



# the **NET**

# NOVEMBER 2025

- Page 2-3 From the Rector
- Page 4-5 Music Notes from David Wilcox
- Page 6-8 Director of Christian Formation
- Page 9 Mission & Vision
- Page 10-11 Vestry Minutes
- Page 12 Advent Devotional
- Page 13 Altar Flowers 2026
- Page 14-15 Mission Outreach –  
Holiday Food Donations
- Page 16-17 Miscellaneous News
- Page 18 Stewardship Corner
- Page 19 Anniversaries & Birthdays
- Page 20 Staff and Vestry

**THE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
OF SAINT PETER BY-  
THE-LAKE  
8433 Fairfield Forest Rd.  
Denver, NC 28037  
704-483-3460  
[www.saintpeterbythelake.net](http://www.saintpeterbythelake.net)**

As I write this month's message I've just returned from two wonderful October retreats. The first was the annual clergy conference with Bishop Jose' and my sister and brother clergy from all around the diocese. We gather each October at the Lake Logan Episcopal Camp and Conference Center to renew ties and discuss important issues regarding our common life together in the Church. This year was one of the best of these gatherings. It was called simply 'Camp Clergy', and modeled after our own Camp Henry. We sang camp songs, celebrated evening prayer and the Holy Eucharist...and we also played. That's right, I said 'played'. All too often adults forget about the importance of play in our busy lives. At Camp Clergy we played kickball together and enjoyed the Camp Henry version of musical chairs that's called the 'Trash Can Lid' game. It's been awhile since I've laughed so hard! There was also built-in time for private prayer and reflection, as well as hiking. I had the opportunity to spend some quality time with Mother Tara as well, and she's doing great at All Saints in Gastonia.

## FROM THE RECTOR



The second was our annual parish retreat to Valle Crucis, just outside of Boone. And I have to say that this was one of the best retreats we've had in recent years. Almost sixty church members and friends came together at the Valle Crucis Inn and Conference Center. It was great to see the place full this year! We had folks staying in both the Inn and Annex. The atmosphere around the fireplace and the rockers on the back porch make ones blood pressure drop almost immediately. There was wonderful fellowship and sharing of stories (as always). The food was fantastic! Our icebreakers and intergenerational project on Saturday morning set the tone for a great weekend. We made decorative twine crosses overlaid on top of beautiful wood boards. I have mine in my study at home. Saturday afternoon

was spent at the Valle Country Fair just across the street, and was followed that night by our games and parish sing-along. When we sang 'The House of the Rising Sun' (one of my favorites)....well, if you know, you know. That was followed on Sunday morning with incredible worship in the Apple Barn, with music led by our St. Peter's Project. The Spirit of the Lord was deep and moving as we shared the bread and the wine of the Eucharist. This year we had a great group of twenty and thirty-somethings that helped make our weekend really special.

I want to thank Matt & Jessica Gustis, and their entire team for making this year's retreat an unforgettable experience. Next year's retreat is scheduled for October 9-11. Go ahead and get it on your calendar now. We'll start registration early again next year, not long after Easter. It really is a wonderful experience.

Faithfully,

Father Ron





## Music Notes



### I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

The subject matter of this hymn is anything but lightweight. In the history of our faith, saints have been ordinary people, sometimes as deeply flawed as ourselves, who have done extraordinary things, often under duress.

When her children asked, “Mama, what’s a saint?” Lesbia Scott (1898-1986), wife of an Anglican priest, combined her knowledge of church history with her penchant for religious drama and wrote the hymn “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.” In it, Scott provided six specific examples of people deemed worthy of the title “saint.”

The lyrics risk being lost on us:

*And one was doctor,  
And one was a queen,  
And one was a shepherdess on the green,  
And one was slain by a fierce wild beast,  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest...*

The doctor is St. Luke the Physician who wrote the books Luke and Acts, our greatest historical chronicles of Jesus and the early Church.

The queen is Margaret of Scotland, (c. 1045-1093). She devoted her life to prayer and action, feeding orphans, tending the poor, living simply. She advocated for enslaved prisoners and founded schools and hospitals.

The shepherdess on the green is Joan of Arc, (1412-1431), who went from peasant herder of sheep to savior of the French nation.

The saint killed by “a fierce wild beast” was Ignatius of Antioch, (c. 35-107). Both Joan and Ignatius died as martyrs for their faith. They also faced serious occasions of fear and doubt.

John Donne (1573-1631), after serving in Parliament, became an Anglican priest and was appointed Dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. We remember him most for his poetry. Donne’s most famous sonnet begins, “Death, be not proud, though some have called thee/ Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so.”

In order to teach her children Mrs. Scott’s motivation was not silly, sing-song rhymes. She chose her saints carefully. She selected remarkable Christians, but also those who were very human, with all the outer challenges and inner frailties faced by each of us.

It is not even with these great saints that “I sing a song of the saints of God” ends.

*They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still,  
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,  
Or in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,  
For the saints of God are just folk like me,*

***And... I mean to be one too!***

Blessings,

David



## A Remarkable October for SPBTL

What can I say but WOW! October has truly been an incredible month for SPBTL. We have been engaged with Bible studies, retreats, and a Fall Festival that turned out to be absolutely fantastic, all thanks to everyone's help and support! As we transition into the holiday season, CF is thrilled to begin planning new social events and studies that will have you eager to sign up and join in!

## CF EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL CIRCLE EVENTS!

### **Get Crafty This Holiday Season!**

Join me on November 15th for the **Christmas Craft-a-thon Outreach!** Starting at 1 PM, you'll learn how to create 3 to 4 festive crafts crafted by you. This event is designed for connection and fellowship among women in the church, and it's a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors into a joyful church environment.

We will be making **homemade gifts** that you can give, ensuring you have plenty of time to prepare for Christmas. It's the perfect way to get everyone in the festive spirit as we anticipate the holidays!

- A sign-up sheet will be available in **Fotinos Hall**.
  - There will be a **\$5.00 fee** to cover supplies.
- Grab a invitation next to the sign up sheet to hand to friends, family and neighbors.  
Come join the fun!

# Advent Festival

Speaking of the holiday season we are already preparing for our annual Advent Festival on December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00pm-7:30pm. This year we will be spending “A Night in Bethlehem” discovering the “little town” where our Savior was born and changed the world! With this event and any other event the CF puts on it is going to need help from the amazing parish. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fotinos for directions and how YOU can get involved in this magical night celebrating a time of wonder and hope!

## Whimsical Christmas Tea Party



Did you miss our Summer Tea Party? No need to worry! Join us on Dec. 19th starting at 5pm in Fotinos Hall for an evening of tea, snacks, and painting. This Fellowship Circle is a social event open to everyone—men, women, children, and youth alike!

## DISCOVER YOUR NEXT GREAT READ

Do you enjoy reading? Are you looking to dive into a book but unsure where to begin? Have you ever heard of “Blind Date with a Book?” If not, I have some exciting news! This fall at St. Peter’s, we will offer a selection of books for you to take home and enjoy. Each book will be wrapped, hiding the cover, but will feature a hint on the front indicating its genre. Take a chance and discover something new and inspiring with “Blind Date with a Book!”

\*If you have any books that you would like to share for the “Blind Date with Book” please drop those off in Fotinos at the CF board. Thank you!



# WHAT IS KINGDOM KIDS?

You may wonder, **What's Kingdom Kids?** I'm delighted to share! Kingdom Kids is an engaging time during the service for children in grades K-5, where they head downstairs for Sunday school, enjoying fun activities while learning about God's love and how to love like Him. Kingdom Kids takes place on Sundays during our **10:30 AM** service. Additionally, we offer nursery care in our Small Blessings room for infants to 4-year-olds

## SEEKING PASSIONATE INDIVIDUALS TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Do you enjoy working with children? Do you have a flair for decorating or a creative idea that could benefit our community and St. Peters? If you have some free time, then you might be just the person I'm looking for!

I aspire for our parish to grow not only spiritually but also physically, and I genuinely can't do it alone. I need assistance with:

- Teaching our kids
- Planning and executing events
- Building a team that cherishes their church, parish, and community

I am searching for passionate individuals—fishermen and disciples—to help expand God's family. If you're interested in any or all of these opportunities, please sign up in Fotinos Hall. I assure you, I will never overwork or overwhelm you.

### Fisher of Men

~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](http://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

**10:30AM** Holy Eucharist

**7:00 pm – Meeting called to order**

**Vestry Members Present:** Tracey Engel, Jessica Gustis, Pat Higbie, Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Bill Reid, Mary Sansbury, Pamela Weed

**Clergy Present:** Father Ron Taylor

**Other Members Present:** Jim Heil, Daphne Wagner

**Opening Prayer:** Father Ron Taylor

**Discussion/Decision:**

**Minutes:** Vestry approved August minutes as amended.

**August Financials: (Jim Heil):**

- Coming out of summer and for the month of August, our financials look very good.
- August financials approved by Vestry.

As of August 31 <sup>st</sup> ,	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD
Total Revenues:	\$ 38,343.21	\$ 39,364.15	\$ 1,020.94
Total Expenses:	\$ 38,976.32	\$ 44,008.51	\$ 5,032.19
Net Total:	(\$ 633.11)	(\$ 4,644.36)	(\$ 4,011.25)

**Junior Warden: (Jessica Gustis for Stephanie Heil)**

- Our fall parish workday went well with a lot of volunteers. The prayer path stones were completed; we trimmed tree limbs in front of the church and mailbox, the parlor bathroom ceiling tiles were replaced, the outdoor lights between Furr and Fotinos Hall were replaced, and many other things were accomplished.
- Our picnic tables need wood replaced on them. We have volunteers that have stepped up to do this.
- Ethan has completed the playground and the Eagle Scout project for the firepit is well underway.

**Senior Warden: (Jessica Gustis)**

- Not much to report, other than we don't have a decent vacuum in this building and really need one.

**Stewardship Campaign for 2025: (Father Ron Taylor)**

- October 5th is our kickoff for the 2026 annual stewardship campaign. Our theme is "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God". All Vestry members are asked to set an example by turning

in their pledge cards first publicly at both services. Any of you that will be present at announcement time are asked to come forward and put their pledges in the offering plate for all to see.

### **Upcoming Events/Schedules: (Father Ron):**

- Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm our piano recital and blessing dedication of the baby grand. David will be playing the piano and bringing in a guest organist. It will be a good concert.
- Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm we will have the funeral at the church for Liz Clark. It will be a small service.
- Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, Father Ron will be hosting Episcopal 101 from 5:30-7:30 pm.
- Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 8am Fairfield will have their clean-up with Creation Care.
- Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Father Ron has a wedding in Winston Salem.
- Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Father Ron is at Lake Logan at a Clergy conference with the bishop.
- Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> will be our church retreat at Valle Crucis.
- Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm Ginia will have the second annual fall festival. We need people to hand out candy more than anything.
- Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4pm will be our Diocese and Convention. This is only a one-day convention at Christ Episcopal school in Arden outside of Asheville. They are asking for two delegates from each parish.

### **Closing Prayer: (Father Ron Taylor)**

# Advent 2025



Advent Season will be starting in **a few weeks**, and we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ ..... We are starting preparations to publish **the 25th edition of the Advent Devotional** ..... and **we would really like to have you participate by writing a devotion about memorable past Christmases / traditions, Advent Season thoughts, and favorite scriptures.**



It is very special to participate in daily devotions during Advent and have the inspirational experience to enjoy a few words written by fellow St Peter parishioners. So please take a few moments and write a devotion .... it does not have to be long or a “Biblical Epistle” .... **just from you !** This year we would like to make an extra special request to **help your children write a devotion also!** **Devotions written by our youth are “special” and enriches our Advent experience.** Please complete and submit by November 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact us. **(704) 663-9004.**

*Jeanne & Bud Hawkins*

P.S. Please place devotion in our Church mailbox, or transmit via E-mail, word format to [budhawkins@charter.net](mailto:budhawkins@charter.net) ..... Thanks, in advance, for your support!

P.S. Continuing from last year .... We are also asking the SPBTL artistic community to create Nativity Artwork of various forms which will be included in this year's devotional .... (We are not looking for “Hallmark card art” .... Just productions Nativity scenes / Christmas artwork created by you or your family) .... artwork from your children are very special treasures to include and share with all.



# ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR THE YEAR 2026

The Altar Flower Calendar is available for sign-ups -we are going digital again this year! It is so easy to do...just click the link and you will be brought to the SignUp Genius page. [SIGN UP LINK](#)

**SIGN UP LINK** If you have trouble, just call Kate at the office (704-483-3460) and she can sign you up!

Giving altar flowers is a beautiful way to celebrate or remember loved ones and it is easy to do! Simply choose a date to give flowers or greenery (greenery is for Advent and Lent).

Kate D'Amato, our Parish Administrator, will send you a reminder just prior to your chosen date. There are many ways to give your donation – PayPal, Tith.ly, check or cash. Your check should be written for \$35.00 to *St. Peter's Altar Guild - Flowers*

Your flowers must be picked up from an Altar Guild member after the 10:30 AM Service. If you do not pick them up, they will be donated or given to the homebound, nursing home, etc. We do recycle the plastic containers, so please turn them into the office. Our florist is Bill Walker of Lake Norman Flowers and Gifts. If you wish to choose a larger, more expensive arrangement or request a special color, please call Ann Bowden or Brandy Rudd instead of Lake Norman Flowers.

In addition to our Flower Calendar, everyone is invited to join together, giving any dollar amount, toward our Christmas and Easter altar arrangements. Money in excess of the actual flower cost is given to our Rector's Benevolent Fund. Special flyers are printed for these Holidays.

We hope you'll choose a Sunday to give flowers to the Glory of God. Let's fill in our Year 2026 Flower Calendar quickly!

Thank you for your wonderful support!





# FOCUS ON MISSION - OUTREACH TEAM

*And do not neglect doing good and sharing;  
for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16*

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

## Holiday Food Donations

*Hello from your Mission Outreach team. Many of you know who we support in the local community and beyond. We invite the opportunity to add other local, national, and international 501(c)3's and other types of charitable initiatives of interest to any of our parishioners.*

This month we would like to highlight our support for **Holiday Food Donations** that Pat and Patty Duggan have spearheaded for many years here at St. Peters. With the help of many donations and volunteer-parishioners, Pat and Patty (this year, along with Carmen Hatley and the Backpack Ministry) see to it that generous boxes of food and provisions are packed and delivered to those in need in the local area.

In a change from our usual Thanksgiving food collection, this year we will support the backpack program as they will be **feeding 18 children** for weeks at a time during the holidays.

Two ways you can help -- simply **purchase some of the items** listed below. Bring to Fotinos Hall and place in the boxes by NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>. We will keep track of what is needed and keep you all updated.

OR -- simply **donate money** towards the Backpack Program and they will do the shopping for you. If you write a check you must put BACKPACK PROGRAM in the memo. Or put cash in an envelope with Backpack on the outside - drop either in Kate's mailbox or the Sunday collection basket.

**LIST OF NECESSARY ITEMS**  
**(we are specific for consistency sake)**  
**Updated 10/30**

- 15 plastic jars of jelly (30 oz)
- 9 plastic jars of jelly (20 oz)
- 50 Chunky Beef Soup (18 oz)
- 42 Chunky Chicken Soup (18 oz)
- 36 Boxes of Saltines
- 61 boxes Mac & Cheese
- 54 jars (plastic please) pasta sauce
- 50 boxes of pasta
- 78 Cans green beans (15 oz)
- 62 Cans corn (15 oz)
- 89 Cans peas (15 oz)
- 36 jars (plastic) Applesauce
- 51 Cans peaches (15 0z)
- 54 cans mixed fruit (15 oz)
- 54 Cans pears (15 oz)
- 108 packs of Poptarts
- 72 Individual envelopes instant grits
- 92 individual envelopes instant oatmeal
- 41 cans Chef Boyardee (15 0z.)

***EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS! THANK YOU FOR ALL THE  
DONATIONS THUS FAR. IT TAKES A VILLAGE.***

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

EAST LINCOLN COMMUNITY CHORUS

PRESENTS

# GLOW

DEC 4 + 5 | 7:00 PM

DEC 6 | 4:00 PM

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
8210 UNITY CHURCH ROAD  
DENVER, NC 28037

FREE ADMISSION | DONATIONS WELCOME

[WWW.ELCCSINGS.COM](http://WWW.ELCCSINGS.COM)



## SAVE THE DATES:

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – All Saints Day Services

November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Commitment Sunday

November 27<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day Service 9am

December 7th – Advent Festival 5-7:30pm

December 14th – Lessons & Carols 10:30am service

# Check Disbursement Requests Submission Deadline for 2025

All requests for disbursement of various ministry funds, as well as personal reimbursement requests for 2025, must be received by the Finance Office **no later than November 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Requests received after this date will be processed in 2026.

All requests must be pre-approved by the specific ministry fund owner 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 should you need them.



Please contact Sherree Brady at [financeadmin@spbtl.com](mailto:financeadmin@spbtl.com) if you have any questions.



## ALTAR GUILD

## DINNER/MEETING

November 16, 2025 at 6pm

Fotinos Hall



# THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER

## STEWARDS of our FAITH

Imagine a gathering, a party of sorts, where you could meet ALL your ancestors in one place. Parents, grandparents, great-grandparents... all the way back to the beginning of time to meet your very first ancestor who accepted Christ and became a Christian. Imagine that early ancestor looking at the massive line of descendants who are now believers because of that decision. Wow!

Look around. Every single person at St. Peter-by-the-Lake is here today because someone in our lineage decided to follow Christ. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before us, who passed their faith down to the next generation. Now it is our responsibility to continue raising children in the way of the Lord. If not, we become the weakest link. Who wants to be known for breaking that long chain of believers?

We must guard our faith, stay strong in our faith, and pass it on to our children, our nieces, our nephews - the next generation, so that all can claim a seat at The Table. **We must be stewards of our faith.**

As adults, we instill values in our young and teach them to become good people. We show by example how to serve others. We offer guidance in obtaining an education and becoming contributing members of society. But what is all that compared to walking alongside children on their faith journey? As stewards of our faith, we can honor God by raising the next generation to know Him.

*“You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*

~ Deuteronomy 6:7

Faithfully,

Tricia Wagner  
Stewardship Committee Member

# NOVEMBER

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1 – Bob and Claire Tracy	24 – Catherine and Steve Hiney
3 – Chad and Katie Hamby	24 – Richard and Pat Wilson
8 – Larry and Anne Sweet	25 – Hal and Claudia Shinn
15 – Elaine Jacobs and Hope Pasch	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 – Andrew Anzalone	17 – Tatum Robinson
2 – Marissa Duck	17 – Walter Smith
2 – Nick McDonald	18 – Bill Gonzales
2 – John Stewart	18 – Butch Yarbrough
6 – Tara Barta	19 – David Matousek
6 – Porter Ridlehoover	20 – Ryan Grant
8 – Kelechi Eziri	20 – Weston Smith
8 – Rachel Cartee	22 – Josette Anzalone
9 – Eli Readling	22 – Michael Logan
9 – Julia Williams	23 – Emily Gentry
10 – Robert Villegas	23 – Skylar Ajello
10 – Michelle Stewart	23 – Christopher Ajello
12 – Claudia Crist	24 – Charles Johnson
13 – Rodney Pressley	24 – Linda Thyne
14 – Katharine Horne O'Connor	24 – Pat Wilson
15 – Tom Reinken	25 – Jim Kosmala
15 – Mark Sliwoski	27 – William Shelnett
16 – Lauren Engel	28 – Rebecca Smith
16 – Conrad Wease	29 – Caroline Dalton
	30 – Kay Herring

# STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Taylor, Rector**  
704-618-7213 (cell)  
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# VESTRY

*Senior Warden* – Jessica Gustis  
*Junior Warden* – Stephanie Heil

Tracey Engel

Pat Higbie

Gary Jarvis

Connie Mathis

Bill Reid

Mary Sansbury

Pamela Weed

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner