



Letters to the Romans

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Peter's Episcopal Church

101 East Fourth Avenue, Rome, GA 30161

(706)-291-9111 <http://www.stpetersrome.org>

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Reflecting on a Season of Renovations

By George Thomason

Around 10:00 on Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend, I parked on First Street to check on the construction at Saint Peter's. The sun was bright, but not too hot. I threw a quick greeting to Mother Nikki as she entered her car, vested for a funeral. The church, despite construction work, was hard at work to care for the souls and lives of her people. When I unlocked the door to the chapel, everything was quiet. On Thursday, when I had come by, men were busy behind plastic sheeting strung from the chains, removing the last of the wood and plaster from the old narthex.



That entry space was added some years after the church was first used to provide some insulation and a place to slow down before entering to worship. As I looked from one side of the nave to the other, I saw a long wall, uninterrupted by the old boxed-in entrance. I felt a sense of time collapsing, as I realized I was looking at the Fourth Avenue wall of the nave as it first was conceived. With the new open visibility of the wood and glass narthex, we will all be able to "see" some of what people over a hundred years ago saw. A fine coating of dust had already settled over much of the floor and the pews. The pews were still in place in some areas and in others had been moved aside to allow men and equipment to move about easily. I really understood why it was imperative that we remove the organ to protect it from dust and debris!

Last Monday, Nancy Knight called to let me know the crew from Pinson's was at the church. I went down to meet Tony ----, the Project Manager, and an old friend I have worked with several times before. He is a very experienced construction expert and a very affable caring soul as a well. We are in the best of hands. He and his men have shown a great respect and admiration for the space and the objects that they are handling.

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Wardens & Vestry:

John Kirkland

Senior Warden

Jimmy Smith

Junior Warden

†

Through 2014:

Russ Jennings

Andye Moss

Suzanne Scott

Bob Steinbruegge

†

Through 2015:

Cooper Crawford

David Hunter

†

Through 2016:

Andy Anderson

Sue Anderson

Peggy Nash

Stephen Smith

The Clergy & Staff of St. Peter's

Rector: The Reverend John Foster Herring

Associate Rectors: The Reverend Janice Bracken Wright † The Reverend Nikki Mathis

†

Staff:

Parish Administrator: Terri Borchardt † Seminarian: Kemper Anderson †

Director of Music: Dr. Fredrick Tarrant † Organist: Wanda Cantrell † Sexton:

Sheila Kinnebrew † Newsletter Editors: Marny Busbin (marnyr@bellsouth.net) & Andye Moss (agm614@aol.com)

Newsllter Design: Spencer Musick (layout@letterstoromans.info)

Church Photographer: Curt Yarbrough (CHY813@hotmail.com)

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Nat Massey was also there to instruct the crew on taking apart the font and its multiple parts. The font has been safely moved out of the nave, and so has the great, heavy eagle lectern. Before anything really was done, the crew from Pinson's, with me watching every moment, removed the wooden kneeling benches from the iron hinges. These needlework panels have been carefully stored on the pews in the chapel. They have been covered by Sheila and me with old, pure linen, bed sheets. A great use for things that don't fit new beds and that require hours of labor to starch and iron. Much of the chancel, the iron and brass rails, the carved knee wall, the base for the lectern, and odd bits of furniture are relocated. I find myself thinking of the fun it is to assemble a great jigsaw picture puzzle. But it is also fun to take one apart. The picture of the interior of Saint Peter's still has all the flat outside pieces and corners, but a lot of the inner pieces are being put back in the box to be safely stored until time to rebuild the puzzle.

Looking ahead for the next weeks, the pews will leave to be repaired and finished to match the dark wood of the church ceiling and beams, and the face of the organ. More work will begin on the floors. The floor in the tower is rotten in one corner, but we will have plenty of original wood from the center aisle to make repairs. The sacristy is gone – cabinets, partition walls, sinks, and storage spaces. Now the new purpose built sacristy can be realized, a room with every cabinet and drawer and surface designed to serve the purpose for which a sacristy should be designed. We have been living with a room that was created for a church locked into Morning Prayer era utility. Cabinet makers and joinery experts are busy preparing working drawings for the sacristy, the bathrooms, the chapel screen, and the narthex walls. Everything is falling into place.

Along with the church pews, the choir pews and pews in Daniel Hall will be taken to be finished to match everything else. The four beautiful old bishop and clergy chairs will also be redone. Exterior work will begin for the elevator and for the new storage closets between Daniel Hall and the chapel. The new bathroom has the plumbing pipes (I think that's what I saw) stubbed in and walls should follow soon. In my fond and foolish mind, I feel that all the saints who put the church together over all those many years would approve of having their rest disturbed and their eternal peace interrupted, because the noise of construction is a promise of careful and loving stewardship.

Thanks be to God.

-Since this letter was written a month ago, many more things have happened. The pews and furnishings have been taken to High Point, N.C. for refinishing and repair. The chancel has been reshaped, as has the altar and communion rail areas. The floors are being prepared for the new surfaces and refinishing, and the brick work at the doors to each side of the chancel has been uncovered so that the new door work can begin. Exterior work between Willingham House and the Hight Building is under heavy construction to prepare for the new elevator. Everything is working nicely and seems to be on target.



The gutted sacristy and covered nave entrance signify a season of renewal for St. Peter's that goes beyond our physical plant.

All Renovation photos courtesy of C. Yarbrough.

2014 Graduates bound for Colleges and Universities this Fall

St. Peter's parish has watched these young ladies grow up and now they are bound for college and adulthood. We wish them god speed and much good luck in their endeavors and hope they will come back and see us often.

Peyton Albertson, daughter of Brian and Kristen Albertson is a graduate of Darlington. Following in her father's footsteps, she is a gifted golfer and was a member of their girls' golf team and Golf Academy. She won the Golf Team's Coach's Award. An active student at her school, Peyton was also a member of the concert choir, the Darlingtones, Ladies' Chorale, Y Cabinet, Tiger Experts, and Spanish and Math Honor Societies. She was on the Headmaster's List and an Athletic Booster Club Student Athlete. She plans to major in biochemistry at UGA. Serving as acolyte, children's choir and EYC member, Peyton said about her years at St. Peter's, "The process of confirmation had a big impact on my life and getting to know so many people while growing my faith at the same time. I will miss St. Peter's and the fellowship so much."

Lucy Lansing completed a very successful career at Rome High School. Besides being the valedictorian of her class, she was the Star Student and the Exchange Club's Youth of the Year. She also was awarded the Superintendent's Award. Her highest honor was being named a Georgia Scholar. While at RHS, Lucy was a member of the soccer team (all four years), the choir, Student Council and National Honor Society. The daughter of Doug and Helen Lansing, she is headed to Furman University to study political science. Lucy has been an active member of St. Peter's youth programs since elementary school. Active in children's and youth choirs, she also served as acolyte and crucifer and delighted the congregation with her talk on Youth Sunday. "I loved the mission trips EYC took, particularly to New York City. I will always remember seeing "Spiderman" on Broadway and serving at the POTS Soup Kitchen in the Bronx," she said when asked about a favorite memory at St. Peter's.

Ellen Summerlin is the daughter of Keith and Amy Summerlin and also a graduate of Rome High School. She will be the fifth member of her family to attend Berry College where she will major in studio art. While at RHS, Ellen was a member of the band and yearbook staff and she received both academic and creative scholarships and won a High Honor Cord to exemplify her 3.8 GPA for her four years of hard work. At St. Peter's, she has been active in youth choir and EYC, a Vacation Bible School volunteer and occasional soup kitchen helper. I will always remember the kindness that came from those around me. I was always surrounded by people who brightened my spirit," Ellen said of her growing up at St. Peter's.

Another Darlington graduate this year is **Emily Thurman**. She is the daughter of Michael and Beverly Thurman. Emily was also very active at her school where she was a member of Ladies' Chorale, Darlingtones, Spanish Honor Society, Spiritual Life Liaison, Young Republicans, Tri-M Music Honor Society, "Y" Cabinet, House Leadership, Head Day Prefect, and House Senate. A gifted athlete, she was on the varsity swim, softball and tennis teams. Emily held offices in the "Y" Cabinet (president) and Concert Choir as well as captain of all three varsity teams she was a member of. She also won many honors, among them the Worth Moser Award, Kipp-Howard Award, and the Vincent J. Dooley Scholarship. Athletically, her awards included Most Versatile Female Athlete, All-Area and All-Region Teams, and the Coach's Award in Tennis. Emily completed local leadership programs and founded a community service project to help raise money for musical instruments for McHenry School. Emily has been an acolyte, member of the Youth Choir and EYC. She has taken part in several mission trips and represented St. Peter's as a delegate to the Diocese of Atlanta Youth. She enjoyed helping with VBS for the last three years. When asked to relate a memory from her St. Peter's days, she said, "The best was when I went to a real Compline in New York. Afterwards, we laid on the seminary lawn and talked for hours. We always ended up having really deep conversations on our mission trips."

*A Hearty 'Godspeed' from the parish family is
in order for all of our 2014 Graduates!*

St. Peter's EYC in France and Spain: Pictures from a Successful Pilgrimage

On Friday, June 9th, our crew left town for a pilgrimage unlike any our Church has ever sponsored. The excellent blog about the journey makes one thing abundantly clear: all of the participants discovered just as much, in some respects even more, about themselves and their faith as they did the locales in Spain and France that their journey led them to. But in good EYC form, time for relaxation and recreation punctuated the packed schedule. Below are some photos taken from the blogspot that our team used to document the journey. As participant Adam Tarrant wrote, the calling to “self-reflection” was both palpable and pervasive for those on the pilgrimage. Follow the link below to read more firsthand accounts of the trip that showcase both what a success it was, and how each individual participant embarked on their own journey of spiritual formation: [<http://stpetersinspain.blogspot.com.es/>]



Stunning views provided only the backdrop for a trip that inspired our youth to put their inward spiritual growth in the foreground at every stage of the journey.



Father Herring Celebrates the Eucharist on the feast of Pentecost.



Our crew stops for a breather during one of their many long days of walking the Camino de Santiago.

Our Liturgical Life lives on in Daniel Hall throughout the Summer, into the Fall.



Our Temporary Worship Space in Daniel Hall, photo courtesy of C. Yarbrough. Alter guild members, various parishioners, and ushers all worked with Shelia to put together a space worthy of worship!

Education for Ministry Group Reconvenes this Fall, spaces for new First-Years limited but available.

Spaces are available for a few good men or women to begin the EFM journey in September. Education for Ministry at St. Peter's is a discussion group, based on materials from the School of Theology at Sewanee. We meet weekly during the academic year for two and a half hours of a light supper, focused study (Year One Old Testament, Year Two New Testament, Year Three church history, and Year Four such texts as Theology for a Troubled Believer, The Christian Moral Life, and My Neighbor's Faith) and whole group structured practice in theological reflection. The topic of these reflections can be scripture, a current event, a piece of art, a dilemma, a provocative word...whatever the group decides. We try to leave with a clear action step for the coming week, although not necessarily the same for each member.

If this description sounds like something you believe would benefit your own pilgrimage, please talk with someone who is or has been an EfMer. That would be Betsy Awsumb, Al or Jean Bonnyman, D'Ann or Randy Warley, Cynthia Burnes, Elizabeth McDaniel, MaiMai Kelly, Cathy Varidel, Spencer Musick, Keith Summerlin, Tom Dasher, Nancy Griffin, Wade Carpenter, Elaine Smith, Kathy Benson, Jane Cunningham, John Lanier, Emily Barba, David Hicks, Leann Yeargan from St. Mary's, David Norman from First Methodist, or Pat Kelley from Garden Lakes Baptist. EFM crosses denominational borders, so any interested person is encouraged to consider attending.

Contact Betsy Awsumb at baswumb42@gmail.com for more information.

Summer 2014 Schedules

Altar Guild

June: Sunny Knauss©, Michael Ann Booth, Suzy Gilbert, Sue Ann Kalkus, Patricia Richards, Beth Starnes, Frieda Yeary

July: MJ Chisholm© & Laura Davis© Patti Barron, Lea Duncan, Vicki Gilliam, Gin Gunther, Helen Keaten, Mary Patton

August: Jackie Mooney© & Marny Busbin©, Nancy Smith, Janet Byington, Dana Edgens, Liz Mozley, Jan Flippen, Cathy Steinbruegge

Greeters

June: Nancy Hunter©, Peggy Nash, Tricia Richards, Mary Patton, Russ Jennings

July: Sarah Kilgore©, Andye Moss, Karen Hellriegel, Bobby Mixon, Sherron Mull

August: Sylvia Hine©, Michael Ann Booth, Mary Sib Banks, M.J. Chisolm

Loaves and Fishes

June: Elaine Smith©, Christie Thomason, Dana Edgens, Jackie Mooney, Janet Morris, Jean Clark, June Dellis, Susan Harvey, Tricia Richards

July: Nancy Knight©, Anthea Evans, Dana Edgens, Hollye Smith, Laura Frederick, Mai Mai Kelly, Marny Busbin, Mary Kirkland, Meredith Cole, Nancy Hunter

August: Stefani Ortman©, Annette Morris, Bambi Berry, Cissy Rogers, D'Ann Downey, Laura Davis, Mary Yarbrough, Meg Eberhart, Randa Mixon

Ushers

June: Ronnie Mixon, David Carlton, Norman Fletcher, Pat Patton

July: Brad Roberts, Randy Warley, Tricia Richards, Frank Minor

August: Nat Massey, Andy Anderson, Allien McNair, Bill Schoepski

Vestry of the Month

June: David Hunter

July: Russ Jennings

August: Andy Anderson

July 2014 Dates to Save and Reminders

June 25: St. Peter's Day, Civic Center, 6pm

*Office closed all Fridays in June and July
No Soup Kitchen in June, July, Aug due to construction.*

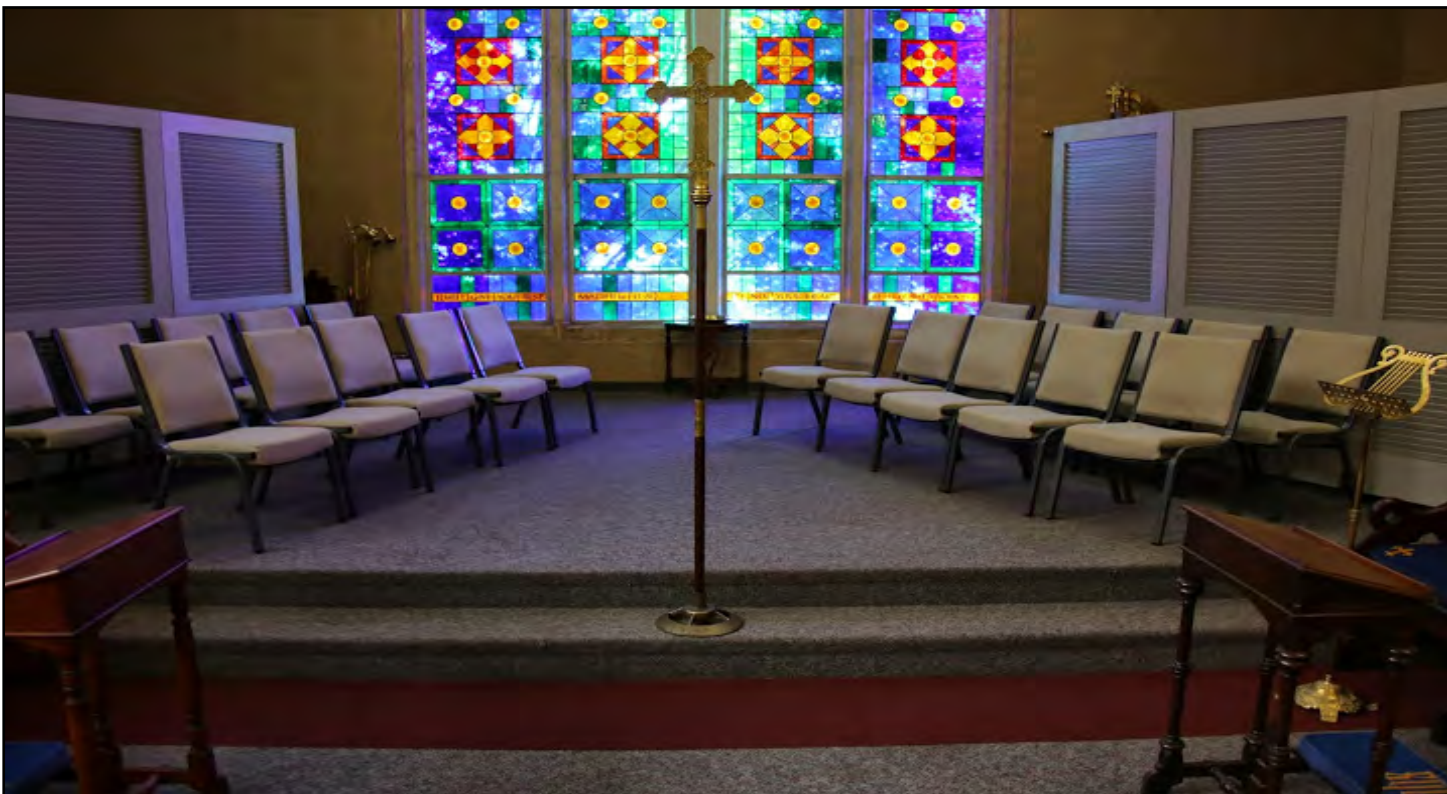
Sr/Jr EYC will meet on Sundays at 4pm

August 25: Newsletter deadline for September, 2014 issue of Letters.

A Summer of Challenges Met and Progress Made for St. Peter's



Projects are coming along! Above is the frame Amidst Change: Continuity. Our bell has stood the test of time for a more accessible bathroom from the nave. surprisingly well!



Daniel Hall has turned out to be a well-suited temporary worship space. Our choir has helped ease the transition by making it sound seamless! *All above photos courtesy of C. Yarbrough.*

An Update on the Soup Kitchen & JOY Group Announcement



Although St. Peter's soup kitchen is closed this summer and may be closed till January, 2015, it has made a difference in the lives of many and not just including the guests. Volunteers, local restaurants, and soup kitchen chairpersons Sue Anderson and Bill Schoeski have been rewarded by participating in this venture.

In just the first five months of 2014, more than 2500 meals have been provided, some eaten in Daniel Hall and some taken home to be enjoyed later. Statistically, 94% of guests have been adults and 6% children. Almost 500 of those meals have been take outs and so have fed guests who benefit from them more than once. By word of mouth, some guests have discovered St. Peter's Sunday breakfasts and have returned to enjoy that meal as well. Some few have joined us in worship, a blessing for them and the parish.

Hopefully, the program can continue as soon as services can return to the chapel and sanctuary and volunteers return to provide meals for those that need them and enjoy the fellowship they find at St. Peter's. Volunteers are also needed to keep this program viable. If this sounds like something you might like to participate in, please call the church office (706 291 9111) or email to terristpetersrome.com to join the other "kitcheneers."

[Above, volunteers prepare and serve meals that have become a staple of St. Peter's service to the Rome community, even more so as other nearby soup kitchens relocated after consolidating.]

JOYN THE ST. PETER'S JOY GROUP
 as we visit the brand new
Center for Civil and Human Rights
 and **Mary Mac's Tearoom** in Adanta
 on **Tuesday, August 12.**
 Depart St. Peter's at 8:30 a.m., return by 4:00 p.m.
 Cost: **\$40** includes transportation and admission.
 Lunch on your own at Mary Mac's.

The JOY group is open to all parishioners 50+, and other interested parishioners and guests >21.
 Call the church office at 706-291-9111 to reserve a space, then confirm with your non-refundable check payable to St. Peter's JOY.

Self-Reflection on Pilgrimage: "Preparing for Mao's Long March"

Taken from a blog entry by Adam Tarrant on Thursday, June 12, 2014

We started out our day with a nonexistent wakeup call. After a late start, we began our second day of walking despite sore feet and fatigue. At first, everyone was pretty much together, but we gradually grew farther apart seeing as some of us walk at different paces and others wanted to walk alone. I personally chose to walk by myself to spend my time in self-reflection. I walked many kilometers while lost in my own confusing thoughts and trying to make sense of all the stray ideas. I did, however, in the midst of my contemplations, observe the landscape and discovered it to be fairly similar to that of the previous day.

Although we passed several small towns while walking, most of them were in the second half of the journey. The first half consisted mostly of long stretches with nothing for miles. The second half was almost always alongside to the road and included many available stopping places. I didn't stop once the whole day which wasn't fun, but I also believed that if I stopped, I wouldn't be able to start again. There was a terrible hill about halfway through that was right in the sun and far too long and steep. It was just awful and horrid and vile and, of course, DUMB. I lost my map at some point, so I began to speed up in an attempt to catch up to the group in front. Eventually I crested a hill and saw them. I got their attention by making use of my wonderful ability to whistle incredibly high and loudly and whistling "Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity." I do this very often at school to get Will's attention from far away, so as soon as I started, he turned around to look for me. We walked for a long time and all took turns praying once we got close to the end. As soon as we saw the sign for the hotel, Nick, Alex, Will and I started singing the doxology which made John very happy. We sat down and the very first thing that we did was purchase Coca-Colas, and they were just fantastic. Eventually everyone arrived, and we all met for a Eucharist Service. John also gave us the gift of explaining each element of the service which was quite interesting.

We had dinner at eight o'clock and met afterwards to discuss the preparations for our version of Mao's Long March. We have the options of going the full thirty-one kilometers or getting picked up by the bus at some point, but all of us are determined to go the full distance. Whether or not that is achieved will be discovered tomorrow.

During my walk today, I had the pleasure of meeting a kind, older man named Luis. I talked to him for about an hour and learned that this was his fourth Camino, and that his wife was from Ohio. He spoke English very well because of that, so we were able to have a good conversation. I gave him one of my knots and explained how it symbolizes the Boy Scout slogan to "do a good turn daily." In return, he gave me a button that reads, "Vive sencillamente para que otros, sencillamente puedan vivir." This translates to "live simply so that others can live simply." We said goodbye and parted as friends with the words, "Adios, amigo."

More entries like this one can be found by following the URL on page 4.

EYC Takeover on Youth Sunday puts their dedication, talents on display



Fr. John and congratulating guest homilist on her outstanding work. Ms. Lucy Lansing delivered the sermon, Chalice Bearers, readers, and intercessors at both services. [Photo courtesy of P. Nash]



Verger and Altar party enter the church at the start of the Eucharist. [Photo Courtesy P. Nash]

Janice Wright Leads Another Successful Year for Canterbury Club



Early efforts on the Berry and Shorter College campuses in the 1980's, led by the Rev. George Home, vicar of Transfiguration, resulted in the brief presence of a Canterbury Club at Shorter College and the development of an ongoing Episcopal Students Fellowship (later known as Canterbury Club) at Berry College. The Rev. Janice Bracken Wright has served as the volunteer chaplain to these students since mid-1983.

After 23 years of presence on the Berry College campus, the Canterbury Club of Northwest Georgia expanded to include students on the Shorter campus again, and the Georgia Highlands campus, as well. This year, Canterbury Club served more than 40 Episcopal/Anglican/ELCA students and 14 faculty, staff, and friends, with an average attendance of 8-10 students at each meeting. Canterbury Club also includes recent graduates from the three colleges in our area plus those parishioners who participate when home from other colleges for holidays and summer.

The student-designed program offers a creative mix of opportunities for fellowship, worship, and service throughout the school year. Meetings include weekly Compline and Conversation, monthly Lunch after Church, quarterly service projects, picnics, field trips, end of semester dinners, campus-wide services (All Saints, Ash Wednesday), the annual Canterbury Sunday at St. Peter's, and more. Students renew old friendships and make new ones in a safe, welcoming environment. Funded at the rate of \$2,100 per year by the Diocese of Atlanta and sponsored by St. Peter's Episcopal Church, where many of our students worship on weekdays and Sundays, Canterbury Club is a community of faith in action, always growing, always open to new members and new ideas...

Some students come for the food and stay for the faith. Students who are not already Episcopal/Anglican/ELCA come to us from the Baptist Church, Roman Catholic Church, even the Mormon faith—seeking something they can't find in the churches of their childhood. We continue to welcome a small contingent of students from Shorter University. We provide a parish home away from home to our students. This means they have an advocate when they are sick, hospitalized, or just lonely (when parents are hundreds of miles away). Over the years, I have responded to three attempted suicides, multiple car wrecks, countless ER visits, and many other emergencies.

Originally, and for more than 20 years, Canterbury Club received no funding from the Diocese or St. Peter's. I was strictly a volunteer. I paid the club's expenses out of pocket or with discretionary funds. I think the Diocese is getting a bargain now.

-Rev. Janice Bracken Wright, Chaplain and Adviser, Canterbury Club of NW Georgia.

Editors' note: Janice's article was written to spotlight the importance of a campus ministry in Rome and to encourage the bishop to continue his support. Originally, the article included the names of many former Canterbury members who have been inspired by her loving care. Included were two current rectors of Episcopal churches, two former lay youth ministers, one Ph.D. in Religion, one pursuing a Ph.D. in Religion, four students who have entered the discernment process, and many more who have become camp counselors, Sunday School teachers, VBS leaders, EFM members, EYC leaders, VOCARE staff members, St. Peter's choir members, lay readers, and chalice bearers. The list is an impressive tribute to the value of this ministry.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
101 East Fourth Avenue
Rome, Georgia 30161

Return service requested.

Summer 2014 Parish News

The congratulations of the parish is extended to:

- + Amanda and Steven Blair on the birth of their son, Caleb Steven Blair, on May 6, 2014, in Italy, where Steven is stationed in the Air Force. Caleb is the great grandson of Mary and Curt Yarbrough;
- +Paul Ferguson who received the dean's Community Advocate Award from the Medical College of Georgia for his work as chairman of the advisory committee of the medical school's Northwest Campus at Heritage Hall, a regional campus that teaches medical students;
- +Shannon and Bailey Duncan on the birth of their son, William Xavier Duncan, on May 16, 2014, in Huntsville, AL. William is the grandson of Lea and John Duncan;
- +Lindsay Wilson and Stephen Wyatt on their marriage May 24, 2014, in the Berry College Chapel;
- +The Reverend John Flanigen on the 56th anniversary of his ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests. John was ordained May 24, 1958.

The sympathy of the parish is extended to:

- +Bee and Devin Childsey on the death of their father, James Berrien Chidsey III, on May 14, 2014, in Highlands, NC.
- +Caroline and Hank Dean on the death of her mother Anne Irving Jonsson on June 13, 2014.
- +John and Mary Kirkland on the death of his brother David Kirkland on June 16, 2014 in Jacksonville, Florida.
- +The family of Emmilyn Hunter New Dempsey on her death, June 23, 2014.