

A THANKFUL NOVEMBER

November was a busy month for St. Peter's and we are so thankful for the many ways our St. Peter's family and community made it a special one. Our Elderberries visited and had a personal tour by Tony Gilman at Luck Stone on November 7. On November 8, we had 25 volunteers help with our annual Fall Clean Up. We ended the month with our annual Brunswick stew fundraiser on November 22 where it was referenced as "the best stew ever!" We thank all our St. Peter's family for their love and support and spreading God's love.



Christmas Angel Tree

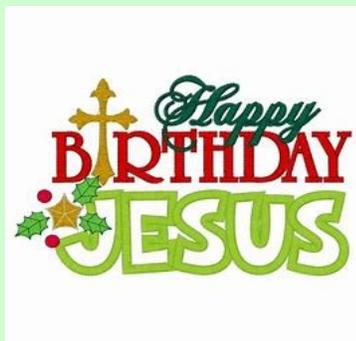
This year, we are blessed to again help two families through WHEAT celebrate the Christmas season. In the church narthex, there is a tree with angel ornaments that provide details of age and gender and a Christmas item/wish. If you would like to shop for gifts, simply pick one or more ornaments. Then, please return all gifts *unwrapped* (with your ornament tag attached) by Sunday, December 14.

Many thanks goes out to our missions committee for organizing this beautiful way of showing God's love to others.



December Birthdays

January Birthdays



Cynthia Siple	2	Katherine Stone	3
Al Craig	4	Abby Davis	6
Patty Kelley	8	Zachariah Kahler	6
Holli Forlines	17	Butch Jackson	14
Tonya Austin	19	Dave Pollock	24
Violet Bishoff	19	Megan Pollock	26
Sid Siple	30	Carolyn Eanes	29
Nancy Owens	30	C.W. McIlhenny	29

ST. PETERS UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION	OCTOBER 2025	YEAR TO DATE
Donations to the Budget Account	18,145.00	219,027.00
Transferred from Savings	None	None
Budget Account expenses	26,404.00	213,364.00
Gain/Loss	-8,259.00	5,663.00

Young Adults Small Group

Who: Open to anyone ages 17-30
Facilitated by Sarah & Noah Parks
What & Why? A regular gathering to make connections and grow in our spiritual lives

When: Tuesday nights, 7-8:30 pm

Where: Sarah & Noah's house
Bumpass, VA (text Sarah for address)

How to participate: text Sarah
@ 434-282-8493 for information!

FOR UNTO US
A CHILD IS BORN



Men's Group News

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for 8am on December 13th at Kitchen 33 & Bakery. Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a discussion on ongoing and new projects. These meetings are typically brief, focusing mainly on bonding with other Christian men.

Luncheon: We had a great time at The Eagles Nest Restaurant last month. This is just a bunch of guys hanging out, chatting about anything and everything.

Brunswick Stew: We had the pleasure of preparing and packaging the stew for the church fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed it; and we thank all of you who cooked chicken and chopped onions for us!

Recent Activities: Helped a WHEAT client get her water system repaired. Helped a couple of church members with their yard work.

Wheelchair Ramp Initiative: We installed an 81-foot ramp for a community member. We have 6 ramps installed at this time. If you know someone who needs a temporary wheelchair ramp, please let us know.

Firewood Ministry: We've made several deliveries to WHEAT clients who needed firewood. Our next wood splitting party is at The Church of Our Saviour wood yard on December 6th starting at 8am. You don't need to split or haul wood to be part of this mission, just come out and enjoy the fellowship!

Ongoing Support: We handle small repairs and maintenance issues for those in need in our church and community. Please let us know if we can assist you or someone you know.

Donations: If you would like to make a monetary donation to our group, please make your check out to St. Peter's UMC and write "Men's Group" in the memo line; or visit the church website, click **GIVE** in the upper right hand corner, insert your amount, and select "**Men's Group**" from the drop-down list; or simply drop your donation in the offering plate with a note "**Men's Group**".

Subscribe: If you would like to be added to our mailing list, click below and stay in the loop! [Click here to subscribe](#)

We welcome you to join us at any of our meetings or projects. No special talents are required—just come for the fellowship! If you have any questions please contact us at MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org or call Butch at 804-496-1399.

May God continue to bless us all!

PRAYER CONCERNS: **Missionaries:** Our covenant missionaries to the Congo: Gaston Nkulu Ntambo **Our Military:** Matt Chapman, Madison Siple. Ayden Carter **Children:** Taylor Macaulay, Gavin Yonce, Jackson Andrews, Teddy D.

Prayer Requests: Jonathon Horton, Cynthia Kersey, Bob Richards, Ellen McIlhenny's sister, Eileen Siple, Laura Smith, Louise Tanner, Kyle Dobb, John Militzer, Cecilia Taylor, Janet Ervin, Fay Turner, Leann L., Kathy Richard, David Miller, Patty Taylor, Ryan Spencer, Karen Tatti, Keri Nicholsan, Ellen Stanley, Shelley Horton, Kim Fuhrman, Gene Hall, Kim Jones, Barbara Adam's SIL, Lexi Lowry & family, RJ (Dwayne Kahler's cousin), Walter Taylor, Stephanie Gerskey & family, Kevin Shaver, Tom Gilman, Jessica Matyiko Green, Mike Jones, Kathy Sullivan, Missy Bauder, Debbie Murphy, Ricky Pillow, Carrie Wright, May Shifflet, Thomas Jordan, Anne Babel, Latrice Knight, Katherine Stone, Jim Wuensch, Aiden Carter, Denny Waldrop & family, Dwayne Kahler, David Forlines, Bob Roberts, Nany Behrens & family, Patty Shortridge, Bernie Stanley, Family of Brian Morgan, Will McLendon, Cameron Smith, David Forline

Always in Our Prayers: Pastor Gretchen and family



St. Peter's Family,

We hope this season of Advent brings joy to you as we celebrate Christ's birth. We want to wish you a Merry Christmas. We look forward to serving you in the new year ahead.

Peace be with you!

- the Staff of St. Peter's



In Memory

Brian Leonard Morgan, 84, found eternal rest on October 31, 2025, after a decline in health caused by advanced dementia. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 50 years, Catherine Davis Morgan, and his sister, Patricia Margaret Caslake.

Brian is survived by his two daughters, Anne Morgan Vig (Greg) of Doswell, Virginia, and Elizabeth Morgan Guy (Danny) of Montpelier, Virginia. He was the proud "Grandad" to four grandchildren: Dylan Guy, Morgan Vig, Tyler Guy, and Jordan Vig. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Cran Davis, and brother-in-laws, Jim Caslake and Nat Davis (Jenny).

The son of the late Leonard Henry Morgan and Margaret Catherine Morgan, Brian was born on March 4, 1941, in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, England. Upon graduation from boarding school, he entered The British School of Radio Telegraphy, studying to become a Radio Officer in the Merchant Marine. After three years traveling the globe with the British and Greek Merchant Marines, Brian was drawn to the United States and ultimately emigrated in 1963, settling in Richmond.

Once in the U.S., Brian furthered his education by taking classes in the developing world of computers while working as a computer operator at VEPCO. In 1968, he joined Systems Engineering Corporation, which was later acquired by Life of Virginia and then GE/Genworth. During the last 15 years of his career, he served as Director of Offshore Development, traveling around the world multiple times each year - particularly to India and Japan. After 34 years of dedicated service, Brian retired from Genworth in 2002 at the age of 61.

Brian met Cathy on a blind date in 1969, and they married in September 1970. Much to the relief of his in-laws, Brian became an American citizen in May 1972. The couple settled in western Hanover County in 1973, building a home where they would raise their two daughters and create lasting memories over the next 40 years. They also loved getting away to the mountains and renovated their mountain home in Aylor, Virginia, where they spent many happy weekends over two decades.

Brian had many passions and always stayed busy. A lifelong Boy Scout, he remained involved with scouting throughout his travels in the Merchant Marines and in Richmond. Brian and Cathy were also deeply involved with Hanover Habitat for Humanity, where they spearheaded the first church-sponsored house build. Among Brian's many hobbies were woodworking, collecting antiques, painting, and traveling, but most precious to him was gardening. He proudly earned the title of Master Gardener of Hanover County and could often be found in his garden or greenhouse.

Faith in God was at the center of Brian's life. He and Cathy joined St. Peter's United Methodist Church in 1977. Since he was raised in the Catholic Church, he also continued attending Catholic services for many years. His spirituality deepened through his participation in Centering Prayer groups, the Spiritual Direction Institute (SDI), and weekend retreats at Holy Cross Abbey and Shalom House. During his later years, he also found joy in sending out weekly prayer e-mails and attending the Celtic worship service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond.

Brian's British accent, rosy cheeks, and patient, kind demeanor will be remembered by all who knew him. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandad, and will be truly missed.

A service will be held on Monday, November 10th at 10:00 AM at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Montpelier, Virginia. Visitation with the family will immediately follow the service, followed by a private interment.

Services were held on Monday, November 10 with Rev. Gretchen Nelson and Rev. Yun Kim officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter's United Methodist Church, WHEAT (Western Hanover Emergency Action Team), or Hanover Habitat for Humanity.

REMEMBER HONOR TEACH
WREATHS
across
AMERICA
 LIVE ★ WITH ★ PURPOSE

CUB SCOUT
PACK
 40
706

Everyone deserves a wreath.
 Please click or scan below to honor
 those who made the ultimate
 sacrifice.



Christmas
PANCAKE
SUPPER
 with Santa
Dec. 5 @ 6:00 PM





ELDERBERRIES LUNCHEON

The Elderberries will meet for lunch in Ashland on Friday, December 5 at 11:30 at Around the Table. All are welcome! A sign up sheet is on the Narthex table or text Ruth Smith 804-216-1260.

Staff Christmas Bonus ~ Love Offering

It's that time of year again! Time to remember our wonderful staff with donations for their annual Christmas bonus. Please consider a gift to show your thanks. Contributions must be received no later than December 21st. Please write "staff bonus" on the memo line of your check or on the envelope if you're donating cash. Currently not attending church? No problem, feel free to mail your donation to the church or make your donation online by selecting "Staff Gifts/Love Offering" as the fund for your donation. Thank you! - SPR Committee



Pastor's Ponderings

Good Advent to you. Welcome to a special season of Advent-Christmastide-Epiphany. It is a time rich with story, visuals, music, aromatics, and events. Together people of faith explore themes of expectation, anticipating the wondrous fullness of God's saving grace. We journey toward the manger and beyond into a promised fulfillment of God's kingdom. Advent is a season of growing anticipation towards Jesus' birth and preparing to celebrate God's greatest gift of love by coming to be one among us. Sometimes festivities beginning Thanksgiving weekend find a conclusion on Christmas evening when all the presents lay revealed in piles of crinkled merry paper and delectable treats are only a sweet crumbly memory. For those keeping liturgical time, these delights extend beyond Jesus' birthday celebration through 12 days of merriment and a whole light themed season of Epiphany. Advent anticipates ongoing participation with God's holy gifts of grace. So pace yourself, a season of delights now just beginning will carry us through this winter with God's beautiful light. Enjoy with me this mysterious awe-some time of God's incarnational presence.

Merry Christ-mass!
May this season be the best ever!
Blessings,
Pastor Gretchen

Advent Journey

* Devotionals and Advent Calendars are available in the welcome center outside the sanctuary. May they be a companion on your journey.

Advent Bible Study

* Pastor Gretchen will lead a study on Wednesday evenings 7 PM, December 3-17. Zoom option is available. Contact Pastor Gretchen

Photo-a-day Challenge — Advent edition

Celebrate this season of anticipation. UMC offers a practice for the Advent season that we hope is more meaningful and rewarding than it is hard: Our Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge. Each day during the season of Advent, we'll post a word for reflection on both [The United Methodist Church's Facebook page](#) as well as [The UMC Instagram account](#). Take a moment (or several moments) of pause and reflection, then share a response to that word through a picture posted on social media. Post your picture on social media with #AdventPhoto--or tag us [directly on Facebook](#) with @TheUnitedMethodistChurch.

Don't worry if you miss a day or two--there's no failing this challenge. (And we know you don't need the extra pressure!) We just hope to provide a gift of added meaning to this special season.

Check out the daily photo prompt, post your submissions, be inspired by photos from around the world. Share them on St. Peter's Facebook page.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear St. Peter's UMC,

We are so incredibly grateful for your congregations \$400.00 contribution to the Food Pantry at Patrick Henry High School. Your donation made an immediate and measurable impact for our students facing food insecurity. Thank you for answering our call to meet this need in our shared community.

Sincerely, The PHHS PTA



PTA MEMBERSHIP



St. Peter's United Methodist Church
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Montpelier, Virginia 23192
Phone: 804/883-5596
E-mail: stpetersumc@gmail.com

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We envision our church welcoming all people, encouraging a journey of faith, and serving the world in the name of Christ.

Christmas at St. Peter's

December 5 - Pancake Supper with Santa - 6:00 PM

Dec. 3, 10 & 17 - Bible Study - 7:00 PM

December 20 - Christmas Caroling - 4:00 PM
(meet at church)

**December 21 - Special service with our St. Peter's
Christmas Choir - 10:00 AM**

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 PM