

#### St. Peter's Lutheran

1130 St. Peters Road Lexington SC 29072 803-359-2470

#### Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9 am-6 pm Friday 9 am—Noon www.StPetersLexSC.org

#### **Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Judson F. Merrell, STS "Pastor Judson" Senior Pastor JudsonMerrell@bellsouth.net 704-798-4280

The Rev. Cassandra L. Boehringer "Pastor Cassie" Associate Pastor pastorcassieb@gmail.com 678-492-3956

**Craig Davis** 

Matins Choir & Instrumental Director

**Kayla Ellingson** Angel Choir Director

Lauren Henry Penni Henry

**Nursery Attendants** 

**Barry Moore** Chancel Choir & Handbells Director

**Valerie Porth** Bookkeeper

Molly Teem SonShine Choir Director

**Open Position**Youth & Young Adult Director

Carol Wyndham Administrative Coordinator Organist/Accompanist office@stpeterslexsc.org 803-360-7137

## **PROCLAIMER**

January 2024

#### Epiphany—More than just a Taylor Swift Song

January 6 is the church festival of the Epiphany of our Lord, which celebrates the arrival of the wise men to see the baby Jesus. As this day rarely falls on a Sunday, it has become one of the forgotten festivals of the church. This year it falls on a Saturday, so like most years it will not be celebrated on a Sunday. Some congregations move this festival to the following Sunday, but the majority do not because of other festival days. The arrival of the wise men (or kings) represents the world's involvement with the birth of the Messiah. Jesus did not just come for the Israelites, but for the whole world.

Not much is known about the travelers from the East. There may or may not have been three. Tradition says there were three wise men simply because they brought three gifts. The Bible records them "following a star", which leads many scholars to believe they were of the Zoroastrian faith. Zoroastrianism is an ancient monotheistic religion (like Judaism & Christianity) that also uses astronomy as part of their faith. They originate in the northwest corner of India, which is part of the Punjab region of India. This makes them from "the east". They depart from the pages of the Bible as quickly as they arrive. However, their visit still resonates in the church. A tradition of the church to celebrate this day at home is to "chalk" your doors. The pattern for this year is:

20 + C + M + B + 24

The letters represent the initials of the Magi: Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "24" at the end mark the year. This may be done above the door to your home with any color chalk.

The season following the Epiphany is a transitional time for the church. We move from birth towards Jesus' passion. The season includes the festival Sunday of the Baptism of our Lord (January 7th this year, which is why we can't move The Epiphany to this Sunday) and then includes "ordinary time", better known as the green season. This short season, which is not as long as the ordinary time that follows Pentecost, varies each year. This is because Easter is not a set date. Therefore there is a shifting amount of Sundays following the Epiphany. This year Easter is early (March 31), so we will only have a few Sundays following the Epiphany until we reach Lent.

## Church Business

Lutherans celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord as the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. That Sunday for us this year will be February 11, with Ash Wednesday occurring on February 14. Although this will seem like a short time, I hope that Epiphany can truly be that spiritual bridge for us from Christmas celebration to Easter resurrection.

#### Blessings!

#### **Pastor Judson**

St. Peter's By the Numbers			
January 1—November 30, 2023*			
Actual Received YTD	\$ 539,689.76		
Actual Spent YTD	\$ 522,069.83		
Difference YTD	+ \$17,620.43		

\*Because our newsletter is published before the end of the month, the numbers here & for the month, will always be a month behind.

#### **PUBLISHING DEADLINES:**

Bulletin—Noon on Wednesdays Proclaimer—15th of every month Prayer List—5 pm on Wednesdays

#### Ministry Highlights

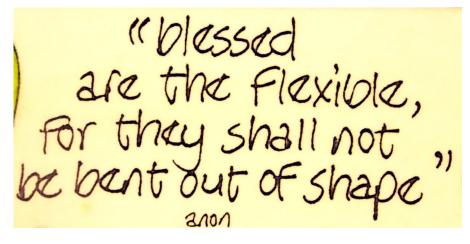
by Karen Cook

Church Council met December 10 @ 3 pm.

Attendance: All 2023 & 2024 members were present.

- Stewardship/Finance: We are doing fine financially. Finance Committee would like to examine the temporarily restricted accounts & close the ones that have not been used in a year. Finance would then recommend to Council where monies should be moved.
- All Committee Encounter will be held on Sunday, January 7th @ 3:30 pm. Groups will elect officers, share leftover Christmas goodies & coffee & put dates of meetings & activities on the 2024 church calendar.
- Scouts: working on renewing charter.
- 2023 Council was dismissed
- 2024 Council convened. Teresa Ellisor was elected Vice-President and Rachel Price was elected secretary.

Next meeting is January 14 @ 4 pm





# Church Business

Funds	October Fund Totals
General	\$57,763.47
ALS	\$973.00
Alzheimer's	\$175.00
Boy Scouts	\$125.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$275.00
David Davis	\$460.00
EKKA	\$125.00
Endowment	\$4,130.00
Evangelism	\$705.00
Kitchen Fund	\$1,850.00
Lighthouse 4 Life	\$200.00
Maintenance	\$3,620.00
Mission Lexington	\$50.00
Poinsettias	\$473.50
Refunds	\$47.00
Relay for Life	\$25.00
School Supplies	\$300.00
Snack Sacks	\$1,565.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$1,717.00
Russel Bickley Mem.	\$205.00
TOTAL GIVING for October	\$74,783.97

	November
Funds	Fund Totals
General	\$48,099.60
Alzheimer's	\$222.23
Boy Scouts	\$210.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$150.00
David Davis	\$340.00
EKKA	\$120.00
Endowment	\$1,770.00
Lutheran Military	\$625.00
Maintenance	\$2,020.00
Mission Lexington	\$1,573.00
Office Expenditures	\$30.00
Poinsettias	\$530.00
Safety	\$40.00
Snack Sacks	\$1,104.00
Women's Ministry	\$240.00
World Hunger	\$279.91
Youth Mission Trip	\$5,067.75
Russel Bickley Mem.	\$190.00
Clayton Rawl Mem.	\$5,490.00
TOTAL GIVING	
for November	\$68,101.49



## Symbols of the Apostles

Have you ever noticed the symbols around the doors in the sanctuary and wondered what they meant? Here is the simple explanation.



ST. PETER
The keys refer to the keys of
Heaven, and the inverted cross
refers to Peter's crucifixion.



ST. JOHN "THE BELOVED"

This symbol refers to the legend of a poisoned chalice offered to St. John in an attempt to end his life.



St. James the Greater
St. James was the first to go on a
missionary journey. The scallop
shells represent pilgrimage.



**ST. ANDREW**According to tradition, St. Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross.



**ST. JAMES THE LESSER**According to tradition,
St. James was stoned and sawn by his attackers.



ST. MATTHEW

The moneybags refer to the occupation of St. Matthew before he was called by Christ.



**ST. THOMAS**The ruler refers to the tradition that St. Thomas built a church by hand. The spear refers to his martyrdom.

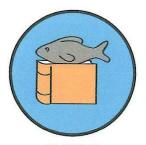


St. JUDE

St. Jude (also known as Thaddeus)
sailed to many ports as he
journeyed as a missionary.



**ST. BARTHOLOMEW**It is said that St. Bartholomew was flayed and crucified.



St. Simon St. Simon, companions with St. Jude, was a fisherman by trade, but also known as a great fisher of men.



ST. PHILIP

Jesus directed St. Philip
to feed His people, represented
here by two circles of bread.



St. Matthias

St. Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot.

The axe refers to his martyrdom.

## Ladies' Retreat

#### April 19-21, 2024 @ Camp Gravatt

Retreat Topic: Prayer

We have room for 24 ladies. Please let us know before Christmas if you are interested in attending the retreat. The cost will be \$270 per person. This will include the two nights and 6 meals. We will arrive on Friday afternoon and leave on Sunday after lunch. The total cost of the retreat is due by April 1, 2024.

We will have an installment plan to help you pay for the retreat.

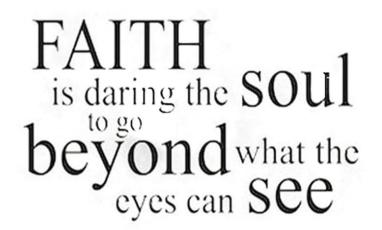
- \$100 deposit due before Christmas to hold your spot.
- \$100 due in February
- \$70 balance due April 1

The camp must have the number attending by the end of December.

To sign up, or if you have questions, please call Brenda Hedgecock. Brenda will create a waiting list once the 24 slots are filled.

### I'M NEW HERE. WHAT ARE ALL OF THESE INITIALS?

CR=Conference Room in office building FH=Fellowship Hall downstairs GR=Gathering Room behind PLC PLC=Parish Life Center (big windows) SH=Scout Hut in back of cemetery YR=Youth Room upstairs



## **Educational Ministry**

#### Why Sunday School is Important

Does studying God's Word really impact our daily lives and decisions? David Davis, a missionary in Brazil knows so. David was active in Sunday School, Youth, Scouts at St. Peter's and the FCA and RUF campus ministries at Clemson. He credits staying close to the Word as giving him awareness of God calling him.

David was studying for his masters in engineering when he hit a brick wall: his proposals for his master's project were rejected. During this time, God had him remember when he first understood the Gospel message as a small child; reading <u>The Bible Story</u> books in doctors' offices. He realized God gave him his talents and time not to just travel the engineering path, but to help other people and show what Jesus did. David figured it was God's way of telling him to change his master's to something more people-oriented, so in faith he withdrew from that engineering program.

He knew this step-in faith was correct when God immediately lifted a big weight from him. And two weeks later God presented David, not with a better fitting academic field, but a call to missions! David now saw that God had been preparing him for a different type of work ever since childhood, so he accepted the call in faith. As a throw-back to his earliest Sunday school lessons "I'll go where God wants; no need to send a BIG fish after me!"

Almost immediately the decision to follow his call was tested by none other than the university president. In gratitude for what Jesus had already done, David remained firm on his new path, and a few months later God providentially led David to a Discover Missions conference in North Carolina where he saw the match for his calling with the Appropriate Technology Institute – a department of United World Mission later becoming Equip International. The excitement of a match, though, was tempered by hearing how many years the process normally takes to start training. But God again confirmed David's path when in just two weeks a letter to close friends asking for prayer generated commitments for half of his support from them and their parents: all wanting to express thanks for how he had impacted them by modeling servant leadership. David chuckles that when you give the steering wheel to God, you better fasten your seat-belt!



# Service Committee

#### WHAT DOES SERVICE COMMITTEE DO?

- ★ We donated food all year to Mission Lexington
- ★ We contributed to the NALC Disaster Relief Fund with flood buckets, personal kits, school kits and monetary donations.
- ★ We took part in the Relay for Life walk and ALS walk where donations were over \$10,000.
- ★ We participated in the NALC personal kits packing party held in Kings Mountain, NC.
- ★ We filled 160 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- ★ We collected 774 pairs of socks for Socktober at Mission Lexington.
- ★ 23 gave 75 pounds of pet food for Pal-entine's Day.
- ★ We gave \$500 for the Lexington County Senior Pantry Project.
- ★ We hosted 4 blood drives at St. Peter's.
- ★ We provided breakfast on 5th Sundays.
- ★ We collected noisy offering for World Hunger on 5th Sundays.
- ★ Our church was blessed with a visit from NALC missionaries.
- ★ Mr. Larry James headed up a collection of books & Bibles for our missionaries in their correct languages.

#### 2024 BLOOD DRIVES will be announced in mid-January.

**PAL-ENTINE'S DAY**—For Mission Lexington Pet Project. Please place dog or cat food, treats or toys in the Mission Lexington bin located in the Parish Life Center. Any size bag of food is accepted.

#### THANK YOU FOR BEING THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS!

"GOD DIDN'T SAY LOVING OUT NEIGHBORS WOULD BE EASY; HE JUST SAID IT WOULD WORK."

~BOB GOFF



## Confirmation News

## REMINDER CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Confirmation Lunch & Learn\*

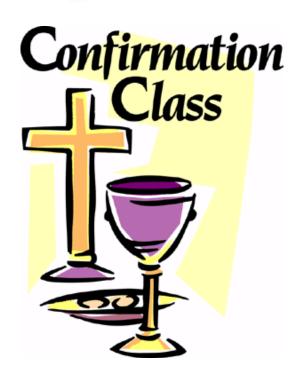
12:30-2 pm in Fellowship Hall

February 11 & 18

March 3, 10, 17, & 24

Make-up Class: April 14 or by appt.

*Call one of the pastors with questions.* 



#### 8th Grade Confirmation Students

#### Saturday, May 18:

- \* Robe Fitting & Practice @ 9:30 am
- \* Brunch with families 10:00 am

#### Sunday, May 19:

\* Confirmation at 11:00 am worship

- Families to choose one Sunday each semester to provide a simple lunch for the class. Follow this link to sign up:
- Confirmation Lunch



Lots more to come! Be sure to save the dates you don't miss anything! If you have any questions about the Youth Schedule, please call Pastor Cassie @ 678-492-3956

## Odds & Ends



Ioin us

Sunday, February 4th

#### 6 pm—Parish Life Center

If you are new to our church and have never attended our annual **Soup Supper**, then you are in for a treat!
The members of our Worship & Music Committee each make a pot of soup or stew. The congregation brings the following:

A-H brings Sandwiches I-P brings Salads Q-Z brings Desserts

Join us for the best party of the year!

#### Church Calendar

Did you know that the Church Calendar is on our website? Go to <a href="https://www.stpeterslexsc.org/news">www.stpeterslexsc.org/news</a> & click on CALENDAR to see what's planned for the coming months.

It's also a great tool to use when you're in a committee meeting and need to choose a date for an event and would like to avoid conflicts on dates or event space.

## Family Game Night



January 19th 6:30-8 pm Parish Life Center

Come join us for a night of fun & prizes. A different game on each table or bring your own game.

#### Dear Members.

On behalf of the entire Pleasant Hill Elementary Family, I want to thank you for the wonderful and beautiful gifts you provided for five families. Thanks also for the many gift cards. Please know that you have brought joy to many people. We thank you for your generosity and for your love. We are so grateful.

Sincerely, *Margaret Mitchum*Principal, PHES

## Our Prayer List

**Member Needs** 

**Landis Ballington** 

Olin Chassereau

**Paul Chumley** 

Jeanne Dernbach

**Charlie Eargle** 

Summer Eargle

Kathy Fornal

**Marion Gable** 

**Curry Hook** 

Bob Hundley

Michelle L. Jones

Connie Lindler

Bobby Martin

Kim Massey

Jennifer O'Neill

Marvin Parson

**Buffy Pearson** 

Robert Prielipp

**Dottie Rivard** 

Mike Rowell

Tommy Shealy

Rich Smith

Reita Stone

**Dick Sullivan** 

James Thompson

Elizabeth Ward

**Dennis & Jo Wessinger** 

#### Missionaries & Ministry Partners

David Davis in Brazil

N&N-World Mission Prayer League

NALC Mission Congregations:

Immanuel, Sumter, SC

Reformation, New Bern, NC

Trinity, Flat Rock, NC

The NALC

#### **Military**

David Ballington (Army)

Michael Edmondson (Army)

Alex Schneider (Marines)

**Matthew Teeter (Marines-deployed)** 

Kyle Weed (Navy)
Kyle Williams (Navy)

#### Family & Friends of the St. Peter's Congregation

Lanier Amick (father of LeAnne Ballentine)

Jerry & Ashley Anderson (niece & nephew of Cynthia Johnson)

Paul Aull (brother-in-law of Wayne O'Neill)

Rhonda Branham (family of Steve & Donna Alford)

Lauren Buie & Kids (daughter of David Spence)

Kathie Cashion (mother of Hillarie Vaughan)

Danny Covington (uncle of Elizabeth & Michael Covington)

Hewitt Dickerson (family of Charlie & Marie Eargle)

Doug Duell (uncle of Paul Duell)

#### Dr. Bill Dunovant, Sr. (friend of Donna Alford)

Gil Ferro (husband of Barbara Ferro)

Dan Frick (father of Lisa Szuhy)

Jody Hendrix (cousin of Pastor Cassie)

Gil Leader (grandfather of Kayla Spangler)

Christie Lee & Baby Everett (friends of Jennifer McMillan)

Gerry Lee (brother of Joyce Shealy)

Emily Lyles (family of Ginny Bruce)

Pat & Fay Maxwell (friends of Claude & Elizabeth Lindler)

Beth McMillan (sister-in-Law of Keith McMillan)

Millie McMillan (mother of Keith McMillan)

Jim Orth (nephew of Doreen Edmondson)

Ronnie Palm (uncle of Julie Werner)

Ronda Porth (daughter of Joyce H. & Oddie Porth)

Jason Sharpe (nephew of Oddie & Joyce H Porth)

Brandon Shealy (grandson of Fulmer & Joyce Shealy)

George & Jackie Shull (parents of Kim Massey)

Fred Smith (great uncle of Rylee Smith)

Marion & Diane Smyrl (parents of Edie Beaver)

Bob Snelgrove Family @ MUSC (cousins of Janet Wiggins)

Kitty Spence (family of Zack & Julynn Spence)

Charlotte Stiglbauer (daughter-in-law of John & Anna)

Billy Switter (family of Bob & Patti Switter)

Catherine Taylor (daughter of Dick & Patricia Derrick)

Fern Ulmer (aunt of Keith McMillan)

#### Family of Christie Williams (step-mother of Jason Williams)

Barbara Zarek (guest of St. Peter's)

#### Homebound

Betty Amick (Wellmore)

Meredith Arnold

Wanda Arnold

**Grace Harmon** 

Frank & Peggy Howard (Wellmore)

Lonna Paul

Oddie & Joyce Porth

#### Ann Rowell (Lakeside)

Jake Rush (Wellmore)

Barbara Whiteside (Carroll Campbell)

Rita Wingard (Deepwoods)



# Serving in January

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28 Scout Sunday	
<b>Acolyte</b> Early	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	SCOUTS	
Late	Wilson Oxner	Scarlett Ellingson	VOLUNTEER	SCOUTS	
Altar Flowers	Stella Hendrick	VOLUNTEER	Bob & Barbara Weed	Tom & Diane Lawhead	
Altar Guild	LeeAnn Crapps, Catho	erine Porth			
Bulletins	Barbara Weed				
Camera	Crystal Dennison	Debbie Arnold	Crystal Dennison	Debbie Arnold	
Coffee Time	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Busters	
<b>Communion</b> Servers Early	<b>Bread: Pastor Judson</b> Wine: Pastor Cassie	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: LeeAnn Crapps Troy Crapps	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Brenda Hedgecock Russell Watkins	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: SCOUTS	
Late	<b>Bread: Pastor Judson</b> Wine: Pastor Cassie	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Rylee Smith Julie Smith	Pastor Judson   Pastor Judson   Vine: Rylee Smith   Wine: Anna Stiglbauer   Vine   Vin		
<b>Greeters</b> Early	VOLUNTEER	Paul & Diane Robison	Ed & Brenda Hedgecock	SCOUTS	
Late	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	SCOUTS	
<b>Lectors</b> Early	Pat Allen	Paul Robison	Michele Zee	SCOUTS	
Late	Wilson Oxner	Debbie Dent	Anna Stiglbauer	SCOUTS	
Pew Crew	Carol Arnold and Barbara Novak				
<b>Ushers</b> Early & Late	Ean Crapps & Keith McMillan—Co-Chairs Wayne O'Neill, Landis Sandel / SCOUTS will assist on January 28th				

If you are available to fill one of these open slots, please call Carol at the church.

THANK YOU!!

Do what lasts. Get around to everything else.

~ Bob Goff



# January Birthdays

2nd	Bobby Harmon Lisa Leitzsey Jane Risinger Mike Rowell
5th	Natalie Carter John Oxner
6th	Mitchell Bowman Ken Brock Stephen Kupchinsky
7th	Billy Boehringer
8th	Anna Kate Davis Jillian Leitzsey
9th	Sylvia Durden
10th	Lynn Roberts
11th	Rhea Claire Riley
12th	Bob Switter Paul Taylor Jason Watkins

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13th	Rory Branham
14th	Tetie Paul
15th	Ken Lunsford Russell Rawl
17th	Catherine Porth
18th	Lorelei Williams
19th	Julie Watkins
20th	Marilyn Dozier Michael Harmon
22nd	Charlie Eargle Carolyn Weed
24th	Allan Smith
25th	Matt Hendrix

26th	Bobby Arnold Jane Burnett Miles Hendrix AshleyAnne McMullen Steve Wyndham
27th	Vickie Davis
28th	Mike Bickley Teresa Bickley Martin Craps
29th	Raymond Jones Becky Porth Fulmer Shealy
30th	Claude Lindler Janet Mobley
31st	Stella Hendrick Oddie Porth

# January Anniversaries

4th	Dennis & Jo Wessinger	49 years
10th	Oddie & Joyce H. Porth	59 years
21st	Bob & Barbara Weed	58 years
23rd	Indy & Teresa Deliz	14 years
24th	Paul & Jodi Chumley 37	
24th	Ed & Brenda Hedgecock	55 years
24th	Doug & Kathy Schreiber	54 years
28th	Mike & Teresa Bickley	43 years

28th	Tom & Diane Lawhead	14 years
29th	Steve & Donna Alford	41 years



#### JANUARY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY** 

8:30 am Worship

9:30 am Coffee Time 9:45 am SonShine Choir

10:00 am Angel Choir

10:00 am Sunday School10:15 am Chancel Choir

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm Cub Scouts / SH

5:00 pm Jr & Sr. Youth/YR

**MONDAY** 

6:30 pm Matins Choir

6:30 pm Boy Scouts/SH

**TUESDAY** 

1:00 pm Staff Meeting/CR

WEDNESDAY

10:00 am Bible Study / FH

6:30 pm Mustard Seeds/ FH

**THURSDAY** 

10:00 am Grief Support/FH

CR=Conference Room

FH=Fellowship Hall

GR=Gathering Room behind PLC

PLC=Parish Life Center

SH=Scout Hut

YR=Youth Room



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Office Closed Today	2	3	4	5	6
All Committee Encounter 3:30 pm Baptisms	8 Lutheran Men 6:30 pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 Council 4 pm/CR	15	16	17	18 10 am Grief Support	Family Game Night 6:30-8 pm	20
21  1st Communion Lunch & Learn 12:30-2 pm/	22	23	24	25 10 am Grief Support	26	27
28	29	30 Loving Group	31			

#### THE LOVING GROUP

If you're new here, you may not know about this fabulous group! The Loving Group is made up of some of the finest folks around! They are retired and get together in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am on the last Tuesday of every month for a little work, a little play, and a whole lot of fun!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

# ST. PETER'S NORTH AMERICAN LUTHER AN

LEXINGTON, SC

January 2024





