

THE KEYS OF ST. PETER IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF:
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The Keys of St. Peter

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



VISIT US ONLINE: SAINTPETERSCOLUMBIA.ORG

Part of the power of a New Year is a renewal of hope. We hope that 2021 will be the best year yet. But there can be some misunderstandings about the nature and purpose of hope.

Faith is trust in someone we cannot see; hope is a certainty of good things in the future that we cannot see. These qualities, in addition to Charity (or Love), are the supreme gifts that St. Paul describes in his first letter to the Corinthians (13:13).

But these good things can become dangerous if they are centered on something or someone other than God. Some forms of love are damaging. Some people and institutions are not trustworthy. And hopes leads to heartache if they have more to do our expectations—which can come from any number of healthy or unhealthy needs—than with God's providence.

In *Good to Great*, Jim Collins' 2001 book on leadership, strategic planning, and organizational change, Collins describes what he calls "The Stockdale Paradox." Admiral James Stockdale was the highest-ranking United States military officer in the "Hanoi Hilton" prisoner-of-war camp during the Vietnam War. Throughout his eight-year imprisonment from 1965 to 1973—four years of which he spent in solitary confinement—he was tortured over twenty times. Nevertheless, he worked tirelessly to increase the number of prisoners who would return home unbroken all the while not knowing whether he himself would return. Collins asked Stockdale:

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‘Who didn’t make it out?’

‘Oh, that’s easy,’ he said. ‘The optimists. They were the ones who said, “We’re going to be out by Christmas.” And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they’d say, “We’re going to be out by Easter.” And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart [...] This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse certainty that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.’

Therefore, the two apparently contradictory but necessary elements of the Stockdale Paradox are:

- Maintain a clear, honest assessment of the very worst elements of our difficulties.
- Remain certain that, regardless of those present difficulties, we will ultimately survive, prevail, and even see them redeemed.

But isn’t Stockdale being a bit harsh? In targeting “the optimists,” isn’t Stockdale criticizing those who simply hope for a better future?

Theologically speaking, optimism is different from hope. It is true that optimistic people are more pleasant to be around than those who always expect the worst. It is true that an optimistic outlook can sometimes open up positive possibilities that otherwise would remain hidden. Nevertheless, optimism has its dangers. Optimists may become so relaxed about everything turning out well that they fail to work or help when needed. Optimists may practice such relentless, whistling-past-the-graveyard positivity that they enter denial about pain or disappointment—whether their own or others’—and block compassion to those who suffer. Or, as Stockdale suggests, optimists may direct their positivity toward such specific expectations that when their expectations are disappointed they “die of a broken heart.”

It must be said that 2020, from time to time, a lot of us (most of us?) fell prey to this kind of unreal optimism about any number of things: most obviously, we generated and projected our expectations for the end of COVID-19 to calendar-based events (“Surely we will still have Easter and Christmas!”) or specific dates (“Two weeks to flatten the curve!”) only to see them whoosh by and leave us behind in disillusionment. This is the kind of shallow optimism that Stockdale warns against: like the seed planted in rocky soil, it

withers due to lack of moisture (Luke 8:6). We need fewer concrete expectations and more spiritual tools.

Hope, theologically speaking, has a different perspective.

- Hope is the assurance of the ultimately good outcome God has in Mind for our lives: *“No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love him (1 Corinthians 2:9).”*
- Hope is a conviction that the grace of faith that God gives us ultimately produces spiritual fruit, including joy: *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).”*
- Hope is the confidence that, despite all of the darkness, the Light of Christ shines on us to do with us and for us that which we cannot do for ourselves: *“By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).”*

Mysteriously, our hope for the Resurrection of the Dead, our union with God, and His re-creation of everything is so powerful that bleeds backwards from His Eternity to our present time. In his 2008 book *Surprised by Hope*, the Anglican bishop, theologian, and author N.T. Wright wrote:

The surprising hope that comes forward from God’s ultimate future into God’s urgent present is not a distraction from the task of mission and evangelism in the present. It is a central, essential, vital, and life-giving part of it.

In other words, hope trains our eyes to look with expectation at how God is at work at all times and in all places—even in difficult times of disease and unease—and to see how He calls us to partner with Him to align our present difficulties into His triumphant future.

Admiral Stockdale told Jim Collins, “I never lost faith in the end of the story.” Neither do we. To us, Jesus says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last (Rev. 22:13).” He is the end of the story Who rewrites the whole story and makes everything and everyone new. He is our Hope; we wait for Him with our lamps lit.

Holiday Events

Christmas Card Project



Angel Tree Project



Quiltmedia Design by Sandy

Holiday Events



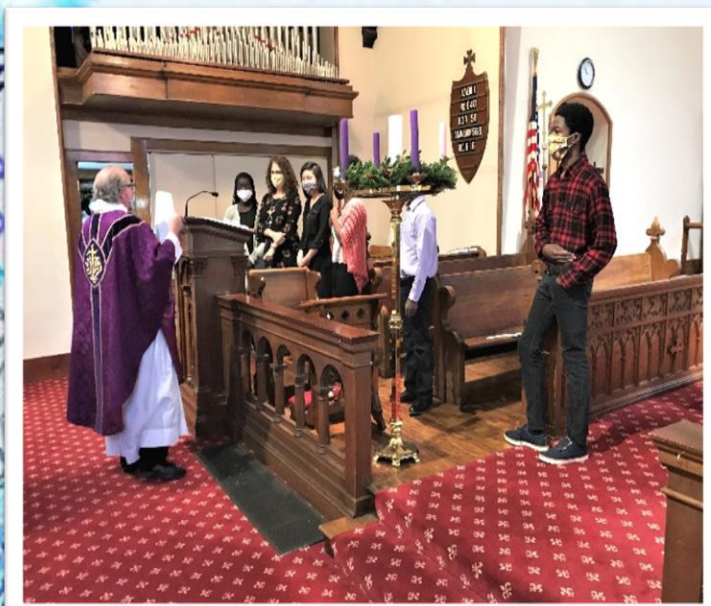
St. Nicholas Visits



Multimedia Design by Sandy

Holiday Events

Family Advent Wreath Lighting



Holiday Events

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Multimedia Design by Sandy

Holiday Events

Greening of the Church



Holiday Events

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols



Multimedia Design by Sandy

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 17th. The Vestry is exploring different and safer ways to present this meeting so everyone can participate. In whatever form the meeting takes, we will elect 5 new Vestry members and one to fill an open 1-year term. Please prayerfully consider candidates for nomination. Any parishioner 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 send their name, along with a profile of that person, to the Parish Office.

Persons NOT ELIGIBLE for nomination this year are: John Finney, Sarah Groth, Judy Sanders, Rich Sturges, Tom Webster, Tom Dake, Jan McKenzie, Tracy Moore, Peter Moon, Sarah Robert.

As of December 31st, our nominees include:

- John Breyfogle, nominated by Rick Bolton
- Cathy Oakes, nominated Buddy Oakes
- Earl Parrott, nominated by Tom Dake
- Jane Rodriguez-Keeton, nominated by Pam Williams
- Mike Sharpton, nominated by B.I. Naddy
- Ginger Moon, nominated by Zeke Maddux
- Mark Sells, nominated by Tracy Moore

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

January 23rd, 2021 St. Peter's will join the 189th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee. The Convention will be live streamed from St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville. The Vestry would like to thank Keith Click, Liz Cooley, Cathy Oakes and Paul Studebaker, for their representation of St. Peter's

ANNUAL BISHOP'S VISIT

Bishop John Bauerschmidt will make his Annual Visitation on Sunday, January 31st. He will Celebrate and preach at all three services and teach at the Adult Sunday School class at 10:00am. The loose offering that morning will be directed to The Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Please plan to join us on this important day.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

St. Peter's ministry of Church Ushers plays a vital role in our welcome ministry. Ushers help church members and guests experience a wonderful worship service. If you have the heart to serve, we would love to speak to you. Please contact B.I. Naddy at naddybi@ymail.com or Jan McKenzie at jnmckenzie1956@yahoo.com or you may call the church office (931) 388-3331.

NEW YEARS DAY

The Church Office will be close at Noon on Thursday, December 31st and will be closed Friday, January 1st in observance of the New Year. We look forward to serving you on Monday, November 4th at 8:00 AM. Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr federal holiday, the Parish office will be CLOSED Monday, January 18th.





KIDS CORNER

What's a Snowman's favorite
kind of lettuce?

Iceberg!!



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

On Wednesday, December 29 we contacted all members who are eligible to elect new Vestry members at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 17. (That meeting will be live-streamed from the church in the early afternoon.)

Under the authority of the canons (or church laws) of our Diocese, the Bishop has given consent to our Vestry's request that the election will be decided through absentee ballots.¹

Some of our members prefer our written communication to be through the Post Office; others prefer electronic options. Therefore, we requested that those eligible members let us know their preference for receiving ballots for this year's election:

- Those who receive our Newsletter through the mail were contacted through the mail.
- Those who receive our Newsletter by email were contacted by email.
- If a member's preference remained the same, he or she need to do nothing.
- If a member wanted to change his or her preference, he or she needs to contact St. Peter's.

Nevertheless, there may be some obstacles that we need your help to overcome:

- From time to time, some emails that we send to our members are intercepted by their computer's software and sent to their "spam" or "junk" folders. If you receive this Newsletter by email and think you are eligible to vote but have not received an email from us, please check those folders. (We will send a postcard to these members to ensure that they get this message.)
- The Post Office's delivery schedule has been unpredictable lately. If you receive the Newsletter by mail and think you are eligible to vote but have not received our request by Wednesday, January 6, please call us immediately.
- While we continually update our records, there is always the risk that an incomplete record will not show that you are an eligible voter. If you believe that you are eligible to vote but have not received either an email or a letter indicating your eligibility, please contact us so that we can complete or change your profile.

Please remember that, according to our Parish's By-laws and our Diocesan and National Canons, eligible voters must be:

- **An adult** (18+)
- **Confirmed** (or Received by an Episcopal bishop, if Confirmed by a bishop from another denomination),
- **A Communicant** (received Holy Communion at least three times in the previous twelve months "unless for good cause prevented")
- And be **"In Good Standing"** ("faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.")

¹ To maintain confidence in the integrity of the election, paper ballots will be numbered (without the voter's identification) before they are distributed and electronic ballots will be processed through www.electionrunner.com, a secure online platform.

December Vestry Meeting Summary

Please find below a bullet-point summary of the Vestry meeting on December 8, 2020

- Reviewed the November financials and Stewardship report with the Treasurer. He has been in contact with our bank to start the process for the forgiveness of our Payroll Protection Plan loan.
- Decided to postpone Outreach grant requests (except for those from Designated Funds for that purpose) and staff Christmas bonuses until the end-of-the year financial report.
- Approved process for 2021 virtual Parish Meeting and Election, subject to the approval of the Bishop and the Diocesan Chancellor.
- Received update on bids for Smoke Detector and Alarm which will be presented in January.
- Received report that Bishop Bauerschmidt will make his annual visitation on Sunday, January 31.

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

VESTRY NOMINEES

If you have been asked to be nominated for election to the Vestry, you may wonder exactly what you are being asked to do. Practically speaking:

1. Meet with the Bishop during his annual Visitation to St. Peter's on Sunday, January 31.
2. Attend a Friday evening/Saturday morning orientation at the church on February 5–6 to get to know your fellow leaders and to discern which specific goals God intends for our congregation to pursue in the upcoming year.
3. Attend an approximately hour-long meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. Occasionally, there may be special meetings called during the year. (This is rare.)
4. Gather once each month as a member of one of the four Standing Committees (Finance and Governance, Property and Grounds, Christian Service, Christian Life) to discuss and advance goals established by that committee.

The responsibilities of the Vestry are important, but the commitment of time and energy is manageable. Above all, those who are called to serve God in this manner receive a close-up look at how God leads His people to Himself in our congregation and grow in trust and hope in Him.

If you have any further questions about service on the Vestry, please contact St. Peter's at (931) 388-3331 or at office@saintpeterscolumbia.org.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Below please find a very broad overview of St. Peter's financial activity through the end of November. (December's activity will be reviewed in next month's newsletter.)

This summary is drawn from our Treasurer's Report to the Vestry—it has significantly more detail and is always posted in the hallway to the Church Office.

Our restrictions—and, in some cases, suspensions—of public worship since March have predictably led to a decline in “plate” giving. According to our budget, we had projected to receive \$55,000 in non-pledged giving by November 30; instead, we have received about \$45,771.40 in non-pledged giving. It must be said that giving in December is stronger than almost any other month.

To get a better sense of our overall status, I will also report our activity year-to-date:

	November 2020	Year to Date
Receipts	\$45,609	\$353,431.96
Disbursals	(\$32,403.03)	(\$367,994.09)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$13,205.97	(\$14,562.13)

**These amounts do not include the \$49,000 Payroll Protection Plan loan we received as part of the Federal CARES Act. The process for the forgiveness of that loan has begun.*

Meanwhile, I am very grateful for and excited by our Stewardship Education Program for 2021. We need to thank Sarah and Travis Groth and Kristin and Ben Wrather for their discernment, creativity, and hard work.

Below is a summary of our results as of December 30, 2020.

Last year (for 2020) we received a total of 118 pledges for a total of a little over \$368,000. As of December 30 (for 2021) we have received 108 pledges for a total of a little over \$321,000. 12 of these pledges (11%) are new. We have not yet received pledge cards from 21 households who had pledged last year: your Vestry is contacting them—positively and gently.

If your household has made its pledge, we thank you. If not, we ask you to pray over it and to offer it to us as soon as you can. If you prefer to give without making a pledge this year, we thank you for your support. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or observations about our congregational life together, please contact me at any time.

Faithfully,
Chris Bowhay+

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Jim & Linda Rogers
Jim & Laurie Bellis
Lewis & Pat Inman

1st
19th
22nd

Buzz Lovell 1st
David Dorozynski 3rd
Brandy Eddlemon 4th
Kristen Husaim 4th
Cora Fowler 4th
Catherine Hess 5th
Sharon O'Brien 6th
Daniel Brunner 7th
Cathy Oakes 7th
Fr. Sandy Herrmann 10th
Donald Marshall 11th
Asher Eddlemon 11th
Matthew Grams 11th
Bonnie Crews 12th
Brad Walton 13th
Becky Clayborne 14th
Tom Dubois 14th
Beth Holmes 14th
Maya Keeton 15th
Melody Williams 15th
Wilson Barnett 16th

Evelyn Groth 17th
Lonsdale Green 18th
John Breyfogle 18th
Sam Wrathier 19th
John Olson 19th
Peggy Harmon 20th
Litton Robert 20th
Collette Chambers 21st
Susan Tuke 21st
Terry Hutt 21st
David Tuck 22nd
Mark Sells 24th
Sherri Naddy 24th
Ridley Kennedy 24th
Elliott Hutto 26th
Perry Terhune 27th
Pat Inman 28th
Pam Lachmann 28th
Nicholas Janowicz 28th
Maximo White 30th
Liz Cooley 31st

Lay Schedule

December

<u>DATE</u>	8:00 a.m. Lector/ Eucharistic Minister	<u>Server</u>	<u>Lector</u>	Eucharistic <u>Ministers</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Torchbearers</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Usher</u>

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
ALL LAY ASSIGNMENTS
ARE ON A VOLUNTEER
BASIS EACH WEEK.
PLEASE CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO
SERVE

January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2
3 8:00a-Holy Eucharist (TBD) 9:15a-Holy Eucharist (TBD) 10:00a-Christian Ed (TBD) 11:00a-HolyEucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 9:00 a – Vestry Exec. Committee	4 8:30-2:30 Quilters (Lounge) TBD	5 5:15p – Estes (TBD) 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous	6 10:30a-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service (TBD) 5:30 p – Daughters of the King (TBD) 6:45p-Choir Practice TBD	7 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	8	9 7p-Narcotics Anonymous
10 8:00a-Holy Eucharist (TBD) 9:15a-Holy Eucharist (TBD) 10:00a-Christian Ed (TBD) 11:00a-HolyEucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 3:00p – Sons of the American Revolution (Parish Hall) (postponed)	11 8:30-2:30 Quilters (Lounge) TBD	12 5:00p-Finance & Governance (TBD) 6:00p-Vestry (TBD) 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous	13 10:30a-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service (TBD) 4:30p-Outreach (TBD) 6:45p-Choir Practice TBD	14 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	15	16 7p-Narcotics Anonymous
17 8:00a-Holy Eucharist (TBD) 9:15a-Holy Eucharist (TBD) 10:00a-Christian Ed (TBD) 11:00a-HolyEucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 12:00p-Annual Parish Meeting (Live-streamed)	18 8:30-2:30 Quilters (Lounge) TBD OFFICE CLOSED 	19 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous	20 10:30a -Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 6:45p-Choir Practice TBD	21 5:00p-Building & Grounds (TBD) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	22	23 *Diocesan Convention (Parish Hall) 7p-Narcotics Anonymous
24 8:00a-Holy Eucharist 9:15a-HolyEucharist 10:00a-Christian Ed 11:00a-Holy Eucharist Via Facebook/Church Website 12:00p-Annual Parish Meeting (Tentative) 2:00p-Jr. Cotillion (Parish Hall)	25 8:30-2:30 Quilters (Lounge) TBD	26 6:30p-Alcoholics Anonymous	27 10:30a -Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 6:45p-Choir Practice TBD	28 7p-Narcotics Anonymous	29	30 7p-Narcotics Anonymous
31 8:00a-Holy Eucharist 9:15a-HolyEucharist 10:00a-Christian Ed 11:00a-Holy Eucharist *Bishops Visit 12:00a-Vestry Executive Committee (Parish Hall)						18

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*Thou has set all
the borders of the
earth: thou hast made
Summer and Winter.*

Psalms 74:17

