



Letters to the Romans

St. Peter's Episcopal Church • 101 East Fourth Avenue • Rome, GA 30161 • 706.291.9111 • www.stpetersrome.org

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Vestry Members

Kathy Steinbruegge, Sr.
Warden
Cynthia Murphy, Jr.
Warden
(Through 2018)
Cynthia Murphy-Burns
Kathy Steinbruegge
Clem Trammell
Tyler Wood
(Through 2019)
Lloyd Griffin
Janet Byington
Nancy Smith
Erika Wilson
(Through 2020)
Lynette Bonner
Charlie Hardaker
Jan Routledge
Jennifer Sikes

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to inform you that Mother Nikki Mathis has accepted the call to be the next Rector of St. Gregory the Great, in Athens, GA. While I am sad to lose Mother Nikki, I am thrilled that she has accepted this particular call. This is a great opportunity for her.

Mother Nikki has been a part of St. Peter's for almost 5 years. She has helped our children and youth to grow in faith. At the same time, she has been an excellent priest to all of us, especially through her preaching and pastoral care. Her last day is September 16th and she will be missed.

I will return to St. Peter's on September 9th. At that time, we will begin to search for a new priest to fill her shoes. Mother Nikki has already lined up the help necessary for the next program year for the youth. All will be well.

In the meantime, feel free to reach out to Mother Nikki and say congratulations. This is a great call for her.

Peace, John

Rector: The Reverend John Foster Herring ☩ Associate Rector: The Reverend Nikki Mathis ☩ Canterbury Club: Rebecca Segrest ☩ Parish Administrator: Elizabeth Barnes ☩ Choirmaster and Director of Music: Dr. Fredrick Tarrant ☩ Organist: Wanda Cantrell ☩ Financial Coordinator: Debbi West ☩ Sexton: Sheila Kinnebrew ☩ Newsletter Editor: Bryant Steele (steelecomm@netzero.net) Holly Smith: Children's Ministry Coordinator (hollesmith@comcast.net) ☩ Church Photographer: Curt Yarbrough (chy813@hotmail.com) ☩ Newsletter Layout: Bob Evans (rsmithevs@aol.com) ☩

MOTHER NIKKI, *A PRECIOUS BREATH OF LIFE*

From the beginning, we loved her. Her infectious laugh and “right on” sense of humor pulled us in as we recognized her desire to love us. I will always remember her with her arms outstretched and ready for a hug in the Chapel aisle, at the chapel door, and in Daniel Hall. She has been a comfort to many of us after the death of our parents, our spouses, and on just ordinary days. In many ways, she helped us learn to be more open and understanding of the people with whom we share a church and a city. We always knew she valued relationships more than just about anything.

And those sermons! Powerful, rousing, and coming from the depths of her soul. She explains the stories of the Bible by putting the old and the familiar into a current context, so we learn our connection to the Body of Christ is not just important but crucial in our dealings with the world. She links David as a king, a shepherd, a writer of Psalms but explains that David was not perfect, so he teaches us to be “unburdened and free” (7/15/18 8th Sunday after Pentecost) and capable of being transformed as a person –a person who is honest about who he is.

Nikki is about transformation in our lives--that ability to rise above the suffering of our own past and “draw the circle wider” (5/27/2018 Trinity Sunday) to include those people beyond our family, friends, and church, to the wider Body of Christ. Because God loves us, Nikki says, we must not hold onto that love, but we must let it go as we “transfer our love from God to everyone.” (5/27/2018 Trinity Sunday)

And what an example she has been to our children and youth. By demonstrating and explaining how to live a holy and fulfilling life, her spirit has transformed and inspired our young people while travelling across oceans, up mountains, and around Rome.

How we will miss her bundle of energy and unceasing desire to make connections and show us how to be better people. She did all this while being a wife to Vincent and a mother to Ethan. We desire for her all the best of wishes and know that she will just have to walk across the street to church instead of commuting many hours each day. And she will have her family all together again under one roof.
How lucky is St. Gregory the Great in Athens to have Mother Nikki!
How lucky

Marny Busbin

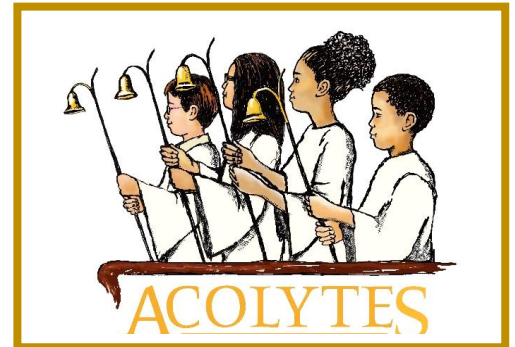
July 17, 2018

WE CHALLENGE OURSELVES AND THE WORLD TO LOVE LIKE JESUS, AS WE WORSHIP JOYFULLY, SERVE COMPASSIONATELY, AND GROW SPIRITUALLY.

The St. Peter's Acolyte team extends a warm welcome to our newest members:

Mary Burke Smith, Emi Grace Wood, Timmy King, Whit Molnar, Margaret Gandy, Gus Gandy, Lucas Herring, Isabella Warner, and Joshua Bell.

These young acolytes have demonstrated their incredible skills this summer, becoming an important part of St. Peter's worship service. A ton of gratitude and appreciation goes to Hollye Smith for spearheading the Acolyte Information session held on May 9, 2018, that gave these talented young people the opportunity to serve.



Breakfast served at a NEW TIME

8:45 am

Beginning August 12th

August 12th: Team 1, Allien McNair, Clem Trammell, Bill Schoepski, Bill Byington, Craig Wilson and Bob Kane.

August 19th: Team 2, Doug Lansing, Russ Jennings, Jack Knight, Sasa Vance, Sam Lucas & Guy Hunter.

August 26th Team 3, Ann Pullen, Jeanne Cahill, Bruce Hunter, Len Woodward, Christ Edgeworth & Sammy Edgeworth.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The summer has been a flurry of activities in Children's Ministries! We were a busy group of worker bees preparing for a wonderful week of *Vacation Bible School*.



Approximately 40 adults combined forces to present "DARE TO BE DIFFERENT" based on the beloved *A WRINKLE IN TIME*.

Fifty kids, ages 3 to 17, explored their spiritual gifts through music, crafts, games and storytelling and discovered that we can use these gifts to make this world a better place and show love. Because, after all, where is the fun when we are all exactly the same (no matter what the

Prime Coordinator says!) And in the end, we all were reminded that LOVE WINS! A special thank you to to all of you who participated personally, financially or in prayer.

The fun continued at St. Peter's Day as our children were welcomed with a picnic, slime time, and a short lesson on our patron Saint Peter and how he relates to fish, rocks, and Jesus! Finally, we are gearing up for a reimagined school year! Stay tuned for details coming soon on calendar dates and programming for children's ministries. If you are on social media, please follow us on Instagram: *stpetersromefamily* as well as FB under the same name.







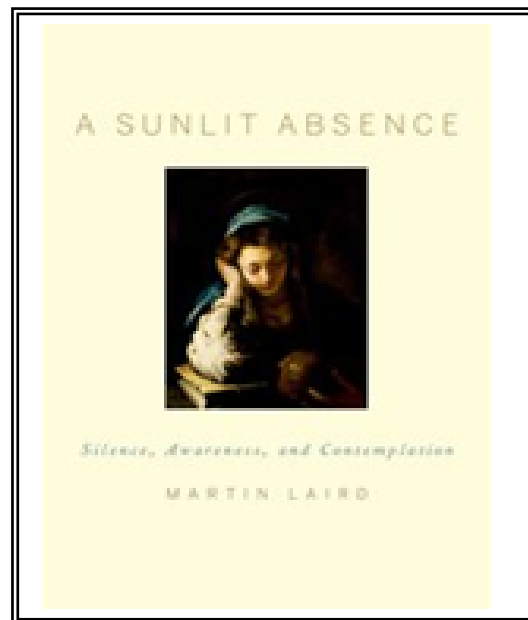
Foyer Groups A monthly gathering of 6-8 people for a meal, conversation, reminiscing, and laughter. Long time members as well as newcomers make this an awesome way to get acquainted with one another. Each month, one member of the group will host the gathering while others contribute the meal. Dates and times are decided by each group.

- New Groups will form later in the fall.

**YOGA Resumes August 14th,
Tuesdays in Daniel Hall at 11am**

Centering Prayer

Thursday evenings in Rhodes Wyatt Room at 6:30pm. Beginning a new book study that will run from August 9th thru the 30th "A Sunlit Absence" by Martin Laird.



**BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 13TH
CONTINUE THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF LUKE**



Rise and Shine Sundays

- Breakfast served at NEW TIME 8:45am
- Coffee & Conversation for adults
- 9:15-9:50am
- Kids Formation 9:15-9:50am

ADULT FORMATION RESUMES AUGUST 12TH 11AM TO NOON.

Fall Study of the Book of Common Prayer

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED

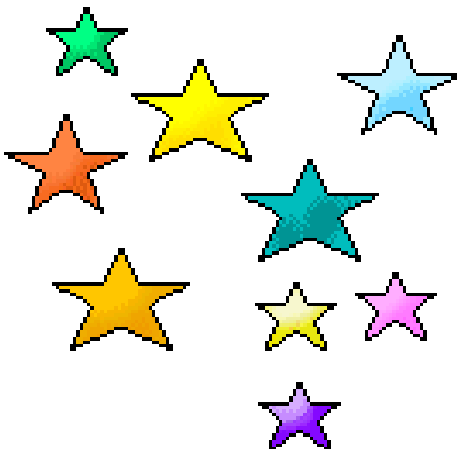
August 12 – First day for Formation

Kids: ages 3-5 year olds and 6-10 year old classes

Youth: grades 6-12



**NEW TIME for Children & Youth Formation
9:15 – 9:50am.**



**Fun with Formation Kick Off
August 5th in Daniel Hall
After the 10am worship service.
Come and enjoy treats and see
what adventures await you in
Sunday School this year.**

Recharge & Rejoice WEDNESDAYS

Starts Back August 15th

Dinner 5:45 – 6:30pm Adults \$5, Children \$3, Family maximum \$20

Jr. Choir 6:30pm

EYC 6:30pm

The Last Wednesday of each month **Recharge** and **Rejoice** will offer dinner as usual but in lieu of the regular post dinner activities there will be *Fun for All* Ages from 6:15-7pm in Daniel Hall.

Recharge & Rejoice MEALS FOR AUGUST

- 8/15 Chicken or Veggie Pot Pie, fruit salad, brownies.
- 8/22 Lasagna or Veggie Lasagna, green salad, pound cake.
- 8/29 Beef Stroganoff or Mushroom/ Cream sauce over Noodles, green beans, fruit salad, Oreo delight pudding.

Backpack Blessing August 12th

Bring your backpack, briefcases, etc. to be blessed at the 10am service.



St. Peter's Memorial Garden needs YOU! – We need some willing hands to assist in the maintenance of the memorial gardens by watering, weeding, trimming etc. Contact Bill Schoepski if you are willing to serve in this St. Peter's ministry.

Bill Schoepski 706.936.0802



PRAYING WITH ICONS

People have used sacred images and icons for thousands of years. They can provide us with an entry into contemplative prayer as we gaze on them; in fact, icons have often been said to be the “window to heaven.”

Iconographer Linette Martin writes, “The primary purpose of an icon is to enable a face-to-face encounter with a holy person or make present a sacred event. “How can a sacred image reveal what we can’t see or touch?”

Beginning in September, we’ll search for some answer(s) to that question. We’ll look at some icons, learn about the history of their use, and explore the practice of praying, or meditating, with them. Then, as we consider them as “theology in color,” (Martin) some of us may be drawn to respond to them in our own creative ways.

We’ll meet for three sessions: on Monday at 1pm on September 10,17,24, at 401 E. Fourth Avenue; and on Wednesday at 6pm on September 12,19,26, in the Rhodes-Wyatt Room. Please email me if you’d like to attend so that I can plan appropriately for our meetings. bettymoorebus@gmail.com

Betty Moore

JOY trips to return in the Fall!



We will start small and hope to generate new enthusiasm for yearly trips. Watch for details for our first JOY trip in September.

ST. PETER'S YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME, ITALY



THURSDAY. June 7

THE COLOSSEUM, THE ROMAN FORUM, AND MORE

Hello folks back home or *buongiorno* as they say here, we have finished our first actual day of our pilgrimage in Italy. With no sleep after a nine hour flight, it sure was hard to keep awake after we went through customs and got on the coach. However, the day's activities provided enough entertainment to keep most of us awake. After taking the coach into Rome, we walked through the plaza of the people which was riddled with peddlers and artists as seen throughout most of Rome. Throughout this area of Rome and later on by the forum of the late Roman Empire temples and monuments that surrounded us. In a place so connected to God on polytheistic and monotheistic levels one could not help but feel spiritual. These old monuments of many different faiths (Egyptian obelisks as well) showed that people and objects of different ideas survived with each other and managed to do so peacefully. These monuments showed how peaceful everyone can really be.

At the Roman forum, temples to polytheistic gods surrounded us. Yet, as we journeyed to the Colosseum a cross stood before us in an arena famed for boldly battles. I asked myself how we could travel less than a mile and end up at a spot of different faith. I thought about it and about the tolerance of the people that practiced these beliefs. They coexisted as members of the same community but of different faiths throughout a time period ranging from the beginning of Rome and now. Surely these late people developed their beliefs in one area as time passed by and more specifically I the Christian faith. The developing ideas forming during this time living on to today shows me the peaceful reality of God. I now see through these monuments of various faith that we are the believers of our own faith but there is no need to battle with others when we can continue in harmony. I hope this my many other faiths with their own schisms and troubled areas, and though nearly impossible I hope everyone can find peace in their faith as they did in early Rome.

Matthew Knauss

FRIDAY, June 8

THE CATACOMBS, THE PANTHEON, AND MORE

Today, I found God in so many different places. To start, at the beginning of the day we met refugees from many different countries that each had their own story for how they ended up in Italy. To see their smiling faces filled me with joy. The fact that they could still have a huge smile from ear to ear was amazing. After all they have been through, they can still find the goodness in life. We often focus on the negatives and seek out the bad, but these refugees seek the good and laugh through hard times.

I also saw God in special conversations I had with special people. When we talk about things we normally would not talk about and tend to avoid striking that conversation, we find connections with people we did not know we had. The intimacy of a deep conversation that you did not expect, that brings tears and joy, tells me that God is there and listening attentively.

Another place I found God was in the Catacombs. Just imagining all the saints and martyrs before us, dying for their beliefs and knowing that I am walking where they were once buried, or even killed, gave me an indescribable feeling. There was one saint especially that was amazing to me and that was one who they attempted to decapitate, but did not succeed after three times, and she of course died of blood loss. However, I think she died strong in her faith, and that is important.

Another, a bit sillier, way I saw God was all the stray animals around, especially cats. Cats are very important to me and being able to see friendly cats roaming around was beautiful to me. Seeing people feed them and petting them. It was not even only the strays, but also seeing how much they love their animals was amazing.

It only makes sense that God wanted me to see and understand that there are times of hardship and the only way to get through them is to smile and to have faith. He allowed me to see him in all these beautiful places and people. Today was one of the most inspirational and faithful days I have had in a long time, and I am glad I spent it with the most amazing group of people.

Curry Teems

SATURDAY, June 9

THE VATICAN CITY

In our journey to the Vatican City, it was not a difficult mission to find God. Everywhere I stepped in the city, I saw sculptures depicting His image in men and women, intricate mosaics featuring religious scenes excerpted from the Bible, and just the overwhelming awe prevalent in the faces of many of the Vatican's visitors. Everywhere I looked, I found God conveyed through his art on Earth. However, I didn't really find his presence through the art on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel or the gold inlay on the roof of the Basilica, I found him through the stories of these artists. Michelangelo dedicated his life to expressing his love and emotion for Christ. He spent years working on these magnificent pieces of art that are now appreciated by millions of Christians across the world. His understanding of human anatomy amazed me by his work in La Pieta and just in his ceiling paintings. Pietro Vannucci and Raphael, with their works that developed classic

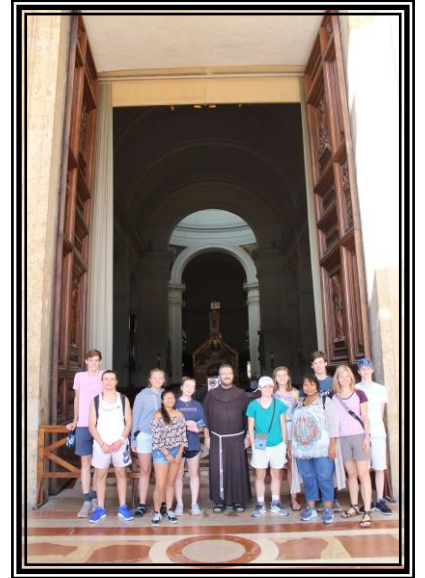
expression created new ways to express this appreciation for creation. It also made me ask myself this question: What urges people to create these masterpieces? Why are they driven to spend years working on a painting, or a sculpture, just for faith? This stumped me because I knew the answer was in the level of faith they had, but it didn't make sense to my actual level of faith. So that's the question I leave you with in this blog post: *What motivates you to find and pursue your personal relationship with God?*

John Knauss

SUNDAY, June 10

**Journey to Assisi,
Basilica di Santa Maria Degli Angeli and more.**

Frequently on the pilgrimage we are asked, “Where do you see God? The answer is different for everyone. The place, time, headspace, sounds, and people surrounding someone all contrast and create an individual experience. I moment can be small and internal or as vast as one of the many grand monasteries that we’ve visited with sky-high ceilings and exceptionally large and intricate works of architecture. My experiences have been both shared with the mass of people around me and personal for only me to feel. So, back to the questions at hand: *“Where do you see God?”*



During our nightly talks in the chapel we discussed the topic of materialistic reliance and the current world’s obsession with the things we claim to “need” but are more realistically quite easy to live without. The question, *“Would you be able to live without nothing but God?”* was resurrected, and further into the debate over the topic I phrased a new question: *“Could you lose everything you have and be satisfied with only God?”* For a moment people held their breath as there was a pregnant pause as my statement was processed and thoughts emerged. We, together, concluded that the many things in our lives we find so hard to live without, are merely as tiny as a grain of sand when matched with the serenity and wisdom of the greater power. I have found that letting go of the small-town pressures (and yes, to all the parents reading this, I have not experienced the teenage pleasure of electronics till this very moment and at its peak it is not as satisfying as I had previously hoped – also I love and miss you Mama and Andy).

My experience today was an extremely moving and personal one so I’m going to refrain from Sharing my deepest thoughts and feelings as I would like them to remain with me. It happened when we were inside the Santa Maria monastery and our tour around the structure given by a local monk had just come to a close. The remains of a small church had been placed in the center of the monastery and he explained to the group in closing that his was a place where lepers would congregate after the church had been abandoned. Saint Francis went to visit the lepers there in order to further his spiritual wellbeing and be in congregation with these lonely people. The monk (and tour guide) asked us to go into the small church and take a moment to pray. The feeling of holy presence and history that came over me was immediate. I was suddenly immersed into my own little personal

Little universe when I began to pray. As I prayed (again, sparing the details) I felt as if I were the only person in the room and when I emerged from my prayers I felt the small stream of a few tears down my face. My moment when I saw God was unique and shared between only me and the heavens. Now ask yourself, *“Where do you see God?”*

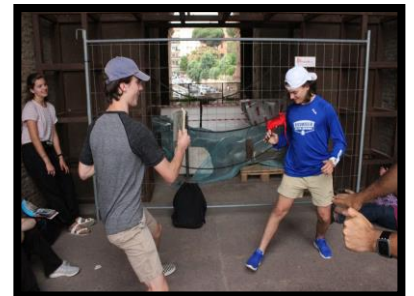
Sophia Vargo

MONDAY, June 11

SAINT CLAIRE, SAINT FRANCIS, AND MORE.

First of HI MOM! I think you will be happy to hear that each day has become more and more spiritual and meaningful to each of us as this journey continues. So far I'd have to say this was my favorite day in Italy. Mrs. Keri and I started our day off bright and early with an easy run around the town of Assisi, which smells like flowers literally everywhere and feels like the one day out of the year that we have spring back in Rome. Around lunch time, we took a tour of where St. Claire lived and died as the first woman Friar (inspired by St. Francis). Her story, told, told by our cool Irish Friar guide, came to life as we walked through the chapel, garden, and sleeping quarters that she once did in San Damiano. She was the first woman to write to the Pope asking nothing so he granted her wish of a life in poverty. I felt a personal connection to this place and was absolutely blown away with the view it had atop of the mountain. Oh and did I mention that we were hiking up the side of this "city on a mountain" the whole day? If you've seen the pictures you might understand how our calves feel by now. We went to two other churches which were also indescribable with frescoes and mosaics sprawled across the walls and ceilings, telling timeless stories. We were pleasantly surprised when our guide of the Basilica de San Francesco happened to be from New York and cracked jokes at every corner. While he also starred us each in the eye promising heaven if we were all good boys and girls. I think he was just a bit Catholic. Amazed by all of these things we were also exhausted, time to go back down the mountain. Except Curry, Eugenia, Adam and I decided we couldn't leave until we got to the top and saw the fortress. After some convincing they said we could go with Adam but wouldn't have a bus to ride back on. Just a long walk back to the hotel and a scolding if we weren't back by dinner time. Challenge accepted! It was tough but completely worth it when we were at the top of the castle overlooking all of the village and far more land beyond. This was an experience that I will never forget along with the surprise on their faces when we got back on time. I believe God was with us every step of the way showing us how the saints lived with imperfections and mistakes that made them ideal teachers of God's miracles and love. I know that I have learned more about my faith through their stories and selfless actions.

Josie Cole





CANTERBURY CLUB

College Classes resume August 20th!

Canterbury Club is already gearing up for a busy year, with many projects and service opportunities in the works. As our students return to campus, I hope that many will again fill our pews on Sundays. If you are, or you have, a student who is heading off to school or staying here in Rome, please let me help get you plugged into the student group on your campus.

For many years, parish members have graciously ministered to our students by providing a home cooked meal for our meetings. If you feel called to prepare dinner for a dozen or so students, please contact me to get on the calendar. Meeting day and time will be set as soon as our leadership team returns to Rome.

Thank you all for your support over the past year. While I know they're not ready for classes to start and summer to end, I am super excited to get started on my second year with Canterbury Club. The more I do and the more I learn, the more I love representing The Episcopal Church and especially St. Peter's on our campuses and with our students. Thank you again for such a blessed opportunity! =)

Rebecca

PARISH NEWS

Sympathy of the parish is extended to Kitty Johnston and family on the death of her husband, The Reverend Wayne Johnston.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

2018-2019

*These are ideas for Outreach Projects for the next year.
We will appreciate your ideas, as well.*

PAWS - October



**Donations and Volunteers
NOVEMBER**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER
and other preschools - JANUARY**

DAVIES SHELTER

**Donations and volunteers to prepare and deliver a meal
Once during the year.**



FOSTER FAMILY — PREPARE AND SERVE A MEAL ONCE DURING THE YEAR.

**Ruth and Naomi Shelter – Planning to open in December –
THE NEED WILL BE GREAT!**



**Giving
Hope
Today**

**Clothes, food, prepare and serve a meal at least
once during the year.**

September Restoration Rome Clothes Closet
*Gently used clothes and new pajamas and underwear for the Clothes
Closet. volunteers on Fridays.*



THANK YOU

ALTAR GUILD

ALTAR GUILD TEA – Sunday August 19th

Mark your calendar for an Altar Guild Tea on Sunday, August 19! The tea will be held in the Parish Hall right after church. Everyone serving on the Altar Guild and everyone interested in learning more about this ministry is cordially invited to attend.



August: Jackie Mooney, Chair: Nancy Smith, Marny Busbin, Liz Mozley, Jan Flippen, Janet Byington and Kathy Steinbruegge.

September: Melissa Keefe, Chair: Elaine Smith, Lynn Hicks, Kathy O'Mara & Nell Hamrick

USHERS

August: Nat Massey/ Chair: Andy Anderson, Allien McNair and Bill Schoepski.

September: Buster Wright/ Chair: Bruce Hunter, Bryant Steele and Roger Smith.

GREETERS

August: Sylvia Hine/ Chair: Mary Sib Banks, M.J. Chisolm, Mary McGuffey, Betsy Awsumb & Mike Lupo.

September: Bob Evans/ Chair: Mary & Curt Yarbrough, Stephen Patton, Allien McNair, Hugh Bonner and Michelle O'Neill.

Loaves and Fishes

August: Bambi Berry/ Chair: Annette Morris, Fran Bagley, D'Ann Downey, Laura Davis, Mary Yarborough, Meg Eberhart, Randa Mixon, Cynthia Murphy-Burnes and Lynne Hicks.

September: Peggy Nash, Chair: Barbara Potter, Beverly Burnes, Lynnette Bonner, Sylvia Hine, Erika Wilson, Karen Hellriegel, Mary McGuffey, Nancy Hunter and Keri Herring.

LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes could use more volunteers. If you would like to serve in this ministry by occasionally preparing meals for those in need or coordinating memorial services when needed, please contact the church office and we will add your name to a committee.

BREAKFAST CREWS

Served at a **NEW TIME, 8:45 am**
beginning August 12.

August 12th: Team 1, Allien McNair, Clem Trammell, Bill Schoepski, Bill Byington, Craig Wilson and Bob Kane.

August 19th: Team 2, Doug Lansing, Russ Jennings, Jack Knight, Sasa Vance, Sam Lucas and Guy Hunter.

August 26th: Team 3, Ann Pullen, Jeanne Cahill, Bruce Hunter, Len Woodward, Chris Edgeworth and Sammy Edgeworth.

VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH

August: Jan Routledge – 706.506.4596

September: Clem Trammell – 706.378.9430

FAREWELL TO GRYPHON



ST. PETER'S DAY



AUGUST Calendar 2018

Sunday Schedule	Monday Schedule	Tuesday Schedule	Wednesday Schedule	Thursday Schedule	Friday Schedule	Saturday Schedule
8:30 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School for Children/Youth 11:15am Adult SS 1:00 Eucharist in Spanish		12:15 Healing Prayer	1 9:00 Staff Mtg. 5:30 Celtic	2	3 EYC LOCK IN	4 EYC Tubing in Helen GA
5 Sunday School Kick Off 11am	6	7	8	9 Bible Study 10:00	10	11
12 RESUMING: Breakfast Formation Children's Chapel	13	14 Yoga is back	15 Recharge & Rejoice Wednesdays	16 Book Study 10:00	17	18
19 Altar Guild tea	20	21	22	23 Book Study 10:00	24 Community Kitchen	28
26	27	28 Community Kitchen	29	30	31	

Many thanks to Curt Yarbrough for providing all of the photographs used in the LTR.

Editor's Note

Submissions to *Letters to the Romans* are welcome from any St. Peter's parishioner and should be dropped off, mailed or emailed to the church office. Church email elizabeth@stpetersromre.org, phone 706.291.9111 Please keep items brief and to the point. News and photos of parishioners participating in community events are also welcome.

The deadline for submissions for the next Issue is AUGUST 17th, 2018.

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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