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THE KEYS OF ST. PETER

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

In our Episcopal Tradition—enfolded in Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Apostolic creeds and ministries—Jesus' appearances to His disciples in the forty days between His Resurrection and Ascension have both theological and existential meaning.

The New Testament accounts describe several appearances of Jesus during this time period:

1. **To Mary Magdalene:** According to the Gospels, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene in the Garden near the tomb shortly after His Resurrection (John 20). In addition to revealing His counter-cultural affirmation of women as being fully His disciples (immediately afterwards by running to the disciples to share the Good News, Mary Magdalene has been described as the "evangelist to the evangelists," "the apostle to the apostles"), this appearance anchors the New Creation Christ has come to establish in a New Garden of Eden (Genesis 2) in which He is New Adam (1 Corinthians 13) and Mary Magdalen is the New Eve, the Bride of Christ, which is a symbol of the universal Church (Revelation 21).
2. **To the Disciples in Jerusalem:** Jesus appears to his disciples in a locked room in Jerusalem (John 20). He greets them with a proclamation of peace (John 20:19) and He authorizes them as living instruments of the absolution He has come to share with the world, telling them "Whosoever sins you forgive, are forgiven." (John 20:23) This appearance is particularly important to Thomas, who initially doubted Jesus' resurrection until he saw and touched Jesus' wounds (John 20:27), the marks of love through which God saves the world.

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St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Columbia, Tennessee

3. **To the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus:** In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). Although they initially do not recognize him. during their conversation Jesus explains the Scriptures to them and finally reveals Himself when he breaks bread with them. This underscores our focus on our experience with Christ not only in Scripture but also in the blessed, broken, and shared bread of the Eucharist.
4. **At the Sea of Galilee:** In the Gospel of John, Jesus appears to some of his disciples while they fish on the Sea of Galilee (John 21). As He did in the beginning of His ministry with them in Galilee when He promised them that He would make them "fishers of men" (Matthew 4), Jesus coaches them on how to find a miraculously large cache of fish. He also shares a meal with his disciples which He cooks over a charcoal grill, the same kind of grill over which Peter denied Christ (John 18:18). The meal, therefore, expresses Christ's reconciliation with Peter and all of us even at our worst moments; it also shows His provision of grace to help His disciples (which includes us) to reach out to not only save others who are lost but also to be reconciled with those who have hurt us.
5. **The Great Commission:** One of the most well-known appearances of Jesus after His Resurrection is His commissioning of His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:16-20) He does not leave us comfortless—He promises to send us "the Comforter," Who is God the Holy Spirit (which He will do at Pentecost or, as we call it locally, Whitsunday). On Pentecost, He does give us jobs and the grace we need to do them.

These pivotal moments in the development of the Early Church, of which we are heirs, confirm Jesus' victory over death, establish the foundation for the Church, and provide guidance for the disciples as they carry out the mission of spreading the Gospel.

More immediately, these events have existential meaning for us as individuals. While our clearest understanding of ourselves is in our relationship with others and our shared relationship with God "in whom we [all] live, and move, and have our being," (Acts 17:28) there is room in our Tradition for what might be called Existential Christianity. In these experiences, we find:

1. **Meaning:** The appearances of Jesus after His Resurrection offer a profound message of hope amidst despair. Just as Jesus appeared to His disciples when they were lost in grief and confusion, believers can find meaning and purpose in their own moments of darkness and uncertainty. These appearances remind us that even in our lowest moments, there is the potential for transformation and renewal.

2. **Connection:** Jesus' appearances to his disciples were intimate encounters that describe our deep yearning for true connection and communion instead of the superficial or merely transactional relationships we otherwise find in our culture. These appearances encourage us to persevere in our quest for spiritual nourishment and mutual, interpersonal growth.
3. **Freedom:** The disciples' responses to Jesus' appearances reflect the existential struggle between fearful doubt and trust. The appearances of Jesus invite us to embrace our existential freedom—in the face of every kind of fear, failure, solitude, or uncertainty, God offers us the grace to find the freedom to choose faith, hope, and love.
4. **Acceptance and Victory over Death:** Jesus' Resurrection appearances confront and overcome our ultimate existential dilemma: the reality of death. Through His triumph over death, Jesus offers believers a profound reassurance—death is not the end, but a doorway to new life. This existential truth invites us to confront our fear of mortality and live with courage and purpose, knowing that our lives are ultimately held in the hands of a loving and eternal God Who loves us so much that He has died for us and therefore has already gone where we one day must go.
5. **Identity and Purpose:** Just as Jesus commissioned and empowered His disciples, Jesus commissions and empowers us to discover our own identity and purpose in light of the Resurrection. God has given us unique gifts and talents—just like every other person we have ever met. We honor His gifts in us and others and we commend ourselves and each other to the ongoing grace and invitation to see and share the redemption and transformation of the world initiated and accomplished by Christ.

Easter, of course, is an historic event. It actually happened. At the same time, His Resurrection is still happening around and within us all the time. Through His Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension, Christ is God's Eternity transfixed in our time—our ever-present hope in our ever-present need until we see Him and surrender our needs and hopes to His love.

Chris Bowhay+

Mule Day 2024!

Join us as we celebrate Mule Day on Saturday, April 6th. The Youth parking spot sale was a great success and those are now **sold out**. Bring your friends and set out your chairs on the front lawn to enjoy the day's festivities! We look forward to seeing you!

EYC Scavenger Hunt

The 7th-12th grade youth will have a scavenger hunt around downtown Columbia on Sunday, April 14th at 2pm. Begin by meeting at Buckhead for some lunch before the fun begins! Jane will be in touch with more details closer to the date.

Membership Classes

The next Membership 101 is scheduled for Monday, May 13th from 5:45pm-7:00pm. Meetings are held in the Lounge with light refreshments. Please make your reservation by emailing communitylife@saintpeterscolumbia.org.

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship meets Thursday, April 4th, 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. Bring your appetite!

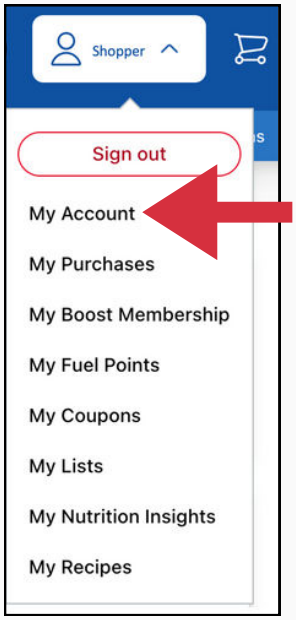
St. Peters is a Veteran Military Friendly Congregation

St. Peter's was recently recognized as a Veteran Military Friendly Congregation. This program promotes community, acceptance, and support for Veterans and their families. Faith is a proven and fundamental component to healing, recovery, and the mental health well being of veterans. As such, the mission of VMFC is to bring servicemen and women closer to God and highlight the healing power of God. To learn more about this organization, visit www.vmfc-usa.org/.

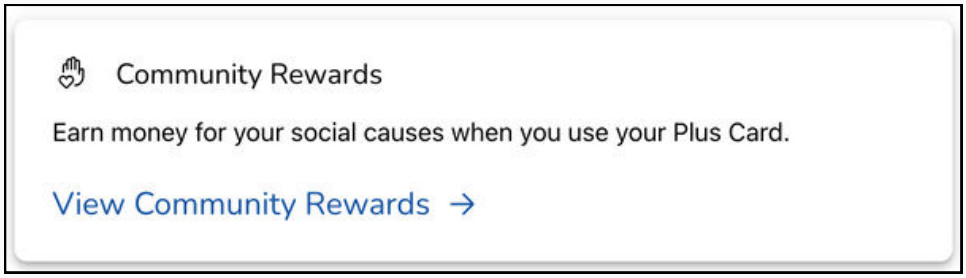
Kroger Community Rewards

Many of you may already be using your Kroger card to earn money for St. Peter's. Every time you use your member card in the store, a portion of your purchase price goes back to St. Peter's. This is a great and very easy way for us to earn a little more money for our ministries!

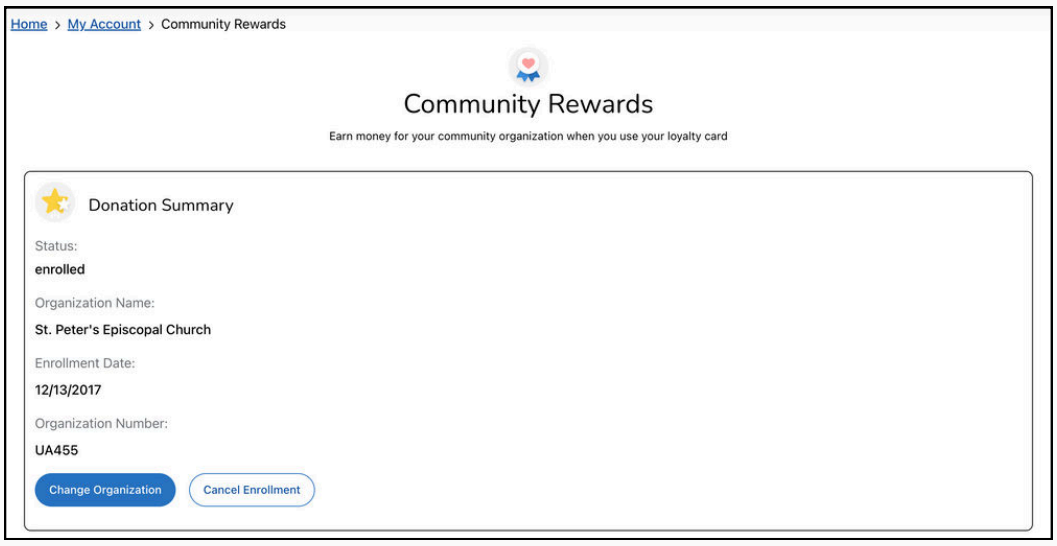
1. Log in to your Kroger account



2. Scroll down to Community Rewards



3. Search the organization number UA455 to find St. Peter's



FRESH FOR EVERYONE™ Kroger®

Spring 2024 Graduates

If you have a loved one who graduates this spring, please let us know! We will continue our tradition of honoring graduates from high school, college or another educational program. Please email office@saintpeterscolumbia.org to submit your graduate's full name and the school from which they will graduate.

Mother/Daughter Tea

The Mother/Daughter Tea is scheduled for Sunday, April 28th at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Stay tuned for more details coming out about this fun event!

Whitsunday - May 19th

Join us on Sunday, May 19th as we continue our tradition of celebrating Whitsunday at historic St. John's Ashwood. Mark your calendars and look for more information in the next few weeks.

MULE KICK 5K & 1-Mile Trot
Columbia, TN

Saturday, April 6, 2023
Riverwalk Park
5K race: 8:00 a.m. | 1-Mile Trot: 9:15 a.m.

Sign up today to support the Maury Regional Foundation! For more information and to register, click the link below.

Mule Kick 5K Race Registration

VESTRY
APRIL 2024

St. Peter's
2024 Vestry Members

John Finney, Senior Warden
Jennifer Ballard, Junior Warden
Sarah Robert, Clerk

Dave Glowacki
Peggy Harmon
Becky Clayborne
Wilks Halliday

Larry Trotter
Lucia Vining
Ken Vickers
Kevin Benderman

Ryan Fowler
Mark Keeton
Madeline McWhorter
Chip Wallace

Vestry Meeting Bullet Points from March 28, 2024

- Approved motion to spend $513.63 for a year-long Survey Monkey license.

- Received report that a custodial money market account has been established at First Farmers and Merchants bank which will generate higher interest revenues than savings accounts. $241,652.58 has been transferred into it from our Reserve Account and $100,000 has been transferred from our General Operating Account.

- Approved motion to support the Outreach Committee's requests that $500 be given to NICE (Nashville International Center for Empowerment, a resource center for refugees and immigrants to Middle Tennessee) from the Outreach Budget and $500 from the Hales Fund to assist the Veteran's Service Office.

- Received report that a replacement HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning unit) will be installed during the week of April 20.

- Received report that, due to Bishop Cole (Diocese of East Tennessee) being unavoidably unable to attend this year's Whitsunday service, Bishop William Mostert (Diocese of Christ the King, Anglican Church of Southern Africa) is delighted to attend. Bishop Mostert is currently resident at Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville.

- Approved policy revision to the vestry's Estes Fund guidelines that certain, limited administrative costs may be paid by the Fund itself, as declared in the Chancery Court ruling that formed the fund.

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Financial Summary for February 2024

Below please find a very broad overview of St. Peter's financial activity in the month of February 2024. We will receive the March Financial Report at our Vestry meeting on the fourth Thursday in April. This summary is drawn from our Treasurer's Report to the Vestry which is much more detailed. Those who would like to see it may find it in the hallway that leads to the Church Office where it is always posted.

	February	Year to Date
All Revenues	$33,282.19	74,518.79
All Expenses	$45,944.77	$93,364.07
Net Surplus (Deficit)	($12,662.58)	($18,845.28)

Thank you for your gifts to God through St. Peter's. If you have any questions about our finances, please contact either our Treasurer, Melanie Lucas-Evanko (melanieevanko@gmail.com) or our Senior Warden, John Finney (finneyjohnsandy@bellsouth.net), or me (priest@saintpeterscolumbia.org).

Our Lord said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

If you have any other questions, please call St. Peter's or send an email to office@saintpeterscolumbia.org.

Chris Bowhay+

Collette and Steve Chambers	4/6
Faye and Sterling Head	4/14
Jill and Kim Helton	4/17
Amy and Tom Hutto	4/20
Diane and Rick Bolton	4/21
Vicki and Barry Kenney	4/21
Jeany and Dave Glowacki	4/27
Jill and Michael Shockley	4/27

Morna Conway	4/1
Jonah Peacock	4/1
Kristin Wrather	4/1
Colin Fuller	4/2
Lila Wrather	4/2
Nancy Naddy	4/3
Sterling Head	4/4
Dick Moore	4/4
Robert Thornton	4/4
Matthew Whatley	4/5
Tom Webster	4/6
Pam Bradford	4/7
Chris Turner	4/8
Sandy Finney	4/11
Joseph Ciccoline	4/13
Norma Hartman	4/13
Blair Wilson	4/14
Emily Palmer	4/15
Morgan Plosica	4/15
Earl Robinson	4/15
Melanie Lucas-Evanko	4/17
Gabriel Naddy	4/17
Steven Weber	4/19
Louis Davis	4/20
Chip Wallace	4/20
Keith Click	4/21
Betty Pigford	4/21
Vicki Kenney	4/23
Jayne-Ette Brunner	4/24
Mike Redding	4/25
Joshuah White	4/26
Donald Long	4/27
Daniel Denney	4/28
Hannah Stallard	4/28
Annette Hadley	4/29

April 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm-Christian Life Committee 7:00pm-NA	2 6:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	3 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 12:00pm-NA 5:30pm-Choir	4 8:00am-Leadership Middle TN Breakfast 11:00am-Staff meeting 12:00pm-Pastoral Care Team 5:00pm-Men's Fellowship 6:30pm-Scouts 7:00pm-NA	5	6 11:00am-Mule Day Parade 7:00pm-NA
7 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Sunday School 10:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:00pm-Confirmation Class 2:00pm-Cadet and Teacher Meeting	8 6:00pm-Vestry Finance and Governance Meeting 7:00pm-NA	9 11:30am-Lunch Bunch 3:00pm-Crossroads to Home 6:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	10 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 11:30am-DOK 12:00pm-NA 5:30pm-Choir 5:30pm-DOK 6:00pm-Christian Service Committee	11 5:00pm-Building and Grounds Committee 6:30pm-Polk Home Lecture Series 7:00pm-NA	12	13 7:00pm-NA
14 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Sunday School 10:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:00pm-Confirmation Class 2:00pm-EYC Scavenger Hunt	15 6:30pm-Scouts Meeting 7:00pm-NA	16 6:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	17 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 12:00pm-NA 5:30pm-Choir	18 5:15pm-Estes Committee 6:00pm-Outreach 6:30pm-Scouts Meeting 7:00pm-NA	19	20 4:00pm-Agathos Senior Banquet 7:00pm-NA
21 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Sunday School 10:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:00pm-Confirmation class 12:15pm-Vestry Exec Committee	22 7:00pm-NA	23 6:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	24 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 12:00pm-NA 5:30pm-Choir	25 6:00pm-Vestry Meeting 7:00pm-NA	26	27 7:00pm-NA
28 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Sunday School 10:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:00pm-Confirmation class 2:00pm-Mother/Daughter Tea	29 7:00pm-NA	30 6:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA				

Replacing the Parish Hall HVAC System

April 2024 Lay Schedule

Rotunda Ministry Scheduler

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e-mail: office@saintpeterscolumbia.org
Father Chris Bowhay: priest@saintpeterscolumbia.org
Website: www.saintpeterscolumbia.org