



The Keys of St. Peter

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FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

August 30, 2020

In 1854 Henry David Thoreau wrote his great work entitled *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*. The memoir was the fruit of his decision to seclude himself in nature for two years, two months, and two days. Thoreau's vacation from the ways of the world gave him a chance to reflect on the dissatisfaction that he felt in daily city life. He concluded, famously, that "the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." We see this desperation today—sometimes expressed quietly and other times expressed violently. I believe that a large part of the desperation felt by the mass of men comes from the absence of hope.

The Church does not spend enough time talking about hope. Hope is the expectation of future good. No matter what befalls us—a career setback, a broken relationship, a medical problem, social injustice, civic unrest—when we enjoy the gift of hope, we are firmly entrenched in the expectation that a far greater good will come to us, not in spite of but as a consequence of our current difficulty. Hope is usually confused with faith, which is also necessary but is different from hope. Faith bravely takes action by trusting in God. Hope abides even when no action can be taken. Sometimes we face challenges that present no opportunity for action; sometimes we must simply wait and look for the good thing that God will eventually deliver. This is the essence of hope. St. Paul told the Romans, "in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience (Romans 8.24-25)." Those who see nothing good and cannot imagine any future good have no hope; as a result, they either explode in fury or surrender to despair. Those who have hope may also see nothing good at the moment, but because they choose to hope that something even greater than they can imagine is coming, they find joy.

Even Jesus needed hope in the face of disappointment. We may be surprised to realize that Jesus was ever disappointed, perhaps because we think of him as some sort of 1st century Superman who never got hungry, thirsty, or sick; who never felt cranky or irritable; and who certainly never felt frustrated or disappointed. The reality is that Jesus is both perfectly divine and fully human: all that we experience, He experienced. He knew disappointment. The earliest record of Jesus' disappointment occurred at the beginning of His ministry, when He visited His hometown of Nazareth. While there, He was shocked to discover that the people there had so little faith in Him or in His Mission that He could not perform any miracles among them. St. Mark writes, "*He was amazed at their unbelief (Mark 6.6).*" The word "amazed," in Greek *thaumazo*, is important: while it is used many times to describe how people react to Jesus, it is used only twice in the entire New Testament to describe how Jesus reacted to people. To be amazed is to be astonished, to wonder, or to marvel. Jesus started His ministry with astonished disappointment in His hometown. After Jesus left Nazareth, He was consistently and deeply troubled by the continual faithlessness His own people showed in Him and in the Father who sent Him. Nevertheless, Jesus did not despair; He was disappointed, but He still hoped. The Hebrews' faithlessness was an obstacle that He could not remove; He had to wait in hope and see what God would develop. He hoped that His Heavenly Father would eventually deliver some greater good from his disappointment, though He could not see what that good would be.

The second time when Jesus was amazed took place on the coastal town of Capernaum, which was run by the corrupt Hebrew King Herod Antipas with the support of a Roman garrison. A delegation of Hebrew elders came to Jesus on behalf of a Roman Centurion who had a beloved servant who was sick to the point of death. Unlike many in the Roman army, this Centurion was a God-fearing man; he was a friend of and even a benefactor to the Hebrew community - he personally funding the construction of the synagogue in Capernaum. The Centurion, in his desperation to save his servant, asked his Hebrew friends to ask Jesus for help. Jesus agreed to come to the Centurion's house. As He came near, He was met by a second delegation bearing a message from the Centurion. They told Jesus that the Centurion did not see himself as a good man; in fact, he had declared that he was not worthy that Jesus should enter his house. Nevertheless, the Centurion still wanted Jesus to heal his servant; he trusted that Jesus had the spiritual and medical authority to heal his servant right there and then from far away. Luke says that, in response to this statement, Jesus "*was amazed at him.*" Jesus was astonished by the Centurion's trust; He wondered where his trust came from and where it would lead.

While Jesus was amazed negatively in Nazareth, He was amazed positively in Capernaum. These two uses of the word “*thaumazo*”—“amazement”—serve as bookends to a long period of Jesus’ frustration. When the Centurion showed his deep and meaningful faith in Christ’s Lordship over all things in heaven and earth, including disease and death, Jesus suddenly saw what the fruits of His hope would be. In an outburst of joy, Jesus praised the Centurion by saying, “*I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith (Luke 7:9).*” Jesus had been amazed at the faithlessness of Israel; Jesus became amazed that God obviously was working to redeem not only Israel but also the whole world. Jesus’ hope was tested by a long period of disappointment; that disappointment would be surpassed by what God the Father would do. Out of Jesus’ early disappointment, God would bring a greater good. Jesus’ hope would be fulfilled.

If God the Father did not spare His own Son from disappointment to encourage His human need for hope, we should not be surprised when we face disappointments and discover our need for hope. Sometimes we experience disappointments so profound and total that we are amazed, and we wonder whether any good will come from them. But beyond those moments of negative amazement stands the promise of positive amazement: God will bring something good and even greater from our disappointments. From our experiences that often feel like death, God will bring to us new chapters of life that anticipate our Resurrection. Beyond and beneath all our disappointments and hopes stands God, who moves in all times, places, and circumstances to bring us closer to Himself.

Our souls’ houses are too small; without hope, we lead lives of desperation. God intends that these small houses should become mansions in His Kingdom. Through our disappointments, both big and small, God invites us to receive the gift of hope so that He will enlarge us, will make us worthy for Him to come under our roof, and through us share His gift of hope with the whole world.

Faithfully, In Christ
Chris Bowhay+

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RELIEF FROM HURRICANE LAURA

Our hearts ache as we see, once again, a devastating hurricane leave a path of destruction through East Texas and Western Louisiana. That this should happen in a time of a pandemic is simply unthinkable. In this week's clergy Zoom meeting, in addition to encouraging prayers for the victims of Hurricane Laura, we were encouraged to send financial contributions to the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), the international relief and development agency founded in 1949 by the Episcopal Church. To give to support the work of recovery, please either:

- Send a check payable to St. Peter's with "Hurricane Recovery" in the Memo, or
- Go to the following link on Realm— <https://www.saintpeterscolumbia.org/gifts>
 - Select Online Giving
 - Choose "Memorial Fund"
 - Enter "Hurricane Relief" in the Memo section.

Thank you for your prayers and your generous support

FR. BOWHAY OUT OF TOWN

Fr. Bowhay will be away from the office from Monday, August 31st through Saturday, September 19.

- Fr. Sandy Herrmann will celebrate and preach at all three services on Sunday, September 6.
- Fr. Tom Wilson will celebrate and preach at the 8:00 AM and the 10:00 AM services on Sunday, September 13. The 5:15 PM service will be cancelled that day. Fr. Wilson will also celebrate at the Wednesday 10:30 AM Healing services.
- In the event of a sacramental pastoral emergency, please call our Senior Warden, Pam Williams, at (931) 215-2283 or email her at pawilliams@mauryregional.com. She will forward your information to Frs. Herrmann or Wilson for their assistance.

CROSSROADS CAFÉ VOLUNTEER NEED

The Crossroads Café is a safe place for people without a place to live to put down their backpacks, take a shower, get laundry done, drink a cup of coffee or enjoy some light refreshments, and receive referrals to helping agencies and ministries in Columbia. (It is not an overnight shelter.) The Café is staffed by a full-time Manager who handles all contact with the clients. However, she needs two-person teams (one male and one female) to simply be with her while she does her work. Located in the lower level of Harvest Share, the Café is open Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM. Currently, the Manager needs one (1) man for Tuesday-Friday and one (1) woman on Monday. Single-day volunteers are welcome. For more information, please call St. Peter's at (931) 388-3331

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE

Our 10:30 AM Wednesday healing service has resumed in the church (not in the Chapel downstairs). Please join us!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The paper version of the St. Peter's updated directory is in its final review. When we complete that, we will email a copy to each household via Realm so that you may print a copy from home. We will also mail a printed copy to those who request it.

FOSTER TOTES

Thank you for all who participated in our last appeal for totes with specific items, for the Foster Children. We still need your help for this cause, but we only need the actual tote or a small gym bag. Please call the church office 931-388-3331 to schedule your drop off.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are a meaningful way to remember a loved one's birthday or anniversary. All Sundays in September are available. If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please contact the Church office at (931) 388-3331 or Connie Hardin at (931) 626-0011.

ST. JOHN'S ASHWOOD

Join us today at 5:15 pm on the grounds of St. John's, for a beautiful time of Worship. Registration will be required at saintpeterscolumbia.org or when you arrive. Masks will be provided and recommended. We will be observing a 10' social distancing rule. No nursery will be provided.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

Dianne Breyfogle, member and 2nd Vice Regent of the Brigadier General Richard Winn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, has asked that we consider the following statement about Constitution Week:

September 17-23 is Constitution Week. Let us remember and give thanks for our freedom of religion and other freedoms protected by it.

US Constitution: Amendment 1 *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....."*

MAURY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRANT

Several months ago, Rick and Diane Bolton took the time to apply for a grant with the Maury County Historical Society. This week, we received our response from the Historical Society and we are very excited to share their decision below. Thank you to Rick and Diane Bolton for spearheading this opportunity.

Hello Rick,

There was more than the usual discussion about the grants at the Board meeting on Monday evening. The number of grant applications received this year was more than double the number submitted last year. The discussion revolved around six of those applications, with the Board desiring to support each project but having limited grant funds available.

St. Peter's outside restoration project is one of the six that was approved for a grant, though not in the amount that the Historical Society would like to have been able to give in support of the work.

There will be an "official" award notification coming to you, but "unofficially" let me say that support in the amount of **\$1,000** was approved for your project. Time-wise, if the project continues in the next calendar year please consider applying for a year 2021 grant to help with whatever stage of the restoration project that you are in at that time.

On a personal note, I love St. Peter's and the wealth of history that it holds and represents. Thank you to all who so diligently care for this historical gem which has at this season in time been entrusted to you.

Colleen

CONGRATULATIONS CATHY OAKES

Cathy Oakes, who recently joined our congregation with her husband Buddy, is a composer and concert pianist. Her latest album, “Healing Hands” won Album of the Year at the Enlightened Piano Radio Awards, held on August 22. Cathy has recorded over 100 of her original compositions and arrangements on six CDs and is working on #7. She composes, records and performs her music at venues all over the nation, including Carnegie Hall, The Grand Ole Opry, Carnival Cruise Lines, concert halls, schools and opera houses. She has won several awards for her music including Best Solo Piano Album in 2016, Best Piano Album with Instrumentation in 2019 and Composer of the Year at the MPS Awards in Nashville in 2019.

“Healing Hands” is made up of the pieces Cathy wrote while navigating her way through breast cancer. It is dedicated to the wonderful team of medical professionals who guided her through that journey, especially Dr. John Brown and his assistant, Jennifer Konke and the wonderful staff at Maury Regional Cancer Center and The Women’s Center. It is designed to minister to all the brave women who will journey through breast cancer. It is Cathy’s mission to get this CD into the hands of those women walking the road behind her. If you know someone who is walking that road, please let Cathy know. She will be honored to give them a CD.

Cathy has served as the choir director and music minister for several churches throughout the years. She enjoys being part of the choir here at St. Peter’s and has written several original pieces and arrangements for them. She also teaches piano and enjoys serving as the music director for many plays at the Maury County Arts Guild.

Her music may be heard on Pandora, Spotify, You Tube, Apple Music, Soundscapes, Sirius XM and many other on-line and terrestrial stations.



Vestry Meeting Minutes Summary, August, 11

- Reviewed Financial Report submitted by the Treasurer: Pledged and Plate giving is lower than projected for the first time this year.
- Voted to replace aging, failing office computer.
- Voted to change provider of portable toilet, reducing cost from \$160 per week to \$80/month.
- Voted to continue radio broadcast of 10:00 AM Sunday service at the cost of \$100/week.
- Fr. Chris reported on sacramental activity (all observing protocols and without giving names: private baptisms, confessions, weddings, visits of the sick. He and Deacon Bonnie are continuing their work on a more proactive ministry of Pastoral Care.)



ST. PETER'S 2020 VESTRY MEMBERS		
Pam Williams, Senior Warden	Mary Susan Kennedy	Neil Clark
Rick Bolton, Junior Warden	Jan McKenzie	John Olson
Sarah Robert, Clerk	Peter Moon	Travis Groth
Walker Vining, Treasurer	Tracy Moore	Gail Lewis
	Sonny Scoggins	Patti Amorello
		Louis Davis



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I recently learned that it was our prior practice to include in the Newsletter a very broad overview of St. Peter's financial activity during the preceding month. This is a terrific way for everyone to have a general sense our fiscal health.

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

It should also be stressed the pledged gifts are customarily low in the summertime and return to normal every Fall. It is also worth mentioning that our restrictions of public worship since March have predictably led to a decline in "plate" giving.

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

	July 2020	Year to Date
Receipts	\$19,014.00	\$214,221.66
Disbursals	\$39,329.68	\$235,567.81
Outside of Ourselves	\$5,635.65	\$16,135.65

If you have any questions, please contact either me or our Treasurer, Walker Vining

Faithfully,
Chris Bowhay+



September



Happy Anniversary

Wilson & Jane Barnett	5 th
John & Donna Brown	9 th
Pat & Eric Lena	21 st
Rob & Kae Fleming	25 th
Mike & Diane Roe	25 th
Bill & Susan Harwell-Riley	30 th

Happy Birthday

Father Jason Terhune	2 nd	Sarah Thompson	13 th
Beth Tarter	3 rd	Ray Lewis	15 th
Betty Sharpton	5 th	Karen Miller	15 th
Richard Crawford	5 th	Betty List-Rice	17 th
Van Harwell-Callaway	6 th	Patricia Amorello	17 th
Mike Sharpton	7 th	Grace Vining	17 th
Isaac Kelley	9 th	Katherine Vining	17 th
Naomi Shockley	9 th	William O'Brien	17 th
Phillip Eddlemon	10 th	Melanie Surprise	19 th
Eric Lena	10 th	Anne Kelley	20 th
Harvey Fischer	11 th	Milton Tudahl	27 th
Patrick Bartol	11 th	Tracy Moore	28 th
Matthew White	11 th	Gibran Naddy	28 th
Peter Moon	12 th	Jennifer Mackenzie	28 th
Doug Moore	12 th	Augusta Bowhay	30 th
Rachel Kennedy	13 th	John Kelley	31 st


Lay Schedule

September

<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

September 2020

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