



The Keys of St. Peter

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FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

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Every Sunday, after we hear the Old Testament but before we listen to the New Testament, we stand and recite a Psalm, responsively (that is, alternating between reader and congregation) by whole verse. Why do we emphasize the Psalms in our worship? What is so important about the Psalms?

We find our most true vision of ourselves in God, who reveals Himself in Scripture. God uses Scripture to show us the truth about our rational and emotional dimensions. In some parts of Scripture, God uses history to address our intellectual capacity to understand His involvement with us in the past (and, by extension, the present); in other parts, He uses poetry to address our emotional need to connect with Him.

The Psalms are poetic expressions of the mutual yearning between God and humanity; they are a collection of love-letters between God and us. As with all love-letters, they are sometimes joyful, sometimes angry, but are always emotionally honest. Over the past three thousand years, Jews and Christians have used the Psalms as a way to keep our lines of emotional communication with God clear, sincere, and true, which is the only way we can learn the truth about God and ourselves. When we read, say, or sing the Psalms, we connect with their emotional power to develop a vocabulary of praising and complaining to God in a way that rings true both to our experience and to the three-thousand-year-old experience of those who craved a poetic connection with God.

Over the past millennia, the Psalms have been invaluable aids to individuals and to communities that want to discover and articulate their deepest desires to God, who is the source and destiny of our longings. Pious tradition attributes the composition of most of the Psalms to King David as a part of his ministry to the court of King Saul. His sorrowful and joyful experiences of God's always-surprising presence and intervention produced a book of poetry that rings true with all who yearn to connect with God. Over time, the Psalms became the Hebrew hymnal. Every Sabbath, as the Hebrews gathered to hear God's word, they would combine their intellectual understanding of God with their emotional yearning for Him, using the Psalms in the same way we sing hymns. Therefore, the first reason we use the Psalms in our worship is because it is a way we connect with our historic connection with the Hebrews' religious experience as described by King David.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR CONTINUED

The second reason is more personal. As we read the Psalms, we are struck by the authentic and even visceral emotion they convey; from them we learn that God is equally accepting of our prayers of complaint as of our prayers of praise. Both Psalms and Hymns carry emotional power because they give us beautiful words that help us express our deepest feelings about God. Some of our hymns are explicitly based on specific Psalms. We think of the sad 5th stanza of Hymn 289 (“O God our help in ages past”), which is based on Psalm 90:

*Time like an ever-rolling stream
Bears all its sons away
They die forgotten as a dream
Dies as the opening day.*

This sad and majestic hymn is rooted in Psalm 90’s meditation on our total dependence upon God.

Or, we think of the joyful and even triumphant 1st stanza of Hymn 288, which was based on Psalm 104:

*O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing his power and his love!
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

This hymn’s praise of God is rooted in Psalm 104’s meditation on how God supplies all that His creation requires for its sustenance and strength.

Or we think of the comforting 4th stanza of Hymn 345 (“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”), which is based on Psalm 23:

*In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.*

This hymn’s pastoral power comes from Psalm 23’s meditation on God offering Himself as our Good Shepherd through all our tribulations.

Psalms, like hymns, address the full range of human emotions. Whether they are sad, angry, joyful, or desiring comfort, they encourage us to be honest with God in our prayers. They allow us to be fully human by being fully honest with God, who loves us for who we are, no matter how we are feeling. If we are to truly learn that depth and power of God’s love, we must learn to speak the truth of our feelings to Him, and to allow Him to embrace and redeem the depth and truth of these feelings.

Faithfully, in Christ,
Chris Bowhay+

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship will meet Thursday, January 2nd in the Parish Hall at 5:00 PM. Our meal will be blessed at 6:00 PM. Join us for great food and fellowship. All men are welcome.

PEOPLE'S TABLE

St. Peter's will be hosting the People's Table at First United Methodist Church in Columbia once again beginning January 3rd through January 24th 2020.

The People's table is a Soup kitchen to serve those of Columbia who may need to choose between food and other basic needs of life. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Joann Belcher at joannbelcher@ATT.net or (931) 212-7254.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Those who want to become members at St. Peter's and/or those who want to be Confirmed (or Received or the Renew Their Baptismal Vows) on February 9th when Bishop Bauerschmidt is with us should come to our new class in the Parish Hall this Sunday, January 5th after the 10:15 AM service (more specifically, at 11:30 AM). We will review Christian History from the Apostles to St. Peter's, how and why we worship, what we believe and how we think theologically, and other relevant topics. Fr. Chris will teach the class and refreshments will be served. Each class will last no more than an hour and 15 minutes. All are welcome, even those who are already Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Attention all Youth!! January 12th at 4pm we will gather and run off energy at Discovery Gymnastics located at 1943 Union Place, Columbia TN. They are located behind DJ's Party Rentals (off James Campbell Blvd). Come swing, run, bounce and jump with us! There is No Cost for this event, just a smile at the door. Please contact Jan McKenzie at (931) 626-9973 or Perry Terhune at (931) 241-1451.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

January 24th- 25th, 2020 St. Peter's will join the 188th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee at St. Bartholomew's Church in Nashville. The Vestry would like to thank Peter Moon, John Finney, and Diane Bolton for their representation of St. Peter's. The alternate will be Rick Bolton.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The annual meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2020. When we will elect 5 new vestry members. Please prayerfully consider candidates for nomination. The whole congregation serves as the nomination committee-any member may make a nomination. The candidate must be over 18 years of age and a confirmed communicant in good standing. Please get permission from anyone whose name you wish to submit, and then send that name to the Parish Office. Persons not eligible for nominations are: Kile Patrick, Frances Tuck, Walker Vining, Zeke Maddux, John Finney, Sarah Groth, Rich Sturges, and Tom Webster.

EPISCOPAL VISITATION AND CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 2020

Bishop Bauerschmidt will visit St. Peter's to celebrate the Eucharist and preach both services and administer the rite of Confirmation at 10:15 AM. In anticipation of this exciting day, St. Peter's will host a series of classes for those who wish to be Confirmed or who simply have questions and want to learn about the Episcopal Church. The first Confirmation Classes will take place Sunday, January 5th through February 2nd, 2020. Both youth and adults are welcome. Please call the parish office (931) 388-3331 or email the parish office: Office@SaintPetersColumbia.org.

ALTAR GUILD

Thank you, Altar Guild Members of St. Peter's, for your service and dedication to the Altar Guild and St. Peter's. All of you go beyond your call of duty in doing what needs to be done for each week's services.

Thank you especially at Christmas when each and every one of you takes the time out of your busy schedule to do extra and thorough cleaning so that St. Peter's is shining bright and beautiful for the Christmas services.

All of you are a blessing for your dedication and caring to me and St. Peter's.

Thank you, Joann Belcher

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of the people will be refreshed January, 2020. Please submit names for the next quarter to the parish office at Office@SaintPetersColumbia.org or call the parish office at (931) 388-3331.

FAREWELL

I am very sad to tell you that Nilsa Sherman, our Parish Secretary and my Assistant told me that she is leaving Tennessee to return to Florida and, obviously, will resign.

Like you I was completely surprised by her decision; Nilsa has performed her tasks with skill and dedication that far exceeded all of our expectations and we enjoy a strong, healthy working relationship. However, she tells me that after 3 ½ years in Tennessee, she has decided to be closer to the networks of support in her home state.

In her resignation letter, she writes, "I would like to thank you personally and the members of St. Peter's who I will remember fondly. This decision has no bearing on anyone in the church. It is simply what is best for me at this point of my life."

Nilsa says that she will remain in her position until we find a suitable replacement. She has agreed to let us pray and bless her on her final Sunday with us, whenever that may be.

We will immediately begin a search for her successor. I envision placing an ad on Indeed.com, but I also ask you to give us names of possible qualified candidates right away.

Please join me in praying for her and for St. Peter's in this time of transition.

Faithfully, in Christ,
Chris +



**ST. PETER'S
2019 VESTRY MEMBERS**

Tom Dake, Senior Warden
John Finney, Junior Warden
Sarah Robert, Clerk
Neil Clark, Treasurer

Rick Bolton
Sarah Groth
Mary Susan Kennedy
Jan McKenzie
Peter Moon
Tracy Moore

Sonny Scoggins
Rich Sturges
Tom Webster
Pam Williams

VESTRY SUMMARY

December 2019

1. Received an update on the 2020 Stewardship Campaign regarding the number of pledging families and the total amount pledged thus far
2. Approved a new
 - A. Facility and Equipment Use Policy
 - B. Alcoholic Beverage Use Policy
 - C. Application and Indemnification Form for Facility Use
3. Approved \$1000.00 to FreshStart from the Hale's Fund
4. Approved \$1300.41 to The Room at the Inn from the Hale's Fund
5. Property and Grounds reported that security will be present at both Christmas Eve Services
6. Christian Life reported that childcare will be available for the 4pm Christmas Eve Service

Detailed Minutes are available for your review in the Church Office



ST. PETER'S FOLLOW UP NEWS



Advent Wreath Making

Advent wreaths and their multi-colored candles help us remain vigilant in our home and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.



Daughters of the King – Christmas Card Project

Each year the Daughters of the King contact area nursing homes to find persons who have little or no family. We then sign Christmas cards and send them to these individuals which brings a little cheer to often lonely people. Thank You St. Peter's.



SAINT NICHOLAS' FEAST DAY

In England, it is customary to leave one's shoes by the door for St. Nick to fill with goodies.



The First Christmas



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Christmas Pageant 2019



Greening of the Church



Christmas Eve Service O Holy Night...



JANUARY

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

James & Linda Rogers

1st

Jim & Laurie Bellis

19th

Nicole Bradford

1st

David Dorozynski

3rd

Brandy Eddlemon

4th

Kristen Husaim

4th

Catharine Hess

5th

Wilson Barnett

6th

Sharon O'Brien

6th

Daniel Brunner

7th

Don Marshall

11th

Asher Eddlemon

11th

Gregory Husaim

11th

Bonnie Crews

12th

Brad Walton

13th

Becky Clayborne

14th

Beth Holmes

14th

Maya Keeton

15th

Melody Williams

15th

Kevin Kennedy

16th

John Breyfogle

18th

Sam Wrather

19th

John Olson

19th

Peggy Harmon

20th

Litton Robert

20th

Collette Chambers

21st

David Tuck

22nd

Mark Sells

24th

Sherri Naddy

24th

Ridley Kennedy

24th

Perry Terhune

27th

Pamela Lachmann

28th

Nicholas Janowicz

28th

Liz Cooley

31st

Lay Schedule

January

8:00 a.m.								
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector / Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Server</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Torch Bearers</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Usher</u>
5	Tom Harmon		Rebecca Terhune	Anna Money & Leslie Tudahl			Peter Moon	Tracy Moore
12	Sonny Scoggins		Sarah Robert (from the Pew)	Thomas Webster & Jill Williams			Peter Moon	Tracy Moore
19	Kae Fleming		Paul Studebaker	Perry Terhune & Rebecca Terhune			Peter Moon	Tracy Moore
26	Bob Thompson		Leah Studebaker	Walker Vining & Gunnar Terhune			Peter Moon	Tracy Moore

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2 5p-Men's Fellowship (Parish Hall) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	3 7p Narcotics Anonymous	4 7p-Narcotics Anonymous
5 8:00a Holy Eucharist 9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Holy Eucharist 11a-Confirmation & New Members Class (Parish Hall) 11:45a- Vestry Exec Meeting 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	6 8:30a-2:30p Quilters (Lounge) 6:30p - Scouts (PH) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	7 5:15p-Estes 7p-Alcoholics Anonymous 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	8 10:30a Holy Eucharist (Chapel) 5:30p DOK (Lounge) 6:45p Choir Practice 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	9 4p- Quilters (Lounge) 6:30p - Scouts (PH) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	10 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	11 7p-Narcotis Anonymous
12 8:00a Holy Eucharist 9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Holy Eucharist 11a-Confirmation & New Members Class (Parish Hall) 2p-Cotillion (Lounge) 4p-Youth Event Discovery Gymnastics 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	13 8:30a-2:30p Quilters (Lounge) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	14 5p-Finance & Gvt (Lounge) 6p-Vestry (Lounge) 7p-Alcoholics Anonymous 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	15 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Svc (Chapel) 4:30p Outreach (Lounge) 6:45p - Choir Practice 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	16 4-8p-Quilters (Lounge) 6:30p-Scouts (PH) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	17 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	18 7p-Narcotics Anonymous
19 8:00a Holy Eucharist 9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Holy Eucharist 11a-Confirmation & New Members Class (Parish Hall) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	20 MLK Holiday Office Closed 6:30p - Scouts (PH) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	21 7p-Alcoholics Anonymous 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	22 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Svc (Chapel) 6:45p-Choir Practice 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	23 5p-Bldg & Grounds 6:30p-Scouts (PH) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	24 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	25 7p-Narcotics Anonymous
26 8:00a Holy Eucharist 9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Holy Eucharist 11a-Confirmation & New Members Class (Parish Hall) 11:30a Annual Parish Meeting (PH) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	27 8:30-2:30p - Quilters (Lounge) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	28 6p-Polk Home 7p-Alcoholics Anonymous 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	29 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Svc (Chapel) 6:45p-Choir Practice 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	30 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	31 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	