



The Keys of St. Peter

*THE KEYS OF ST. PETER IS A MONTHLY
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FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

"...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward (Matthew 14:42)."

It is no simple thing to give a cup of water. In Maury County, before we turn on the faucet, fill a cup, and share it, innumerable invisible things have already taken place. Large pumps at the Columbia Power and Water treatment facility have pushed the water through pipelines large and small that ribbon beneath our streets. Before that, the facility collected that water from the mighty Duck River and screened, strained, coagulated, flocculated, and disinfected it before holding it in massive tanks for our use. Before that, the 284-mile Duck River channeled the water through a gravity-driven, free-flowing, winding path that drains and rises from the Middle Tennessee "Barrens" and drifts through Manchester, Normandy, and Shelbyville before it passes to us. Before that, the water fell from clouds of collected, cooled, and condensed vapor evaporated from the Earth's surface by the Sun. A cup of water is more than just water: it is a fusion of sun, sky, land, river, and human labor and ingenuity. But even then, that cup still requires an act of love and mercy to deliver it to those who thirst.

In the same way, an act of love and mercy is no simple thing; before we share it, innumerable invisible things have already taken place. God forms and fuels human hearts to pump and push His love through a living pipeline of relationships; in these relationships with one another, the love of God screens, strains, distills, and fills us until we overflow with action. Like a river running over hundreds of miles, this network of relationships in which we learn to love is the product of hundreds and even thousands of years of divine and human interaction. Take St. Peter's. The church we call home exists because in Columbia on April 13, 1828, George and Mary Ann Skipwith presented their infant daughter Jane Carey to the Episcopal Deacon John Davis to be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit among a group of friends: two months later, those friends organized the community of St. Peter's. Before that, in 1827, the small population of Episcopalians in Middle Tennessee was loved, served, and organized by the Rev. James Hervey Otey—later Rector of St. Peter's and first Bishop of Tennessee. Before that, in 1823, John Stark Ravenscroft, the man who ordained Fr. Otey and sent him on his missionary journey, was consecrated as Bishop of North Carolina by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Before that, in 1789, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church was formed by American patriots who loved our Lord, had been member of the Church of England, and wanted to continue to serve and

worship our Lord as Americans in the Anglican style. Before that, in 595 A.D., the Church of England from which we came was enveloped into the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church by St. Augustine of Canterbury, sent by Pope Gregory the Great from Rome. Before that, in 40 A.D., a Jewish fisherman named Peter left his home in Palestine and came to Rome to support, lead, love, and give his life for Christ's "little ones" there. Before that, in about 30 A.D., Peter was called by Jesus of Nazareth to leave his nets and to become a fisher of men for the Kingdom of God. This same Peter was present when, as we heard today, Jesus told His apostles, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me....and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward (Matthew 10:40, 42)." A cup of water we share today with even the least of us in the name of Christ and His generations of disciples is more than just water; it is a local spring of mercy bursting from a river of divine love that 2,000 years ago poured from the Christ's pierced side on the Cross on which He died to save us. Even before then—even before He was born, died, and rose again for us 2,000 years ago—His originating headwater was as the only-begotten Son of God eternally flowing from God the Father from before the beginning of time. All of that love and life comes to us as a gift. It all comes from God and one day we all will return it all to God like a grateful river to the generous sea.

The Rev. John R. Claypool was one of the greatest preachers in America in the past half-century. After being ordained as a Baptist minister in 1953, he was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1986. For fourteen years he served as the Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama, where he became a beloved friend and mentor to numerous clergy across the Southeast. One Saturday in June of 1968, John's eight-year-old daughter Laura Lue had just celebrated the end of the second grade with two recitals: a Suzuki violin performance in the morning and a ballet recital that evening. Unsurprisingly, at the end of the day she complained that she felt tired. After a few days, when the fatigue did not go away, John and his wife took her to a pediatrician who recommended a visit to the Children's Hospital where on the third day they heard an unexpected and devastating diagnosis: acute leukemia. At first, her young body responded well to the treatments and she went into remission, but before long her symptoms returned and she returned for more treatments. Finally, on a snowy Saturday eighteen months after her initial diagnosis, as John writes, "she breathed her

last and set out on a journey on which I could not accompany her.”¹ John, his family, and their entire community were devastated. One night, unable to sleep for grief, John rose from bed went to his study. Not knowing what he was doing, he pulled out a book from his shelf which turned out to be a commentary on the Book of Genesis. Apparently aimlessly, he opened the book and flipped through the pages until he found himself in a commentary on the twenty-second chapter of Genesis in which God asks Abraham to give up his son. At that moment, while reading, John had an epiphany. He realized that the main point of the story is not about Abraham’s loyal, sacrificial obedience to God: the main point is Abraham’s grateful trust in the goodness of God—no matter what, come what may. Later, John wrote: “As I sat there in the middle of the night listening to those images out of the book of Genesis, it dawned on me that my daughter was a gift and not a possession; [...] I had the sense that I could take the road of gratitude rather than the road of resentment out of the valley of the shadow of grief.”² He concluded, “I began to realize that my choice was mine to make: either living my life with my fist in God’s face or being grateful she had ever been given at all.”³

Everything comes from God as a gift. In this mortal life, nothing is truly ours; none of it is our private possession to cling onto. Everything flows from His hands through our hands to be passed to other hands. Our families, our passions, our blessings, and our lives are all His. Even this church family into which we have been carried is no more our own than the water He sends us to share like a bottomless cup of mercy. The God Who is good enough to shower us with gifts, blessings, and relationships of love in this world is the same God to Whom we entrust those gifts when they must pass from our hands. And He is also the God who, in the world to come in His abundant goodness, promises to perfect His gifts, to reunite us with our loves, and to resurrect us to new and eternal life. When we trust in His goodness, when we trust in His love, when we trust that we are wholly His, we can simply give Him all that we are and all that we have and then give Him thanks.

¹ *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler: Living and Growing Through Grief*, p. 88.

² Program 4609, “Hopeful Coping with Grief,” 30 Minutes Chicago Sunday Evening Club.

³ *Ibid.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RE-OPENING PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES

As we have entered the next phase in re-opening public worship, we are offering three different services, to meet your worship preference as closely as possible:

- | <u>8:00 AM</u> | <u>10:00 AM</u> | <u>5:15 PM</u> |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks required (provided)• Pre-registration required• Limited seating | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks required (provided)• Pre-registration required• Limited seating | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. John's, Ashwood• Pre-registration required• Masks optional (not provided) |

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM

If you would like to participate in hosting a High School exchange student this Fall, please contact Judith Broadbent at adreadne@mac.com or 615-400-6954.

HARVEST SHARE

As we continue to donate Cereal for The Family Center, please consider adding a few items to your cart, that will assist Harvest Share in their efforts in our community. This is a list of specific items that Harvest Share is very low on: *Pasta Noodles & Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Raman Noodles, Flour, Sugar & Condiments.* As with your Cereal donations, please call the Church and let us know you are coming by with your donations at 931-388-3331.

CEREAL FOR THE FAMILY CENTER

Thank you for your continued response to the call for breakfast food, for Maury County's Children. If you need to schedule a drop off time for your donation, email office@saintpeterscolumbia.org or call 931-388-3331

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK-TO- SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

Each year, the Family Center has a back-to-school backpack drive, to help the children of our community, as they return to school. For those who would like to participate this year, the age range is from K-12 and drop off of backpacks to the Church, should be no later than July, 22nd.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Now that we have begun our return to public worship, we wanted to inform you that Altar Flower sign-up dates are open for the summer. If you would like to donate flowers in thanksgiving, in honor, or in loving memory of anyone, please contact Gary at the Church Office (931) 388-3331 or Connie Hardin at (931) 626-6011.

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE

Wednesday Healing services have resumed at 10:30 AM. For the time being, the service will be held in the main Sanctuary upstairs—not in the downstairs chapel. Masks will be required.

VBS

Our scheduled date for Vacation Bible School (VBS) was Saturday, June 6, but the Christian Life committee of the Vestry and I have decided to postpone this until later in the summer. We plan to announce a date and provided further details soon.

Vestry Meeting Minutes Summary, June 9

- Approved purchase and installation of audio and video equipment to enhance quality of live streamed worship services, including the training of a ministry of volunteers. All costs underwritten by a generous donor.
- Approved temporary, one-month suspension of policy requiring plate collection to be counted simultaneously by two vestry members—counting to be performed by our bookkeeper, Ashley Maddux. Suspension may be renewed at the following Vestry meeting.
- Approved requests from Outreach Committee for \$1,000 to be given to the Center of Hope and \$1,000 to Columbia Counseling Ministries.
- Approved one-month extension of contract for radio broadcast of 10:00 AM Sunday morning service.

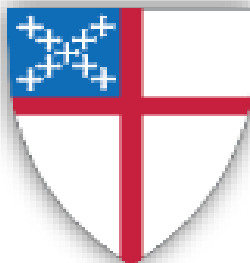
Vestry

ST. PETER'S 2020 VESTRY MEMBERS

Pam Williams, Senior Warden
Rick Bolton, Junior Warden
Sarah Robert, Clerk
Walker Vining, Treasurer

Mary Susan Kennedy
Jan McKenzie
Peter Moon
Tracy Moore
Sonny Scoggins
Tom Dake

Neil Clark
John Olson
Travis Groth
Gail Lewis
Patti Amorello
Louis Davis





July



Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

No Anniversaries for the Month of July

Judy Sanders	1 st	Celia Parrott	18 th
Gail Lewis	3 rd	Brian Holmes	19 th
Kile Patrick	4 th	Marilyn Webster	19 th
Elizabeth Bouldin-Payor	5 th	Steven Crawford	19 th
Currey Halliday	6 th	Dianne Breyfogle	22 nd
Charlotte Wilson	8 th	Karin Money	22 nd
Olive White	10 th	Anna Money	22 nd
Ben Shapiro	11 th	Klaus Lachmann	23 rd
Victoria Gay	11 th	Diane Bolton	24 th
Bev Williams	12 th	Jane Rodriguez-Keeton	24 th
Frank Perry	12 th	Connie Hardin	25 th
Wilda (Bill) Parrott	12 th	Terri Reid	28 th
Payton Waters	13 th	Jude Shockley	31 st
Anderson Clayborne	15 th		
Alexa Hyssong	17 th		

Lay Schedule

July

<u>Date</u>	8:00 a.m. <u>Lector /</u> <u>Eucharistic</u> <u>Minister</u>	<u>Server</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic</u> <u>Ministers</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Torch Bearers</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Usher</u>
3								
10								
17								
24								
31								

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
ALL LAY ASSIGNMENTS
ARE POSTPONED

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Service (Main Church) 5:45p DOK (Lounge) TBD 6:45 Choir TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	2 5:00p Men's Fellowship (Parish hall) TBD 7:00p Narcotics Anonymous TBD	3 7:00p Narcotics Anonymous TBD	4  7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD
5 8:00a Holy Eucharist 10:00a Holy Eucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 5:15p St. John's Ashwood 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	6 8:30a-2:30p Quilters (Lounge) TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	7 5:15p- Estes (Lounge) TBD 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	8 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Service (Main Church) 6:45p Choir Practice TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	9 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	10 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	11 1861 Girls School (CANCELLED) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD
12 8:00a Holy Eucharist 10:00a Holy Eucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 5:15p St. John's Ashwood 1861 Girls School (CANCELLED) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	13 8:30a-2:30p Quilters (Lounge) TBD 1861 Girls School (CANCELLED) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	14 5:00p-Finance & Gov 6:00p-Vestry (Lounge) 1861 Girls School (CANCELLED) 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	15 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Svc (Main Church) 4:30p-Outreach (Lounge??) 1861 Girls School (CANCELLED) 6:45p - Choir Practice TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	16 1861 Girls School (CANCELLED) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	17 1861 Girls School (CANCELLED) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	18 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD
19 8:00a Holy Eucharist 10:00a Holy Eucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 5:15p St. John's Ashwood 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	20 8:30a-2:30p Quilters (Lounge) TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	21 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	22 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Service (Main Church) 6:45p-Choir Practice TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	23 4:00p Polk Home (PH) TBD 5p-Bldg&Grounds (Lounge) TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	24 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	25 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD
26 8:00a Holy Eucharist 10:00a Holy Eucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 5:15p St. John's Ashwood 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	27 8:30a-2:30p Quilters (Lounge) TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	28 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous TBD 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	29 10:30a Holy Eucharist & Healing Service (Main Church) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	30 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	31 7p-Narcotics Anonymous TBD	9