



the NET

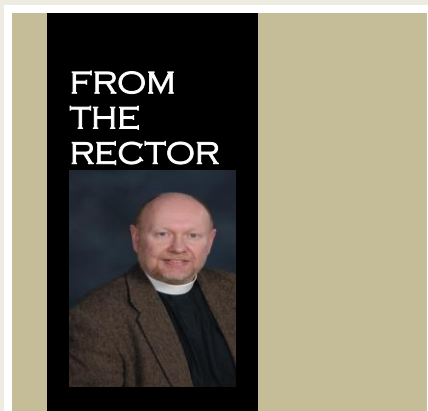
SEPTEMBER 2025

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THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
OF SAINT PETER BY-
THE-LAKE
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ST. PETER'S PRESCHOOL – FALL 2026

My dear sisters and brothers at St. Peter by-the-Lake, after lots of prayer, reflection and discussion with staff members and our vestry, we've made the decision to begin laying the groundwork for opening a parish based 'preschool' in the fall of 2026! The continuing rising demographics in Denver/East Lincoln, along with our desire to serve the community and prepare children for elementary school have been driving forces in making this decision.



St. Peter's Preschool would be located downstairs in three separate classroom areas. The room that is currently used as the nursery (it would continue to function as such on Sunday mornings), the Kingdom Kids classroom, and a supply room directly across the hall from the Kingdom Kids classroom. The preschool would consist of a two year old, three year old, and four year old class. The preschool would begin, and remain small, with hopefully around 30 total students. Our Christian Formation Director, Ginia Edwards, would serve as the Preschool Director. She would also continue her ministry as our CF Director.

The First thing that you will notice on the campus will be the changing out of two windows in two of the classrooms downstairs. Those windows will have to serve as 'escape' windows in case of the need for an emergency exit. Those directives come to us from both the Lincoln County Fire Marshall, and Lincoln County Inspections Department. These windows have been funded by a very generous donation from

former parishioners who wish their gift to remain anonymous. We are very grateful and thankful for their love and faithfulness.

After the new windows are installed, there will be another inspection from Lincoln County. Following that, we can begin laying further groundwork by creating logos, by-laws, handbooks, and a Preschool Board of Directors. It is our hope to be able to begin advertising for students after the new year begins in January.

After reading this, some of you may be asking “How can I Help”? The first thing everyone can do is offer prayers for this new mission. Starting a new school from scratch is lots of work and contains lots of ‘steps’ to complete. We begin everything with prayers. Second, some of you may be asked if you would like to serve on the Preschool Board. Please prayerfully consider such a ministry. And third, as we did with the piano for our music department, we will be asking for donations for ‘seed money’ to help sustain the new preschool during this first introductory year. Prayers, expertise, and financial gifts will all be very much appreciated!

As this process continues during the fall and winter months, there will be more information and updates. For now, hold this possibility in your thoughts and prayers, as we seek to fill St. Peter’s with the learning and laughter of children during the weekday mornings.

Faithfully,

Father Ron

September 2025



Music Notes



Join the Music Ministry

In the words of the psalmist, "I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations" (Psalm 89:1, NRSV). Our Music Ministry embraces this spirit encouraging our church community to engage in heartfelt worship and to celebrate God's love through the power of song.

We extend a warm invitation to all parishioners to join us! This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals looking to share their musical talents and enhance our worship experience.

The Chancel Choir convenes on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and again on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:10 a.m. There is ample space in the choir loft, so whether you're an experienced vocalist or simply enjoy singing, we would be happy to have you with us.

Additionally, our Handbell Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and we currently have three openings for new ringers.

No matter your level of experience, your voice and presence needed in our community. We invite you to join us as we uplift each other and celebrate our faith through the beautiful gift of music!

Mark Your Calendars

- Piano Dedication Recital – Friday, September 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Choral Evensong – Sunday, November 9, 4:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Gastonia (this is a collaborative event involving the choirs from All Saints Gastonia, St. Mark's Gastonia, and St. Peter by-the-Lake)
- Our Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 10:30 AM.

Blessings,
David



**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
St. Peter by-the-Lake**

INVITES YOU TO A
DEDICATORY PIANO RECITAL
of the Boston G-163 Grand Piano

Friday, Sept. 19, 2025 | 7 p.m.

featuring
*Kathryn Graham , soprano
Kevin Haney, organ
Troy Keeney, trumpet
Diana Stone, violin
David Wilcox, piano*



Farewell Summer, Welcome Fall!

I am thrilled to kick off this year's fall session! We've already started organizing some exciting events, including our *TACO-bout It* lunch and the *Murder Mystery* party. If you missed these two, don't worry—there are plenty more ideas and enjoyable activities lined up for both fall and spring.

Upcoming Events

Here are just a few happenings you can look forward to this September. So, mark your calendars and let's come together!

Welcome Back Sunday

Mark your calendars for **September 14th** for our Welcome Back Sunday, where we will gather for a single service at **10:00 AM**. Afterward, join us for a delicious continental brunch, perfect for you, your family, and a friend. We warmly invite you to participate this Sunday as we kick off our fall CF events, Bible Studies, and numerous programs where you can get involved, meet new people, and deepen your relationship with God.

Kingdom Kids will also resume this Sunday, along with our first Kids Chat with Father Ron before the children head downstairs for Kingdom Kids.

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.

CFEvents!

DEEPENING OUR CHRISTIAN FORMATION EVENTS THIS FALL

This fall, I am eager to deepen our engagement in Christian Formation events. I will be launching an Adult Bible study on Tuesdays at St. Peter's (for now), taking place every other week. Starting on Sunday, August 31st, I will present four options for what we can study in Fotinos Hall. I will gather your preferences through a vote, and we will kick off the study on September 16th, running for 4 to 6 weeks. I'm excited to embark on this journey with you and to get to know more of you better!

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!"

JOIN US FOR A HIKE!

Finally, we invite you to join us for a morning hike at Bakers Mountain on September 20th. Come along as we explore God's creation and breathe in the fresh air. We will hike for about an hour

and a half, pausing halfway to enjoy some trail mix and reflect on God's word. A sign-up sheet will be available in Fotinos Hall.

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, Pat Higbie, Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Bill Reid, Mary Sansbury, Pamela Weed

Clergy Present: Father Ron Taylor

Other Members Present: Daphne Wagner

Opening Prayer: Father Ron Taylor

Discussion/Decision:

Minutes: Vestry approved April minutes.

Treasurer: (Father Ron for Jim Heil): No financials to report this month in Jims's absence.

- Good news!! Sherry had mentioned that we were \$8,848 ahead of budget through April.

Junior Warden: (Stephanie Heil)

- Nothing to Report

Senior Warden: (Jessica Gustis)

- Nothing to Report

Pre-School Update: (Father Ron)

- We will get Lincoln County to inspect, once the escape windows get switched out in the basement. Bill mentioned that he will seek out a professional window installer.
- This Pre-School will have 2, 3, and 4-year-old classes.
- We won't have time to open the preschool this fall as there is too much to do before then. We are considering opening Jan of 2026 or fall of 2026. We are on track but must jump through these hoops as they present themselves. 501 Cs, handbook for Bi-laws, a Pre-School board to work with the Director, and Insurances, etc.

Rotary Peace Pole Installed: (Father Ron)

- Bill Reid installed the Peace Pole, and it looks really good!

Father Ron meeting with Bishop Jose: (Father Ron)

- Father Ron will be driving to Asheville tomorrow morning to meet with Bishop Jose. A few discussion items: We need additional ordained help, our future Pre-school, getting Libby Motto ready to go into the Diocesan Dissertation for Deacon and Father Rons' sabbatical time that is overdue. Hopefully we can get some direction for our permanent Deacon here at St. Peters.

Upcoming Events/Schedules: (Father Ron):

- Summertime usually things are slowing down
- Saturday May 18th, Service for Bill Lifsey
- Formation classes have ended
- July 24-27 is our Vacation Bible School from 6-8pm for Preschool to adults.
- June 10th, 11th and 12th the staff will be going to Valle Crucis for a retreat.
- June 16th, next Vestry meeting.

Other Matters:

- Vestry to make a request to Bishop Jose, that they are concerned about Father Ron getting help.

Closing Prayer: (Father Ron Taylor)

FOCUS ON MISSION - OUTREACH TEAM

Mission



Outreach

*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.

BACKPACK FOR KIDS

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 Backpacks for Kids Ministry: an outreach program of St. James Elementary School. Our motto is "Helping Feed Local Kids One Backpack at a Time."

Backpack for Kids helps feed local, hungry school children on weekends and school breaks. The children served in this program qualify for free or reduced lunch and the food-filled backpacks are discreetly distributed through the school guidance counselor.

Each year, we pack backpacks of food for students in need and while the number varies, it is typically around 15 students in grades Kindergarten-5th grade. The program has expanded to cover weekend food needs as well, and even accounts for longer weekends and holidays when kids may not have any other food source than this program.

We rely on some funding from Mission Outreach but also depend on donations of our fellow parishioners here at St. Peter's. For a list of needed items or to volunteer to help sort or pack these backpacks, please see Carmen Hatley.

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.

SPECIAL SERVANT SCHEDULE
September and October 2025

DATE	9/7/2025	9/14/2025	9/21/2025	9/28/2025
8:30	FIRST SERVICE		FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE
Chalice Bearer	Jennifer Baker		Cathy Melesh	Kathleen Wiley
Usher	Helen Lungwitz		Steve & Cathy Hiney	Emily Gentry
Acolyte	Tracey Engel		Michele Moss	Cathy Melesh
Reader	Susan Schuman		Diane Johnson	Libby Willis
Coffee HOUR				
10:30	SECOND SERVICE	Welcome Back Sunday	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE
Chalice Bearer	Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs	Diane Davis, Frances Smith	Jim & Stephanie Heil	John & Michelle Stewart
Usher	Gary Johnston, David Plyer	Mary Sansbury, Dave Pittinard	Gra Wagner, Diana Mushill	Kathy Campbell, Joe Anzalone
Acolyte	Ethan Graham, Diana Mushill	Michelle Stewart, Brady Rinkus	Freya & Greta Gustis	Zachary Ireland, Isabelle Dalton
Reader	Andy Parton	Ginny Pretty	Daphne Wagner	Frances Smith
Livestream Tech	Walter Smith, Bill Reid	Bill Reid, Andy Halasz	Beth Lunney, Andy Halasz	Cha Wuerdeman, Beth Lunney
Lay Reader	Jim Bowden	Jim Heil	Diane Davis	Stephanie Heil
Coffee HOUR		Welcome Back Sunday		
Altar Guild	A. Bowden	J. McPeak	C. Hatley	B. Smith
Flower	Martha Parton	Charles & Diane Johnson	Lauren Adessa	Bonnie Grant
Bread Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
DATE	10/5/2025	10/12/2025	10/19/2025	10/26/2025
8:30	FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE
Chalice Bearer	Sherree Brady	Michele Moss	Cathy Melesh	Jennifer Baker
Usher	Mike&Angela Matuousek	Cathay Melesh	Ronnie Rudd	Chad Hamby
Acolyte	Cathy Hiney	Libby Motto	Tracey Engel	Michele Moss
Reader	Jennifer Baker	Libby Motto	Cathy Melesh	Michele Moss
Coffee Hour				
10:30	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE
Chalice Bearer	Scott Major, Beckye Smith	Mary Sansbury/Diana Mushill		Patty & Patrick Duggan
Usher	Roger Simpson, Dick Lunney	Duane Rinkus, Jim Racz	Claire & Bob Tracy	Walter & Frances Smith
Acolyte	Madison Ireland, Beckett Rinkus	Bonnie Grant, Audrey Prouty	Jenny Hunter, Lillian Finch	Ethan Graham, Ava Prouty
Reader	Matt Gustis	Lisa Anzalone	Elaine Jacobs	Hope Paasch
Livestream Tech	Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman	Andy Halasz, Bill Reid	Dick Lunney, Beth Lunney	Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman
Lay Reader	Libby Motto	Cyndi Jarvis	Jim Bowden	Eneka Eziri
Coffee Hour				
Altar Guild	A. Bowden	J. McPeak	C. Hatley	B. Smith
Flower	Pat Higbie	Michele & Dave Moss	Sherree Brady	Karen & Ron Horne
Bread Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4

THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU???

It's now September and everything is starting up again after our summer off. I have shared with you all before how I believe the Holy Spirit wakes me in the middle of the night to fill my head with thoughts and ideas when I am scheduled to write an article for the Net or perhaps give a lay stewardship sermon. Well, this month is no different.

It was the middle of the night sometime in July when I couldn't sleep. I was thinking about what I might want to write for the September Net but what kept coming to mind was Peggy Carlisle's last days in the hospital. I had gone to Cornelius to visit her on Wednesday, June 4th, only to find that she had been taken to Novant for blood tests. On Friday morning, I felt strongly that I should go to see Peggy but her daughter, Kim, had asked that I call or text before coming to be sure the doctor was not going to be with her so I texted Kim that I planned to visit around 2 that day and she indicated that would be good. Peggy and I had a really nice visit for about 45 minutes and then I left as she was really tired and wanted to nap. I learned that she went to be with the Lord on Saturday, not even 24 hours later. Had I not listened to that inner urging to go visit on Friday, we might not have had that last time together.

On June 16th as I was leaving a meeting at the church, Fr. Ron stopped me to ask if I was interested in serving on the Pastoral Care Team. My initial silent reaction was, "oh something more to take on" but during the conversation I again was prompted by perhaps the Holy Spirit to realize that I was already doing this because as I like to describe it, when the Spirit moves me (like with Peggy), I independently visit various members of the church such as Peggy in rehab, Mary LaBranche and Irene Stollery at Wexford House, and Linda Best in rehab following her hip surgery, so I told Fr. Ron I would join the Pastoral Care Team.

To end what is already a long article, my message this month would be IF you are thinking about or are invited to join any of the ministries here at St. Peter or in our community at large, you might consider honoring those nudges, urges, and yes, sometimes even shoves from wherever they originate as you never know where it might lead you, the difference it might make for you, or of even more significance, the difference you might make for others.

Diane Johnson *Stewardship Chair*

SEPTEMBER

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1 – Fred and Cathy Littlejohn
1 – David and Amy Simmons
2 – Bill and Patsy Roosa
3 – Caitlin Taylor and John Parson
4 – Chuck and Jenny Hunter
4 – Olivia and David Prouty
5 – Timothy and Andrea Hanrahan
6 – Cha and Marsha Wuerdeman
7 – Andy and Martha Parton
13 – Brett and Michelle Schmerge

15 – Chris and Jessica Ireland
18 – Charles and Diane Johnson
18 – Steve and Peggy Long
19 – Arthur and Jeanne Sloup
21 – Mark and Rene Sliwoski
22 – Michael & Gini Logan
22 – Mark and Peggy White
23 – Bill and Robin Gonzales
23 – Ken and Trudy Halley
28 – Jerry and Jan Mintun

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 – Fred Littlejohn
3 – Cathy Littlejohn
3 – Sara Motto
5 – Dick Lunney
6 – Jeanne Hawkins
6 – Stephanie Moeller
6 – Lauren Ridlehoover
7 – Pat Good
8 – William Deane
8 – David Pittinaro
9 – Kathleen Wiley
13 – Aaron McPeak
13 – Mark Wagner
14 – Bud Hawkins
16 – Christopher Wisham
17 – Zachary Wisham
18 – Mary Miller

19 – Rebekah Reading
20 – Pat Higbie
21 – Tom Grace
22 – Holly Finch
23 – Lee Ann Dalton
23 – Pamela Weed
24 – Richard Wilson
24 – Roy Smith
26 – Jan Mintun
26 – Gabriella Laudenslager
26 – Ronnie Rudd
27 – Jason Barger
28 – Will Thornhill
30 – Shannon Hawkins
30 – Kellen Schmerge

STAFF

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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