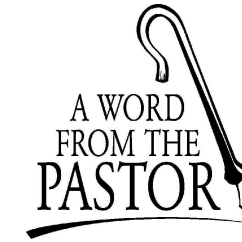


ST. PETER'S POST

Mission Statement: St. Peter's United Methodist Church exists to offer the love of God through Jesus Christ by inviting others, with us, to believe in Christ, to grow in Christ, and to serve Christ.

Vision Statement: The vision of St. Peter's United Methodist Church is to witness to the Kingdom of God by: guiding unbelievers toward Jesus Christ, nurturing believers to grow in grace and to become faithful members of Christ's Body the Church, and equipping church members to achieve joyful discipleship in our Lord.

November 2015



Do We Need a New Holiday?

I saw a post on Facebook the other day suggesting the creation of a new holiday called "Hallowthanksmas." This individual was bemoaning the fact that (a) some stores put up Christmas decorations WAY before Halloween, and (b) retailers view Thanksgiving as little more than the start of the holiday shopping season. (I realize some of us would rather call it CHRISTMAS shopping, and, technically, this year, the Sunday after Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the season of Advent, not Christmas... so should we call it Advent shopping? Alas, I digress). Bottom line, the last part of the calendar year has morphed into a season of holiday decorating that begins with orange lights in the trees and a pumpkin on the porch, and ends with icicle lights on the porch and a tree in the living room. Somewhere in the middle of it all is Thanksgiving. I hope the mall Santas will wait at least until the Jack-o-lanterns are put away before making an appearance.

"Hallowthanksmas" almost seems a fitting name. Merchandising marketers see the candy and costumes of Halloween as the precursor to preparing people for the day AFTER Thanksgiving, as if the 4th Thursday in November has no importance outside of preceding Black Friday. Some stores won't even wait until Friday to start the annual mall madness. Let's not fall into that trap!

Anticipating what lies down the road is human nature - there's nothing wrong with that. But don't let what is yet to come rob you of the joy of what is now. Each and every day of our lives is a precious one-of-a-kind gift from God - every moment of every day is a unique gift from God - how much of the present have we missed because we were too busy looking ahead or looking back? Because I believe in Jesus, I can look forward to that day when I enter into his presence in heaven for all eternity, and I DO look forward to that. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). Jesus is speaking about a life which begins NOW and continues after one's mortal life comes to an end. Thus, while we can look forward to life in heaven, we can, and SHOULD, enjoy and experience that same life in the present.

(See next page)

A Few Servant Leaders

Lay Leader: Wayne Lewis
Lay Servants: Jeff Bolduc, JC Campobasso
Nancy Guthrie, Jay Smith
Secretary: Carole Stalnaker
Pastor: Karl Zorowski
Pastor's Email: kzorowski@nccumc.org

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Rev. Linda Taylor
Sound District Superintendent
700 Waterfield Ridge Place
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Weekly Events

Sunday

Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Teen Choir 4:00 p.m.
Pioneer Clubs (during school year) 4:30 p.m.
Youth 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Sisters in Christ Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
(During school year)
Bell Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Service of Holy Communion 6:00 p.m.
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Thursday

Bible Study 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Friday

Men's Christian Conversation 6:30 a.m.
Praise & Worship Music 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Events

Emmaus Reunion Group 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.
2nd Sunday Breakfast 2nd Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Women of the Church 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Men 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
St. Peter's UMC Serves at Hope Mission
Soup Kitchen 4th Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Continued from Page One

November 26 is Thanksgiving. Yes, Christmas is coming less than a month later, but don't let the day of Thanksgiving be swallowed up by the mechanical merchandised march of Hallowthanksmas. Instead, stop on that day, take a deep breath, experience the air around you, and give thanks for God's gift of life. God has given us a life filled with more blessings than we could ever count – so give thanks for the big things and the little things, and everything in between. The Apostle Paul writes, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Don't forget to let the fourth Thursday of this month be a day where we reflect on our gratitude to God for all He has done for us. Better yet, why wait? Certainly, Thanksgiving is a day set apart for us to remember to give thanks, but shouldn't we do that every day of the year?

As I look on my own life, I have much to be thankful for: my family, my health, friends, my appointment as pastor at St. Peter's, and all that God has done and is doing through this amazing church. But most of all, I'm thankful that I know Christ – that He died for my sins, and that through my faith in Him, I am assured of my salvation. That's a reason to celebrate, and give thanks, every moment of every day!

Here's an idea - what about a new holiday set aside for giving thanks? We can call it TODAY.

See you in church!
Pastor Karl

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UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will meet on Tuesday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. for a covered-dish dinner. All men are encouraged and invited to attend!



**2016 Pledge Campaign
for a Giving Family of Believers**

This year, as we each consider how much of our treasure we will pledge to give back to the Lord, perhaps we should also think about our relationship with our fellow St. Peter's Church member families and how we all are, in so many ways, a "giving family of believers."

Our Church budget for 2016 is \$304,000, about the same that it has been for the past several years. For 2015, forty-five families pledged \$213,000, that supported two-thirds of the budget. What would truly show that we are a giving family of believers would be for all of our members to pledge, so that instead of forty-five families, it might be something like ninety to a hundred families.

I know that many members don't know exactly what their incomes will be for the next year, but even if you just base your 2016 pledge on what you are giving this year, this would be a way to establish a giving plan for you, and would move the Church finances closer to pledges fully supporting the Church budget.

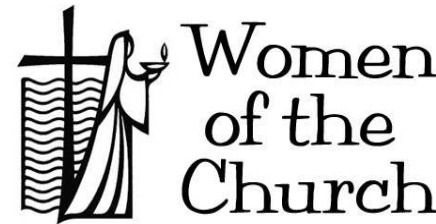
As always, if unforeseen events change your ability to give, the pledge you make may be modified at any time throughout 2016. Let's all join the rest of our Church family in supporting the financial part of our Church life.

You will receive your pledge request package in the mail this coming week. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment and return your pledge card on "Giving Family of Believers Sunday," November 22.

The Finance Committee

Members/Friends at Home

Sylvia Brown	Harborview Healthcare Center - 812 Shepard Street Morehead City, NC 28557	648-8566
Sherri Glancy	Water Oak Manor/3407 Oaks Road/P.O. Box 1189 New Bern, NC 28563	252-633-1143
Una Jackson	351 W. Southwinds Drive/Newport, NC 28570	247-2397
Ruth Martin	Pacifica Senior Living/2744 S. 17 th Street, Box 103 Wilmington, NC 28412	910-397-8660
Dorothy Shaw	303 Barbour Road, #1301/Morehead City, NC 28557	808-3493
Jean Temple	104 Quail Run/Newport, NC 28570	726-1923



The Women of the Church invite all ladies to "**A Christmas Birthday Celebration**" on Monday, December 14, 6:30 p.m., at Texas Steakhouse. Along with the Dutch-treat dinner, there will be a great time of celebrating Jesus' birth, as well as our own spiritual birthdays. Make plans now to be a part of this wonderful Christmas Birthday celebration.

A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Everyone is asked to bring a gift of at least 5 non-perishable food items to be donated to the on-going food drive.

Also, please join us for our monthly meeting on Monday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. We will continue with Lesson Three of the Bible study, "Israel's Mission, Becoming A Kingdom of Priests In A Prodigal World," a five-lesson DVD series filmed on location in the Middle East.

Ladies, we hope to see you at both events!

**MOREHEAD CITY
CHRISTMAS PARADE**

St. Peter's will be taking part in the Morehead City Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 12 (rain or shine). This year's theme is "Come and See" and will feature an angel inviting the shepherds to come and see.

Your help is needed! We will need candy to toss out during the parade. Please watch the weekly bulletin for what type of candy to bring. The candy will need to be brought to the church by December 6. More information will be coming soon about the parade and the Outreach Event that day.

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CAN YOU HELP?

Several white tablecloths are missing from the pantry in the kitchen. If you borrowed a tablecloth and forgot to return it, please return it ASAP. Thanks for your help in this matter!



Youth Pilgrimage!!

Pilgrimage is a weekend event that takes place on November 13-15, for youth in grades 6-12, in Fayetteville. At Pilgrimage, youth and adult advisors are challenged to a new or deeper faith in Jesus Christ. It is a time and place to discover that faith and discipleship can be fun! This year's guest speaker will be Bob Goff. If you would like to attend, please contact Shannon Banks (646-4776). For more information, go to www.nccpilgrimage.org.

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The Administrative Council has approved the formation of a grounds subcommittee to be overseen by the Trustees Committee. This group will be working toward general upkeep of the church yard and gradually implement a landscape plan drawn by a registered landscape designer.

The Lord has blessed and entrusted the people of St. Peter's UMC in many ways, one being the church building and its property. Being good stewards of these is not only honoring to God, but is inviting to visitors as well.

We would like to invite anyone who enjoys working in the fresh air, while trimming, planting, weeding, etc., to join the group as we beautify the grounds. Contact Jay and Charlene Smith (726-4826) for information.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

Samaritan's Purse is again collecting shoe boxes filled with gifts to give to needy children in desperate situations around the world. After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enroll in The Greatest Journey, a 12-lesson Bible study course guiding them through what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

Empty boxes are available in the Narthex, or you can use a box of your own.

Fill the boxes with:
School Supplies,
Toys, Candy,
Small Articles of Clothing,
Hygiene Items, etc.

You may also include a personal note and a photo of yourself or your family (sometimes the child will write back).

Please Do Not Include:
Used or damaged items,
war-related items
(guns, knives, military figures),
chocolate or food (tootsie rolls are okay),
out-of-date candy,
liquids or lotions,
medications or vitamins,
breakable items (snowglobes, glass, etc.),
or aerosol cans.

The boxes will be collected at St. Peter's Church until November 15. More information is available on the brochures in the Narthex.



St. Peter's serves at Hope Mission Soup Kitchen on Saturday, November 28. If you can help in any way, sign up in the narthex.

November Menu: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Peas, Rolls, & Dessert.

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Children's Christmas Program

"Come to the Manger"

Practice for the Children's Christmas Program begins on Sunday, November 8, at 4:30 p.m. All children are encouraged to attend. Adults are needed to help as well. The program will take place on Sunday, December 13.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

A special Service of Remembrance, honoring **Veterans of the Vietnam War**, will be held at St. Peter's United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 15, at 7:00 p.m.

During the worship service, Veterans will be recognized for their valiant and courageous service to our nation and to the cause of freedom.

Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to enjoy a time of fellowship over ice cream and apple pie.

Join us as we worship God and honor those who gave so much in the name of freedom!

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

