



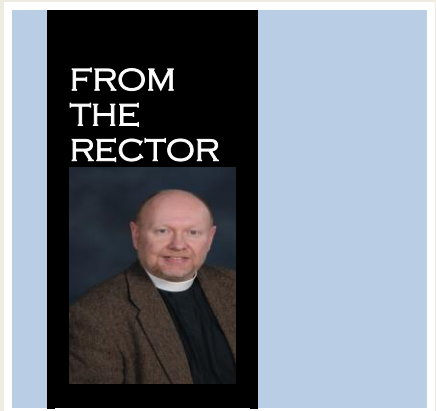
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- Page 2-3 From the Rector
Page 4-5 Lake Reflections ~ Fr. Nick
Page 6-7 Music Notes from David Wilcox
Page 8-9 Director of Christian Formation
Page 10 Mission & Vision
Page 11-13 Vestry Minutes
Page 14 SPBTL Theater Group/
Graduating Seniors
Page 15 Mission Outreach –Amy’s House
Page 16 Stewardship Corner
Page 17 Finance Message / Confirmation
Page 18 St. Peter’s Preschool
Page 19 Anniversaries & Birthdays
Page 20 Staff and Vestry

APRIL
2026

**THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
OF SAINT PETER BY-
THE-LAKE**
8433 Fairfield Forest Rd.
Denver, NC 28037
704-483-3460
www.saintpeterbythelake.net

My dear friends at St. Peter by-the-Lake, with Holy Week and Easter Sunday newly experienced once again, we understand that we live today in a Post-Resurrection world. This is a new reality where the Kingdom of God continues to break into this world and into our lives on a continual basis. The old has indeed passed away, all things are becoming new. In light of this joyous reality, let me share some words of wisdom from the 24th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Reverend Edmond Browning (1985-1997):



“The central message of the Resurrection is that God acts in our history to bring us redemption. This is a message of hope. It is the core of our mission and ministry.

Easter is a time to celebrate the new life won for us by Christ’s saving action. We recall that it was through Christ’s suffering and pain that new life was made available to us. New life required a radical termination of the old life. Jesus paid the price of suffering and pain so that the new life would be fully available to us. In a world filled with suffering and pain, this is a message of hope.

Easter is the time to celebrate the beginning of a new world. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ has transformed the way that we perceive the world. Yet sin, disease, oppression and hatred continue to rule in the lives of many. There are still many who have not been touched by the new world. The new world exists in the minds and hearts of people with faith. Jesus unlocks our minds and hearts, enabling us to reach out to that new world with confidence and love. To those locked in systems of oppression and dehumanization, this is a message of hope.

Easter is the time to celebrate a new pattern for living. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ did not usher in a strict code for human relations. The message of Jesus to his disciples in his Post-Resurrection appearances was not a moral code; it was a simple declaration: 'Fear Not.' The Resurrection of Jesus tells us not to be afraid in the midst of sometimes very frightening situations. This is also a message of hope.

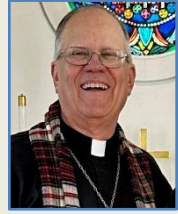
Easter addresses our fears, our pain, our future. The profoundly simple message of the Resurrection is one of hope. That hope is grounded in the fact that Jesus returned to life. In his risen body, he ate with his friends, walked with them on the road to Emmaus. He shared our humanity. To be alive on earth, to live freely, to experience fully human relationships is at the heart of the Gospel of hope that we proclaim. To those seeking a new life, to those struggling to throw off the chains of oppression, to those scarred by sin, we carry the Easter message of hope. The good news of Easter is the affirmation of life become real. Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!"

Faithfully,

Father Ron



Lake Reflections



from Fr. Nick

I love the Neo-Latin or Romance languages and looked forward to using my college Spanish on our recent trip to Portugal and Spain. I quickly learned that the local language changed quickly by region, and it was both confusing and discouraging. Not unlike the French people, local residents insisted on local pronunciation and dismissed those who didn't acknowledge the differences or at least try to respect them. Take for example, the word "City." In much of Spain, the word is "Ciudad" (SEE-you-dad). In Portugal, the word is "Cidade." In Barcelona, it is "Ciutat" and in Toledo, the Castilian dialect causes the letter "c" before "i" and "e" to become a "th" sound, so "City" is pronounced "Thee-you-dad."

In Eastertide, we'll soon hear the story of Saint Paul's preaching to the Athenians on Mars Hill at the Aeropagus. I'm fascinated that Paul is willing to meet the Athenian pagans where they are at their "Altar to the Unknown God." He gently acknowledges the local poets, local philosophers, and the local religion to make the case that their "Unknown God" is actually known by the Divine Name YaHWeH, and is the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all of life (Acts 17:22-31). "Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.'"

As we “proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ,” are we willing to meet folks where they are in our bid to invite them to a Bigger Table? Can we learn, respect, and value what they value to find common ground? Can we help them move from their “known” toward the “unknown” with patience and sound teaching? How can we create an atmosphere where inquirers will thankfully affirm, “We will hear you again about this.”?





Music Notes



Jesus Christ Is Risen Today - Alleluia!

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (Hymnal 1982 - #207) was titled "Surrexit Christus hodie," as a Bohemian hymn in the 14th century by an unknown author. All 11 stanzas were translated from Latin into English in 1708 by John Baptist Walsh to be included in his *Lyra Davidica* (Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns). In 1740 Charles Wesley added the 4th stanza of "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" as the final doxology as a Trinitarian praise focus.

"Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
 Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!"

A modified version was published in 1739 by John and Charles Wesley in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* under the title "Hymn for Easter Day." This version was later shortened and supplemented with the "Alleluia" refrain. Below are all 11 stanzas published by the Wesleys. It is worth reading each one thoughtfully. They are rich with biblical allusion and wonderful implications of Easter. "Loves Redeeming Work Is Done" (Hymnal 1982 #188) includes 3 of Wesley's stanzas (2, 4, 5).

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day,"
 Sons of Men and Angels say!
 Raise your Joys and Triumphs high,
 Sing ye Heav'ns, and Earth reply.

2. Love's Redeeming Work is done,
 Fought the Fight, the Battle won,
 Lo! our Sun's Eclipse is o'er,
 Lo! He sets in Blood no more.

3. Vain the Stone, the Watch, the Seal;
 Christ hath burst the Gates of Hell!
 Death in vain forbids his Rise:
 Christ hath open'd Paradise!

4. Lives again our glorious King,
 Where, O Death, is now thy Sting?
 Once He died our Souls to save,
 Where thy Victory, O Grave?

**5. Soar we now, where Christ has led,
Following our Exalted Head,
Made like Him, like Him we rise:
Ours the Cross; the Grave; the Skies.**

6. What tho' once we perish'd All,
Partners of our Parent's Fall,
Second Life we All receive,
In our Heav'nly Adam live.

7. Ris'n with Him, we upward move,
Still we seek the Things above,
Still pursue, and kiss the Son,
Seated on his Father's Throne;

8. Scarce on Earth a Thought bestow,
Dead to all we leave below,
Heav'n our Aim, and lov'd Abode,
Hid our Life with Christ in God!

9. Hid; 'till Christ our Life appear,
Glorious in his Members here:
Join'd to Him, we then shall shine
All Immortal, all Divine!

10. Hail the Lord of Earth and
Heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n:
Thee we greet Triumphant now;
Hail the Resurrection Thou!

11. King of Glory, Soul of Bliss,
Everlasting Life is This,
Thee to know, thy Pow'r to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love!

Blessings,
David





HELLO APRIL!

What a wonderfully vibrant month March turned out to be! Our Lenten series provided an inspiring vision of the individuals Jesus chose to share a table with and prompted us to consider who we should welcome to our own tables. It's about expanding our table, inviting everyone to join us in love, just as Jesus embraced those often overlooked. Our fish camp was an absolute delight, as we taught our younger disciples about Jesus and his companions, encouraging them to make the table even more inviting and expansive for future generations!

WOW, what an incredible Holy Week we experienced! So many moments reminded us of how our God sent His only Son to love, teach, and sacrifice Himself for us. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this week a success and for sharing the experience with friends and family. A special shoutout to those who assisted at our Easter hunt, helping to create a fun-filled event. Your efforts made a significant difference! As we move into April, new beginnings await us in the Formation corner. Below, you'll find details about a few upcoming events we'll be hosting.

CFEvents and Fellowship Social/Study circle

Over the next two months, we will be organizing a Garden Murder Mystery and a Vision Board Night. Be sure to keep an eye out for the dates and times so you can save the date for these exciting events!

What is a Kingdom Kids “Crew” Leader?

I'm thrilled you asked because it's one of the most fulfilling experiences you can have, because it's all about nurturing the spiritual faith of our “KIDS.”

Worried? Don't be! Here are some reassuring answers for you:

*You don't need to know the Bible “well enough.” Guess what? Neither do the kids! That's one of the perks of being a crew leader—you get to LEARN alongside them! When we uncover something new and interesting, it sparks curiosity and allows us to share in the excitement of discovering a new story.

*Unsure about teaching? You're in luck! I will be hosting a TRAINING DAY specifically for you to show how SIMPLE the lessons are and how to engage with these kids effectively! Stay tuned for the date and time!

VBS is Coming Soon!

VBS is just around the corner, & there's no better time to **mark your calendars** for this fun, family-friendly event!

Dates: July 20-23 We will host our annual VBS at the church, beginning with dinner followed by lessons and plenty of fun. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

Register online for this event & please let me know if you're interested in serving before, during, or after VBS!

St. Peter Preschool

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has generously volunteered their time and contributions to the preschool. I (G) would be delighted to give you a tour and share our vision and plans for this year and beyond. This journey wouldn't be possible without your support, and it's never too late to join us in making the preschool a thriving success!

Fisher of people ~G

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” *Matthew 4:19*

VISION OF ST. PETER BY-THE-LAKE

IN RESPONSE TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST'S MISSIONAL IMPERATIVE TO BAPTIZE AND TEACH ALL NATIONS....AND TO LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES: WE THE CLERGY, VESTRY, AND PEOPLE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER BY-THE-LAKE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

*WALK IN THE WAY (SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH WORSHIP, FORMATION, REPENTANCE & PRAYER)

*WIDEN THE WALLS (PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS BY WORD & EXAMPLE)

*WAKE UP THE WORLD (STRIVING FOR JUSTICE & PEACE. RESPECTING THE DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON)

MISSION OF ST. PETER BY-THE-LAKE

IN RESPONSE TO OUR PARISH VISION: THE MISSION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER BY-THE-LAKE IS TO: **BE DISCIPLES: ENGAGE THE WORLD**



NOTE FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Please be sure to schedule all reservations of the church facilities through the Parish Administrator so your events can be placed on the Church's main calendar. Thank you!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

OUR WEB ADDRESS IS: WWW.SAINTPETERBYTHELAKE.NET

CENTERING PRAYER

10AM on Wednesdays in the Parlor. We hope you will join in to pray together this "Prayer of the Heart".

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST. PETER BY-THE-LAKE

8:30AM Holy Eucharist
9:30AM Coffee with the Clergy
10:30AM Holy Eucharist

Vestry Minutes February 16, 2026

7PM – Meeting called to order

Vestry Members Present: Tracey Engel, Stephanie Heil, Pat Higbie, Steve Hiney, Connie Mathis, Michele Moss, Mary Sansbury, John Stewart

Clergy Present: Father Nick McDonald, Father Ron Taylor

Other Members Present: Jim Heil, Daphne Wagner

Opening Prayer: Father Ron Taylor

Discussion/Decision:

Minutes: Vestry approved January minutes.

January Financials: (Jim Heil)

- Considering our weather events, we are pleased with our financials this past month.
- Finances have been approved.
- Ginia mentioned that the Christian Formation Director has never had its own dedicated computer, and have used their personal computer, intermixing job and personal. This could be risky as the Christian Formation information goes away if the Director leaves. Ginia also mentioned she will have Pre-School information on it too. Both the Director of Church and the pre-school will have 2 tax identification numbers and resources that should not be shared. She suggested there should be separate computers for both the Christian Formation information and the Pre-School. Father Ron will have Kate order one for each.

As of January 28th - Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Revenues: \$39,715	\$39,986	-\$270
Total Expenses: \$41,252	\$39,986	\$1,266
Net Total: -\$1,537	\$0	-\$1,537

Senior Warden: (Stephanie Heil)

- Nothing to report.
- The carpet coming up in the sacristy is fixed.

Junior Warden: (Mary Sansbury)

- Mary mentioned that if anyone hears of something that needs to be addressed, please let her know.
- Mary spoke to Bill Reid and there has been talk about upgrading the camera system in the church. In the past they have worked

with Dan Gilbert (a retired military security person, whose expertise is in active shooters and things of that nature). With the Preschool opening in the fall we need all outside cameras and at exits upgraded and working. Mary will stay in touch with Bill to see how this project is moving along. Michele and Dave Moss are co-chairs of the parish safety and security team. If we could link all the cameras to the iPad, the ushers could carry around the iPad to see what is going on. Mary, Bill, Michele and Dave will work with Dan Gilbert. We are also working with Sheriff Beam as he is local, maybe he can do some instruction to ushers.

- The phone in the elevator is working. The guy came out and installed another new box and gave Kate instructions on how to hook it up. There is a DO NOT TOUCH sign on the white box that cannot be messed with.
- The crack in the wall above the Sacristy is vertical. We will need to call in an Engineer. Mary will reach out to Hickory Construction and meet them at the church.
- Hanson Mechanical seems to be a good resource for any HVAC repairs in the future.
- We have all lights in the Naïve replaced except for one. The two big ones are fixed.
- There was discussion about more lights needed in the parking lot. Mary will call Duke and find out how much it will be to possibly add two more poles.
- There was discussion that came out of the brotherhood meeting about a generator for the church, the brothers would donate the generator. We would need to make sure the electrical box will support it. It would have to be a large enough one to just run the kitchen.

Bishop's rescheduled visit/Sister Madeleine Mary: (Fr. Ron)

- Sister Madeleine will be here this weekend and will be staying in Denver. She will have an adult forum during Sunday School and will be preaching at both services. Father Ron and Karen will take her out to dinner and entertain her a bit. She is a wonderful person and just celebrated her 50th anniversary of her vows.

Upcoming Events/Schedules: (Father Ron):

- Sunday February 22nd, Sister Madeleines visit.

- Tuesday, February 17th, will be our Shrove Tuesday pancakes and sausage dinner from 5:30-7pm.
- Wednesday, February 18th our Ash Wednesday service with Holy Eucharist at 7pm with imposition of Ashes.
- Wednesday, February 25th, our Lenten series kicks off Wednesday nights instead of Thursday nights due to Choir practice and EFM. The Lenten supper series will run from February 25th to March 25th with supper at 6pm and the teaching series at 7pm. The kids' series is called Fish Camp and for the adults it's called a Bigger Table. The teaching series will be part video and part table discussions. It will end no later than 8pm
- Monday February 23rd at 7pm will be our next mtg of Brotherhood of St. Peters. Any male in the church over the age of 18 that agrees to live a simple rule of life is invited to join. Brotherhood is a spiritual group, like daughters of the King.
- Saturday, February 28th, Funeral services for Rosemary Gardner at noon.

Other Matters: (Father Ron)

- Alter Guild Director Pamela Weed decided to go back to wafers on Sunday Morning. Will do bread for special occasions, maybe 4 x a year.

Assisting Priest: (Fr Nick)

- Yesterday Father Nick had the privilege of getting the keys to the church.
- He mentioned that special servants are asking me for more direction, so Fr Nick will try to work and get better with that. He said he is still getting the "flavor of the church".

Closing Prayer: (Father Nick McDonald)

IF you would like a hard copy of the NET placed in your church mailbox every Month, please email the office. kate@spbt.com

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

- Having our Say - The Delaney Sister - 100 yrs
4/12/26
- The Wizard of Oz 5/3/26
- 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.

GRADUATING SENIORS

Graduating Seniors Sunday will be on May 10th.

Please contact the church office if you have a member of the parish graduating this year from high school, college, or beyond. Please let us know where you're graduating from and your future plans. Contact Kate at kate@spbtl.com ASAP with name and details.



FOCUS ON MISSION - OUTREACH TEAM

*And do not neglect doing good and sharing;
for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews*

Mission



Outreach

A monthly highlight of organizations we support with our Time, Talent & Treasure.

AMY'S HOUSE

Hello from your Mission Outreach team. Many of you know who we support in the local community and beyond, and we remain grateful for your continued generosity.

This month we would like to highlight our support for Amy's House, a vital local ministry whose exact location remains undisclosed for the safety of those it serves.

Amy's House is operated by the Lincoln County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and provides emergency shelter and comprehensive support services to survivors of domestic violence and their children. In addition to safe housing, the program offers counseling, legal advocacy, parenting classes, job readiness support, and referrals designed to help families heal, regain stability, and plan for a future free from violence.

Housing may be provided for a few days or for extended stays of up to 90 days, depending on individual needs. Services are available 24/7 to victimized residents of Lincoln County.


Click here for more information: <https://lincolncounty-cadv.org/amys-house/>.


You can find hard copies of SPBTL Support Applications in the Mission Outreach mailbox in Fotinos Hall, or you may drop a note in Libby Motto's mailbox and Mission Outreach will reach out to you to see how Mission Outreach may help an organization that you support.


THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER


I've always felt that Peggy Lee's 1969 song "Is That All There Is?" was a downer. The thought that life's experiences rarely live up to our expectations is a depressing point of view. At life's end, we should be grateful for all that we have accomplished, loved, experienced, and done for others, right?


God entrusted mankind (and womankind) to faithfully manage all of His creation. Doing anything to better our planet, be it trash cleanup, reducing pollution, or recycling/upcycling resources, feels good. Wise

management of resources:  Jesus modeled service to others by humbling Himself to wash their feet. Participating in any of St. Peter by-the-Lake's Outreach Ministries feels good. Using our time and

talents wisely:  Jesus invested his energy in relationships by guiding his disciples to carry on His mission. Mentoring others by sharing our knowledge to guide them feels good. Using our influence

to help others:  Jesus prioritized the marginalized. He loved the sick and needy. When we visit the elderly or bring food for a

parishioner with the Meal Train, it feels good. Service to others:  When we give financially to our church, our ministries, or to hurricane funds, we know our money is lifting others up, and it feels good.

Sharing our treasures: 

Stewardship isn't always easy because it calls for us to examine our priorities. To decide if we are truly managing God's blessings for His glory. The answer to Peggy Lee's question is NO! THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO LIFE! It feels good to live generously in all aspects of our lives. That is how we answer God's call to live as wise and faithful stewards.

Tricia Wagner
Stewardship Committee Member

From the Accounting Office:
A Reminder Regarding
Reimbursement Requests



- All requests for reimbursement must be pre-approved by the specific ministry chair and include the specific account number from which the disbursement is to be paid.
- Reimbursement request forms are available in the copy room left-side wall in the clear plastic letter file.
- Once completed, the forms can be returned to the same wall letter file or placed in the Finance Administrator's mailbox (located with the staff mailboxes).
- Submitted forms must be accompanied with their original receipts.
 - For online purchases, a printed copy of the online receipt is acceptable.
 - For all other purchases, the original paper receipt is required.
- Per audit requirements, all receipts must be itemized, clearly showing the vendor name, date of purchase, taxes & total costs.

Please contact Sherree Brady at financeadmin@spbtl.com if you have any questions. I can be reached by dropping by or calling the church office (704-483-3460, x104), or via email (financeadmin@spbtl.com).

RESCHEDULED again!
We're back on for a Sunday visit from the Bishop!



JUNE 7, 2026, at 10:30am
Bishop José ~ Confirmation



Join us in a special celebration as Bishop José visits our parish! It will be a joyous occasion of worship as he confirms and receives the latest members of our church family. Please stay for a luncheon following the service to welcome our newest Episcopalians and greet the Bishop.



MAKING FISHERS OF PEOPLE



Preschool

Donate new or gently used toys and supplies. Please reach out to G before making your donation!

We are looking for teachers, assistants, and substitutes. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please contact G.

Explore our wish list for items we need that you could contribute. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Ginia.

gedwards@spbt.com

Be a part of something special!
Help us create a nurturing and creative environment for our new preschool.



Check out our website:

WWW.SAINTPETERBYTHELAKE.NET/PRESCHOOL



APRIL

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 5 – Jason and Libby Barger | 18 – David & Lorraine Wiehagen |
| 9 – Jim & Ginny Pretty | 20 – Gamaliel & Christina Feneque |
| 13 – Scott & Charlene Callahan | 21 – Will and Claudia Crist |
| 15 – Matt & Terri McKnight | 22 – Jim & Eileen Kosmala |
| 17 – Patrick & Patty Duggan | 26 – Michael Cucinella & Lauren Adessa |
| 18 – David & Nancy Pittinaro | 30 – Gilbert & Beverly Moore |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 – Joanna Fletcher | 22 – Callie Berchem |
| 3 – Pearson Aebischer | 23 – Will Crist |
| 3 – Patty Duggan | 23 – Libby Motto |
| 4 – Sarah Ortner | 24 – Ginny Pretty |
| 6 – Hallie Shinn | 24 – Margie Lunney |
| 7 – Kim Beeker | 24 – Leigh Anne Wisham |
| 12 – Samantha Jarvis | 25 – Bonnie Grant |
| 13 – Nancy Pittinaro | 25 – Ken Halley |
| 14 – Elijah Feneque | 25 – Rosie Thyne |
| 14- Sheryn Fletcher | 26 – Catherine Maslow |
| 15 – Matt McKnight | 27 – Mary Sansbury |
| 15 – Michele Moss | 28 – Ethan Graham |
| 16 – Michelle Schmerge | 28 – Mack Rummage |
| 17 – Escher Griffin | 29 – Frank Herbst |
| 18 – Martha Parton | 30 – Drew Beeker |
| 19 – Mason Rudd | 30 – Isabelle Dalton |
| 20 – Victoria Jordan | 30 – Jessica Ireland |
| 20 – Abe Rummage | |

STAFF

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Ginia Edwards
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Sherree Brady
Finance Administrator
financeadmin@spbtl.com

Jim Heil, Treasurer
jheil164@yahoo.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil

Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury

Tracey Engel

Pat Higbie

Steve Hiney

Gary Jarvis

Connie Mathis

Michele Moss

John Stewart

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner