



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

DECEMBER 2014

Letters to the Romans

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Vestry Members

[Through 2015]

Jimmy Smith, Sr. Warden
(TBA), Jr. Warden

John Kirkland
Cooper Crawford
David Hunter

[Through 2016]

Andy Anderson
Sue Anderson
Stephen Smith
Peggy Nash

(Through 2017)

Jim Keaton
Lee Niedrach
Rebecca Roberts
Bill Schoepski

**EVENING PRAYER ON THURSDAYS @ 5:30 PM
LED BY THE REV. DR. DONALD G. BLACK**

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE: 5:00 PM AND 11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SCHEDULE 10:00 AM

Rector: The Reverend John Foster Herring ☩ Associate Rector: The Reverend Janice Bracken Wright ☩
Associate Rector: The Reverend Nikki Mathis ☩ Parish Administrator: Terri Borchardt ☩ Choirmaster and
Director of Music: Dr. Fredrick Tarrant ☩ Organist: Wanda Cantrell ☩ Financial Coordinator: : Debbie West
☩ Sexton: Sheila Kinnebrew ☩ Newsletter Editors: Marny Busbin (marnyr@bellsouth.net) and Andye Moss
(agm614@aol.com) ☩ Church Photographer: Curt Yarbrough (chy813@hotmail.com) ☩ Newsletter Layout:
Bob Evans (rsmithevans@aol.com).



A Christmas Memory



The Reverend Dr. G. Donald Black

From the Editors: The Rev. Dr. G. Donald Black was honored on October 12, 2014, as the founding rector of St. Matthias Church in Midlothian, Virginia, with the placement and dedication of a stained-glass window depicting the seal of St. Matthias (the Thirteenth Apostle) and located above the church's main entrance.

The festivities began the evening before on the heavily wooded campus with over 200 attending the parish's traditional "Pig Roast" and included several members who were among Don's earliest parishioners.

The next day, Don was the Preacher and Con-Celebrant at the two Services with the Liturgy of Dedication preceding the later Eucharist. Following the morning announcements, the congregation stood and showered Don and Suzanne with lengthy applause.



His story follows:

In August 1968, my feet barely wet with priestly experience, The Diocesan Bishop, David Rose, offered me the challenging ministry of founding and developing a new congregation in the Bon Air/Midlothian area, just across the James River from Richmond. Diocesan officials had determined that this area was more than likely the direction of Richmond's growth and that an Episcopal presence should be part of its new face. I had no specialized training or seminar learning about what is now called "church planting," a mandatory requisite today, but only the faith and optimism generated by undertaking something so different, and the trust Bishop Rose had placed in me.

I started with a five-acre wooded lot, nothing else. (I've often said it was like parachuting into the darkness.) Before long, however, I had gained a nucleus of interested and potential members. Some were lapsed Episcopalians, some were neighbors in our subdivision, others were simply interested in becoming part of this new church. After two months of "gathering," we opened with our first Service in the undercroft of the capacious St. Edward's Roman Catholic Church. We had been invited to worship there by the Pastor, and the resident nuns provided most of the furnishings: chairs, altar, fair linen, candles, wine, and communion wafers. When we opened the doors for the first time, those same nuns stood in the hallway outside the room, wearing smiles at least as big as the forty-two arriving worshippers.

Alas, after only a few months, the Pastor died and his successor promptly evicted us. We found space in a nearby Community Center and continued our growth without ever missing a Sunday. By now, we had a vestry that met in members' homes, Bible study in some, youth meetings in others. We took on projects that benefitted the community. From the beginning, we understood that we were a Church. We would not become a committee to build a house, but rather a household – in Christ. In becoming that, we knew the house would take care of itself. And it did.

A year or so later, we were ready to build. The Diocese of Southern Virginia gave us a grant, and along with our own contributions of money and muscle, we erected the first stage of what would become an attractive and extensive array of parish buildings. Not only did it have a free-standing altar, but the first female acolytes in the Diocese to serve it. Our first Service was on a Christmas Eve. The facility was not quite finished, but it was ready enough for occupancy. Since it was in a thickly wooded area, arriving parishioners were guided to the doors by Christmas tree lights strung through the darkness.

Not long afterwards, we were admitted to Council as a Parish. At that meeting, our two delegates and I were called up front to be acknowledged when the Bishop stopped the proceedings and announced there were visitors. To my utter amazement, almost our entire congregation, including Suzanne and our two boys, poured down the aisles to stand with me. All along they had secretly planned to be present, and they chartered and filled a bus for just that. We were on our way, but not without the continuing guidance of the Holy Spirit. To God be the Glory.

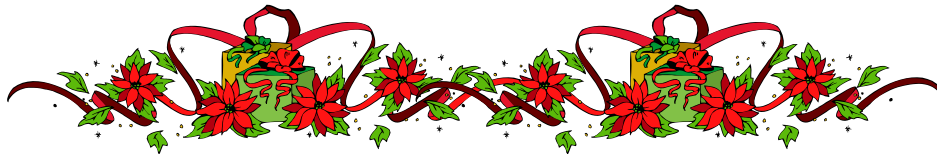
Until this summer, St. Matthias' has been served by only three rectors in its forty-six years. The fourth rector, the Rev. Brenda S. Overfield arrived this summer. Today, the Congregation is made up of more than 600 members.



Don in the pulpit



Don and Suzanne receive applause



CHRISTMAS PAST



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2013

Please join us for a

JOYful Christmas Party

Thursday, December 11, 2014
6:00 p.m.

as the St. Peter's JOY group meets
at the home of
Tom Dasher
29 Notasulga Drive

Bring an appetizer to share
Call 706-291-9111 by December 9
to accept this invitation





All the Single Ladies

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 14
6:00 p.m.

The Clubhouse at The Village at Maplewood
Please R.S.V.P. to marnvr@bellsouth.net or 706-291-8913

Our project this Christmas is to donate to the priests' discretionary funds.
Please bring cash, gift cards, or checks made out to St. Peter's Episcopal
Church

A-C Appetizer
D-M Salad
N-S Dessert
T-Z Wine



DECEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

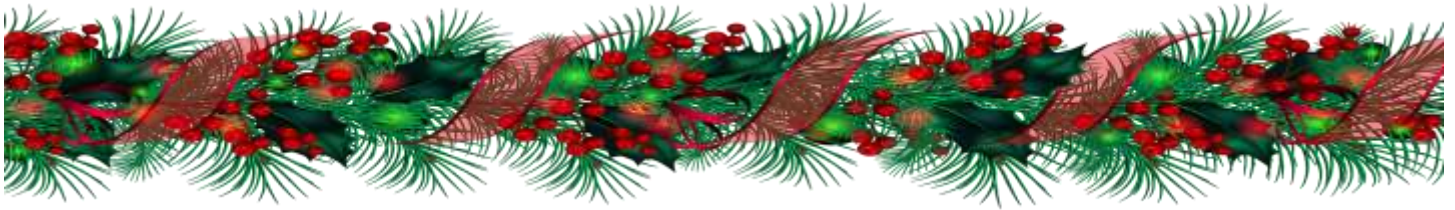
Thursday

Friday

Saturday

SUNDAY SCHEDULE	MONDAY SCHEDULE	TUESDAY SCHEDULE	WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE	THURSDAY SCHEDULE		
8:30 Rite 1 10:00 Rite 2 Children's Chapel 11:15 Sunday School 11:15 Adult Education		12:15 Healing Svc	5:30 Celtic 6:15-7:00 Children's Choir 7:00 Adult Choir 8:00 Compline (Berry) 6:30 EYC	10:00 Bible Study		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Chrismons and Ornament making, 4-6 pm 2 Advent	8	9	10	11 Evening Prayer 5:30 pm JOY Christmas Party at Tom Dashers, 6pm	12	13
14 Gingerbread Houses 4-6 pm All the Single Ladies, 6pm, The Village 3 Advent	15	16 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm	17 Chanukah begins	18 Evening Prayer 5:30 pm	19	20 Kemper Anderson's Ordination, Cathedral of St. Phillip 10:00 a.m.
21 Reception for Kemper Anderson after church 4 Advent	22 Cocoa, Christmas cookies, and a movie 4-6 pm	23	24 Office Closed noon 12/24 Christmas Eve 5 pm, 11 pm	25 Office Closed Christmas Day 10:00 am	26 Office Closed	27
28 1 Christmas	29	30	31 Office closed at noon	1 Office Closed		

A Discretionary Christmas



What is a discretionary Christmas? Well, the answer is pretty simple. It is a rare day at the Willingham House when someone does not climb the drive and steps to ask the clergy for financial assistance of one kind or another. St. Peter's and most Episcopal Churches budget discretionary funds for the clergy for just such emergencies. With today's economy and other circumstances, many more people are finding themselves in need of immediate help. Sometimes it's a meal, or maybe gas money to get to a job interview, or there's no food in the house. Clergy people have big hearts and saying "no" to these requests is something that "sticks in their craw." *What to do?*

Each clergy at St. Peter's has a small monthly allowance designated for these purposes. In this day and time, it is rarely enough to get through the month. "Why not buy a gift card from Kroger's, Walmart, Aldi's and give it to the clergy for their discretionary funds?" asked one concerned parishioner. And that is one great idea! So, while you are shopping at your favorite grocery store, gas station, or drug store, pick up a gift card for any amount of money you feel you can spare. Put the card in the collection plate on Sunday or drop it by the office one day before Christmas. *This is a gift that will really "keep on giving."*



DECEMBER 2014 SCHEDULES:



ALTAR GUILD: Sunny Knauss ©, Michael Ann Booth, Suzie Gilbert, Sue Ann Kalkus, Patricia Richards, Beth Starnes and Frieda Yeary.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL: 12/7 Kathy Steinbruegge and Andye Moss. 12/28 Sara Harbin and Laura Davis.

GREETERS: Nancy Hunter ©, Peggy Nash, Tricia Richards, Mary Patton and Russ Jennings.

LOAVES and FISHES: Elaine Smith ©, Beth Starnes, Christie Thomason, Frances Knight, Jackie Mooney, Janet Morris, Jean Clark, June Dellis, Sue Mann, Susan Harvey and Tricia Richards.

USHERS: Winston Sirmans, Stephen Patton, D'Ann Downey and Leigh Patterson.



Thank you,



To each and every one of you who gave to the 2105 Stewardship Campaign, we say “thank you.”

Your gifts of time, talent, and treasures means that for another year, St. Peters will continue to be a strong, vibrant voice in this community as we continue to spread God’s message of love and faith.

Our campaign this year has been very meaningful. We are truly blessed. We tried some new things and people responded. New people recognized the importance of a signed written pledge, so the Vestry can do their best work in the years ahead and new ways to pledge have brought the campaign to a successful place, but it is not over until it is over. As we come to the close of 2014, we hope you will prayerfully consider a year end gift and if you wish to do so with your credit card, please contact Terri in the church office.

We are truly blessed this year at St. Peter’s with a beautifully renovated sanctuary, as well as with new people who have come through our doors. We can’t wait to see what 2015 has to offer as we live our mission to “welcome all” into this place where we worship.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow and thank you.



2015 Stewardship Committee

Janet Byington, Chairman,
Suzanne Scott
Drew Moss

A Letter from Curt Yarbrough

November 17, 2014

Rev. John F. Herring, Rector

Rev. Janice B. Wright

Rev. Nikki Mathis

Senior Warden

Terri Borchardt

Letters to the Romans

Church Pictures

I have taken pictures of our church family for a number of years and enjoyed every minute. I must admit that sometimes I would like to leave my camera at home and enjoy the services and the activities.

Starting January 1st 2015, pictures such as Baptisms, special events, guest speakers, and all other Church activities will be taken upon request.

I will still take pictures of the renovation/construction of our church as it moves along and will post them to my web page (CHYARBRO.COM). All church pictures that I have taken are there for downloading and church use.

With God's blessings,

Curt Yarbrough

ST. PETER'S ADVENT SERIES AND SUPPER



For families with children from birth to 92 (and beyond).

Sundays 4:00-6:00 pm. Cost each week is \$5 per family for the activity. With the opportunity of a love offering. Nursery will be available for the littlest angels.

December 7 – Chrismons and Ornament Making

December 14 – Gingerbread Houses

December 21 – Cocoa, Christmas Cookies and a Movie



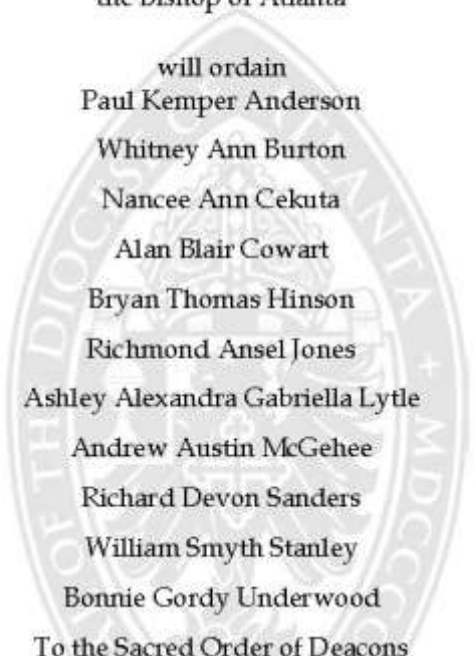
Events will be held between 4-6 p.m. each Sunday. We'll begin with an activity at 4:00 pm, followed by a brief service at 5:00 pm and conclude with a shared meal in Daniel Hall. Please reserve your meal and materials each week by calling the church office at 706 291-9111 before noon on Tuesday. We look forward to your joining us and hope you'll include us in your holiday plans.

A Message and Note from Kemper Anderson, Seminarian

Greetings, Saint Peter's!

My seminary formation is drawing to a close. The days have often been long, but the weeks, months and years have flown by. I will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate at St. Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta on Saturday, December 20th at 10am. The Episcopal Church requires all clergy to serve as transitional deacons for a minimum of six months before ordination to the priesthood. A December deacon's ordination will start that clock running so that I'll be eligible for priestly ordination shortly after I graduate from Sewanee in May. After seminary, who knows? God knows.

In any case, I've attached an invitation to the ceremony. It should be a grand event with plenty of Episcopal pomp and ceremony: splendid hymnody, smells (incense) and yells (chanting). Quite the spectacle. All are welcome, but come early - there will likely be a crowd. Please feel free to pass this invitation along to anyone you think might be interested.



The Right Reverend Robert Christopher Wright
By the grace of God
the Bishop of Atlanta

will ordain
Paul Kemper Anderson
Whitney Ann Burton
Nancee Ann Cekuta
Alan Blair Cowart
Bryan Thomas Hinson
Richmond Ansel Jones
Ashley Alexandra Gabriella Lytle
Andrew Austin McGehee
Richard Devon Sanders
William Smyth Stanley
Bonnie Gordy Underwood

To the Sacred Order of Deacons
In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church
On the Eve of the Feast of Saint Thomas,
the Twentieth day of December, two-thousand and
fourteen, at ten o'clock in the morning

Cathedral of St. Philip
2744 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30305

Your prayers and presence are requested.
Clergy: Red stoles Reception follows in Child Hall

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

Return service requested

□

December 2014 Parish News:

The congratulations of the parish is extended to

- Our new vestry members: Jim Keaten, Lee Niedrach, Rebecca Roberts, and Bill Schoepski;
- Our new senior warden, Jimmy Smith;
- Our own, Katelyn Johnson, of Shorter University who took first place in third-year college women, classical, in this year's Georgia National Association of Teachers of Singing Student auditions at Georgia State University

The sympathy of the parish is extended to

- Mary and Jim Dixon and family on the death of their stepdaughter, Caroline Alexandra "Allie" Linaugh, on October 23, 2014, in Savannah, GA;
- Bernard Neal and family on the death of his wife, Elizabeth Kennard Neal, on October 30, 2014;
- Jeanne Cahill and family on the death of her husband, William Alpheus "Al" Cahill, on November 10, 2014
- The families of Jim Williams and Jeanne Sparks on the death of his wife and her mother, Margaret J. Williams, on November 20, 2014;
- Helen and Doug Lansing on the death of their nephew, Alec Lansing

The thanks of the parish is extended to

- Our outgoing vestry: Russ Jennings, Andye Moss, Bob Steinbruegge, and Suzanne Scott; Senior Warden, John Kirkland, and Junior Warden, Jimmy Smith;
- □ Our lay delegates to the Diocese of Atlanta Annual Council: John Kirkland, Bill Schoepski, MJ Chisholm, Sue Anderson, and Will Crawford.