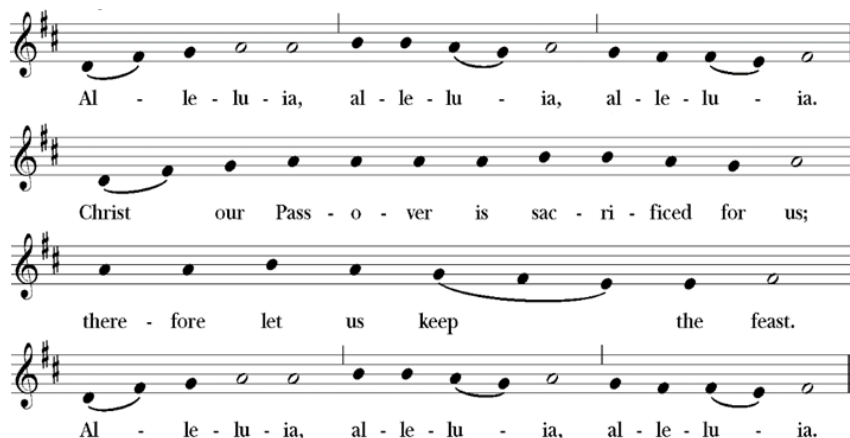
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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



Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn *As we gather at your table*

Songbook 132

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: *Go Forth for God*

Songbook 79

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Prelude in F – J.S. Bach*

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Betsy Clements in honor of Caroline's birthday. Happy (extended) Birthday Caroline ~ keep on celebrating! So very proud of you.

SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS

CENTERING PRAYER 10AM, Meets in the parlor every Wed. Please join us!

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

MUSIC MINISTRY: **Chancel Choir** practice resumes Sept. 9th at 7pm and **Handbell Choir** rehearsals resume September 23rd at 6pm

REGISTER NOW FOR VALLE CRUCIS!! DON'T WAIT, You don't want to miss out!

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register. Or visit our website and look under 'CHRISTIAN FORMATION' and click 'VALLE CRUCIS REGISTRATION' Or Fill out a hard copy form found in Fotinos Hall! There is even one on the next page!! We make it SO easy for you! Questions about the Parish Retreat Weekend? See Matt or Jessica Gustis, or Fr. Ron.

The Bishop's Cup Returns! The 3rd Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, Oct 1st at Springdale Golf Resort in Cruso, NC. Churches and local businesses are invited to sponsor teams to compete in this Captain's Choice tournament for cash prizes as well as individual prizes. All proceeds from the Bishop's Cup golf tournament support the non-profit programs and ministries of Lake Logan's Retreat Center, Camp Henry, and the Outdoor School. Want to Sponsor the Bishop's Cup? Register your church or business today by visiting www.lakelogan/events.

BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM Happy fall everyone! It is time for St. Peter's food backpacking to start! The food program provides food for food challenged students at St. James elementary in Denver and G.E. Massy Elementary in Lincolnton. We meet once a month. There are three ways to help, come and pack the bags, buy needed food items and bring them to church or delivery of the food bags to the schools. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Cathy Hiney (chiney557@gmail.com) or Helen Lungwitz (helenc117@gmail.com). Thank you so much!

Jean Hatley 90th Birthday Celebration Please join us as we celebrate Jean's 90th birthday! All are welcome to help celebrate this special milestone as Jean is surrounded by family, friends, and her church family. Saturday October 10th at 2:00 pm in Furr Hall. Please RSVP by 10/1 to Lindsay Hatley (text)980-429-8636 or email Lindsm79@yahoo.com so they can plan accordingly.

CPR Classes at SPBTL The Mission Outreach Team will be hosting CPR classes on November 7th. These classes are fundraisers for a local non-profit organization called “Eyes of Ian Project”. For background, in 2011, Ian Maddox was an 8yr old student at Pumpkin Center who died because he didn’t get CPR quickly enough. So Lincoln County residents Kevin Johnson and his wife started “Eyes of Ian Project”.

The project supports a group of American Heart Association instructors who volunteer their time to offer classes for staff at all Lincoln County Schools. The course offering is free of cost for the school system. Staff are taught and demonstrate proper technique in performing compressions, giving breaths, using an AED, and choking prevention. Upon completion, staff are certified in Basic Life Support Skills.

To offset costs, Kevin and his wife offer an abbreviated (non-certification) class to community organizations such as churches, businesses, and scouts groups at a nominal fee/donation of \$10/person. These are the classes to be offered at SPBTL on November 7th. Two hour-long classes will be held, one at 2pm and another at 3pm. Each class has a maximum of 15 participants. If you are interested, sign up ASAP using this link [CLICK HERE](#) Or Contact Pat Racz or Kate at the office to sign you up. Please contact Pat Racz with any questions at pat.racz01@gmail.com or 704-748-3327.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don’t have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 9/20/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Cathy Melesh
Ushers - Chad Hamby
Acolytes - Michele Moss
Reader - Jennifer Baker

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers - Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs
Ushers - Frances Smith, Joe Anzalone
Acolytes - Bonnie Grant, Beckett Rinkus
Reader - Hope Paasch
LLR - Emeka Eziri
Livestream - Andy Halasz, Zach Edwards

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

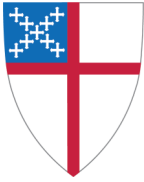


Please use the “NOTE” field to indicate where the gift is to be directed (pledge, tithe, flowers, etc.)

<u>July YTD</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance YTD</u>
Revenue	\$281,489	\$279,900	\$1,589
Expenses	\$287,951	\$279,900	-\$8,051
Net Total	-\$6,462	\$0	-\$6,462

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



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: Sherree Brady

Chalice Bearers: Michelle Moss, Patty & Patrick Duggan

Ushers: Ronnie Rudd, Mike Scaglione, Sheryn Fletcher

Acolytes: Libby Motto, Greta Gustis, Isabelle Dalton

Readers: Michele Moss, Elaine Jacobs

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: Beth Lunney, Walter Smith

Coffee Hour: Welcome Back Sunday Breakfast

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil

Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury

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

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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

