



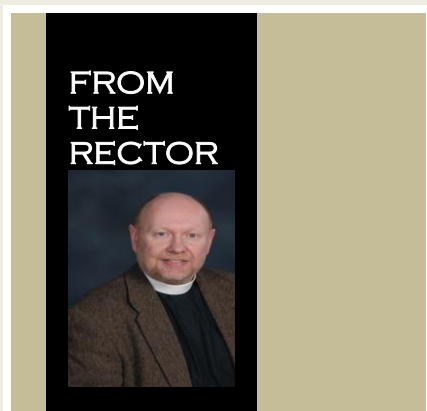
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OCTOBER 2025

THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
OF SAINT PETER BY-
THE-LAKE
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Denver, NC 28037
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www.saintpeterbythelake.net

Here at St. Peter by-the-Lake, the months of October and November are filled with lots of spiritual activity. We enjoy and benefit from a variety of bible and book studies, the parish retreat to Valle Crucis, the Fall Festival, diocesan convention, weekly celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, and Thanksgiving.



This is also the time when together we embark on our journey to seek the ministry funding of 'time, talent, and treasure' for the upcoming year. It's always a time to remember and celebrate all the ministry that together we have rendered to God's glory, and to continue to build on foundations that have been here for over 50 years.

Our 'theme' this year comes directly from the words of the Prophet Micah from the Hebrew Scriptures. When asked what the Lord requires from God's people, Micah is very straightforward. We are to 'do' justice, to 'love' mercy, and to 'walk' with humility in relationship to God and neighbor.

Doing justice includes many of the ministries that spring forth from St. Peter's. Our work with the Answered Prayers ministry with St. Mark's in Gastonia to help with the needs of the unhoused. It includes feeding those in need through the Corner Table Soup Kitchen in Newton and in helping to shelter the unhoused at the Hesed House of Hope in Lincolnnton. It means supporting through donations and volunteer hours the East Lincoln Christian Ministries here in Denver. It means filling backpacks with food for hungry children. It means working with our Creation Care team to recycle and to help keep Fairfield Forest Road clear of garbage. It means welcoming the stranger,

the outcast, the foreigner, the hurting in our midst. These are just a few examples. There are many more.

To love mercy is to understand that all of use have fallen short in our relationships with God and our neighbors, that no one is perfect save Christ. It means extending grace and forgiveness to others as the same has been given to us in our lives.

Walking with humility is understanding that giving back is for the follower of Jesus a way of life. We don't do it for attention or accolades, we give out of our deep thankfulness for all that God has given us in our lives. All of the words from Micah's passage talk about 'action': Do justice – love mercy – walk humbly. Every health professional will tell us that movement is vital to human health throughout our lives. When we stop moving, health suffers and the body and mind begin to atrophy. The very same is true in our religious and spiritual lives. Faith increases as faith is exercised. It's kind of like a muscle. If one does not use it, it atrophies. But using it causes it to strengthen every day. Faith begets faith.

This fall, I encourage everyone at St. Peter by-the-Lake to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your gifts back to God through the ministrations of the Church. Then take the next step and turn in your pledge and time/talent information. Every kind of gift, to matter how large or small, is vital to the movement and health of the Church in this corner of God's Kingdom.

Thanks so much! And may God continue to bless us as we journey in faith together.

Faithfully,

Father Ron





Music Notes



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16 (NRSV)

Piano Dedicatory Recital

I want to express my appreciation to Kathryn Graham, Troy Keeney, Diana Stone, Margaret Walters and Kevin Haney who joined me September 19, to present a recital to dedicate the Boston Grand Piano. Thank you all for your gifts to purchase the piano and support by the 70 folks who attended the recital. I envision the possibility to revitalize a concert series at St. Peter by-the-Lake.

Lessons and Carols Festival Choir

Seasonal Singers (youth and adults) are welcome to join the Chancel Choir for our Lessons and Carols Service Sunday, December 14, at 10:30 am. Rehearsals for this service will begin Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 pm in the Nave. Please contact me if you are interested or have questions.

The New Coventry Psalter

The choir introduced a new "TONE" from the Coventry Psalter for the Psalm. I encourage the congregation to join with the choir in chanting the Psalm. The TONE has 4 measures with 8 tones.

For example by half verse:

(vs. 1) Sing text (By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept) on the first tone and change to the second tone on an underlined word “wept”

(vs.2) Sing text (As for our harps, we hung them) on the third tone and change to the fourth tone on the underlined word “land”...



Psalm 137

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, *
when we remembered you, O Zion.
- 2 As for our harps, we hung them up *
on the trees in the midst of that land.

Please feel to ask me to show you how this works.

Blessings,

David





Falling in LOVE with Fall
at SPBTL!

October Activities at SPBTL

October is an eventful month at SPBTL! We are excited to kick off our inaugural Fellowship Bible Study on Wednesday, October 1st, from 6 to 7 PM in the City Room located downstairs.

Study Focus

We will be exploring the book *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton. Together, we will examine simple phrases that sound Christian—much like something you might find in the Bible. While they hold elements of truth, they also miss the mark in significant ways. Join us on this journey to discover the whole truth as we compare common Christian sayings with the wisdom revealed in Scripture.

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.

Valle Crucis

Annual Parish Retreat in the Mountains

We are excited for **October 17-19** as the parish gathers for our annual retreat in the mountains! We are thrilled to share this time of relaxation, fellowship, and the opportunity to meet new friends. This year, we will also have the chance to enjoy the county fair, participate in some crafts, and witness the stunning beauty of God's landscape as it transforms with vibrant colors.

CFEvents! CHRISTIAN FORMATION EVENTS THIS FALL

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 a Book" please drop those off in Fotinos at the CF board. Thank you!



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

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, Stephanie Heil, Pat Higbie, Connie Mathis, Bill Reid, Mary Sansbury,

Clergy Present: Father Ron Taylor

Other Members Present: Jim Heil, Daphne Wagner

Opening Prayer: Father Ron Taylor

Discussion/Decision:

Minutes: Vestry approved June minutes as amended.

Treasurer: (Jim Heil):

- Audit is still in progress with the auditor and should be done by the end of September.
- June and July financials were approved by Vestry.

As of July 31 st	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD
Total Revenues:	\$306,589	\$298,607	\$7,983
Total Expenses:	\$310,095	\$298,442	(\$11,653)
Net Total:	(\$3,506)	\$165	(\$3,671)

Eagle Scout Project Presentation: (Evan Graham)

- The Firepit project was presented which will be great for youth programs, and for our church in general. The firepit will be installed at the top of the playground area safely away from any structures or trees. Vestry approved the design in option 2 as presented. The project was motioned, approved, and seconded by vestry members.

Junior Warden: (Stephanie Heil)

- The ceiling tile for the parlor bathroom has been ordered and ready to install. Integrity will pay for the tile.
- There are a few roof issues by the altar, in the older part of the church. The roofing guy came out and did not see anything. He thinks it could have been just nail pops, because with heavy rain there were no leaks.

- Currently the air in Fotinos Hall is not working. Integrity will come and take a look. When Integrity shows up Father Ron will be here and discuss with them replacement cost vs repair.
- The lawn guy seems a little slow in coming to cut the grass, maybe due to all the rain. Hopefully he will catch up.

Senior Warden: (Jessica Gustis)

- Nothing to report.

Downstairs Windows Replacement quotes: (Fr. Ron/Bill Reid)

- We are getting quotes to change from windows, to escape windows in the basement for the Preschool room. Pella and Marvin both have different escape windows similar in price. Marvin windows would match our current window look in the basement. Vestry approved to move forward with the Marvin window quote and installation. It was motioned, approved, and seconded by vestry members.

Assisting Priest update: (Father Ron) There are no other candidates out there as it is not the right time of year.

Upcoming Events/Schedules: (Father Ron):

- Saturday, August 23rd, at 9:00 parish workday.
- Wednesday, August 27th is our Murder Mystery dinner theatre.
- Sunday, August 24th EYC starts back up with a swim party at the Gustis house. We are also currently looking for EYC Advisors.
- Wednesday, September 3rd EFM starts back up.
- Friday, September 5th, Father Ron will be at the beach.
- Sunday, September 14th is welcome back Sunday at 10:00am ONE service only.

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 11th. 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 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 of Nativity scenes / Christmas artwork created by you or your family) artwork from your children are very special treasures to include and share with all.



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.



Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse

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 the Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse. The LCCAC is a citizen-based organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect and providing intervention and treatment when children have become victims.

From the website, LCCAC describes that their "Child Advocacy Center was established to respond rapidly and effectively to reported cases of child abuse, with intent to minimize further trauma to the child and non-offending family members, to promote appropriate therapy for the child and non-offending family members, and to follow-up with the child and family throughout the periods of investigation and therapy.

The CAC is a comfortable, safe, child-friendly place where young victims of abuse and neglect and their families come to have a forensic interview and receive referrals for medical care, therapy services, and other resources they may need." For more information, click here: <https://cac-lincolncounty.org/>. Or reach out to Ross Bulla for more details around this critical need in our community.

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.

THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Greetings, St Peter Family and I trust that all is well with each of you. As I was preparing to write this note to share with each of you concerning Stewardship, I looked up the meaning of Stewardship and in religion it refers to the responsible management and care of resources, talents and possessions that God has entrusted to each of us.

Stewardship involves caring for Families, Communities as well as our environment. In other words, Stewardship is everything that God has entrusted each of us with and We are the caretakers of his creation forever. Stewardship is driven by each of us and is more than just a financial commitment.

I have seen St Peter by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in action for many years as each of you step up and take the lead and we have numerous organizations that we are committed to. There are numerous outreach Missions that many of you have initiated that we continue to work with along with our Parish Family. I have participated in working with several of these outreach Missions and I have seen the joy, love and friendship that we have all experienced in doing and giving of our time and donations to assist others. I have witnessed St Peter's commitment to the Denver area and other communities outside of our area.

These things could not be accomplished without each of you and your willingness to take care of all that God has provided for us and continues to do for each of us. If you see a need in our area please bring this to the Stewardship Committee and allow us the opportunity to discuss this with you.

Blessings to all of you,
Ronnie Rudd



**October 4th @
8am**

*Creation Care Invites you to care
for our surroundings and join us ...*

FAIRFIELD FOREST ROADSIDE CLEANUP: Meet at the parking lot across the street from the Food Lion on Fairfield Forest Road.

SUPPLIES: Bags, gloves, pickup devices, and reflective safety vests will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own.

CONTACT: Michelle Stewart (704) 661-6007 or mzstewart@bellsouth.net with questions or to volunteer or see the [Sign up](#) Genius on the Weekly Blast.

OCTOBER

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

2 – Scott & Ronnie Major
4 – Bonnie & Eugene Grant
8 – Pat & Jack McCabe
11 – David & Michelle Moss
14 – William & Rebekah Shelnutt

25 – Matthew & Jessica Gustis
25 – Michael & Lauren Ridlehoover
27 – Ron & Karen Horne
28 – Robert Villegas & Donna Brown

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 – Madelyn Lipford
1 – Jane Roddy
1 – Ingeliv Rui
1 – Gra Wagner
1 – Tyler McPeak
3 – Matthew Kosmala
3 – Andy Parton
7 – Steve Long
8 – Ashley Wagner
8 – Grant Wagner
8 – Morgan McPeak
8 – Parker Passmore
9 – Father Ron Taylor
10 – Jean Hatley
12 – Karen Simpson
13 – Gary Johnston
13 – Victoria Gaver
15 – Chinyere Eziri
16 – Kim Haas

17 – Arlene Halasz
19 – Bridget McDonnell
19 – Matt Ortner
20 – Lauren Adessa
20 – Dan Finch
20 – Mike Reahard
20 – Madison Ireland
21 – Mark White
21 – Craig Willis
23 – Lori Pressley
24 – Brittany Seminara
25 – Gini Risser Logan
26 – Inez Soorus
28 – Thomas Matousek
28 – Deania Russo
28 – Matthew Weed
29 – Linda Best
31 – Lillian Finch
31 – Stephen Graham

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