



September 2015

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

(Through 2015)

Jimmy Smith, Sr. Warden
Sue Anderson, Jr. Warden
John Kirkland
Cooper Crawford
David Hunter

[Through 2016]

Andy Anderson
Sue Anderson
Stephen Smith
Peggy Nash

[Through 2017]

Jim Keaten
Lee Niedrach
Rebecca Roberts
Bill Schoepski

NEW CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING *2015 Stewardship Campaign*

As a result of much research and reflection, this year's Stewardship Campaign will take a new direction than it has in the past. The Campaign will be held exclusively in October and over the next two months we want every member of St. Peter's to have a clear understanding of the path we will take.

Vestry Member John Kirkland brought this process to St. Peter's. It is called *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* and it was developed by Herb Miller. Many Episcopal Churches throughout Georgia and the South have adopted it in order to bring a more biblical perspective to their church's financial stewardship efforts.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

We are very fortunate that one of the people who has been a Guest Leader of this program in many churches is Mal Underwood, who lives in Cartersville, Georgia. Mal has served as a Stewardship Consultant for the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. He is a CPA by profession and he and his wife, Gail, are members of the Church of the Ascension where he has served three terms on the Vestry, Senior Warden twice, and chaired numerous committees. Mal has served as a consultant on the Commission of the Diocese of Atlanta for fourteen years and chaired the Commission from 2005-2014.

(Continued on Page 3)

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: Debbi West ☩
Sexton: Sheila Kinnebrew ☩ Newsletter Editors: Bryant Steele (steelecomm@netzero.net) ☩ Church
Photographer: Curt Yarbrough (chy813@hotmail.com) ☩ Newsletter Layout: Bob Evans (rsmithevans@aol.com)

ST. PETER'S PARISH NEWS

Sunday School resumes Sept. 13!

Breakfast returns ... Alleluia!

Breakfast will again be served in Daniel Hall starting Sept. 13 from 9 to 9:45 a.m. (in other words, between 8:30 and 10 a.m. services). Prices and menu are expected to be the same as before the disruption necessitated by renovation. If you can serve on a cooking team, please contact Jack Niedrach, niedra@bellsouth@bellsouth.net).

Say again, Alleluia!

Wednesday dinner is also back. The cost is \$5 for adults; \$3 age 10 and under, \$20 max for a family. Dinner service begins at 5:30 p.m. and reservations are required by noon on Tuesdays. **Nursery care is available!** To RSVP, call the church office at 706-291-9111. Those without reservations will be served after those with reservations.

Writers' Group hosts Marshall Jenkins:

Marshall Jenkins (JMarshallJenkins.com) will be the guest speaker at the Oct. 8 meeting of Rome Area Writers, 6 p.m. in the Etowah room in the Rome Library at 205 Riverside Parkway. Many at St. Peter's, in the Rome community, and nationally are familiar with Marshall's spiritual reflections. *Everyone* is invited to hear Marshall speak at the Oct. 8 meeting. Any questions about the meeting or general questions about Rome Area Writers should be directed to Bryant Steele.

Wanted:

Folks with a passion for adult Christian formation. It takes a variety of strengths and talents to maintain a strong adult education program and St. Peter's has those untapped resources. If you have an interest in facilitating Wired Word, leading a single session or series of Adult Forum, or team-teaching Wednesday night offerings for adults, please contact Rebecca Roberts at 706-346-0894 or rnucholsroberts@gmail.com.

Blessing of the Animals:

The annual St. Francis Day prayers for our fellow earthly inhabitants will take place in the grassy area next to the church office on Fourth Avenue on Sunday, **Sept. 27**, at 4 p.m. There will be treats for pets and owners. Please leash your four-legged friends. *If you lost a beloved animal companion during the year and would like for it to be remembered in the St. Francis Day prayers, please call the church office by Sept. 23,*

CONGRATULATIONS OF THE PARISH GO TO:

Melanie Sumner on the publication of her fourth novel, "How To Write a Novel", by Vintage Books. A reviewer for Cox Newspapers raved about the book in an article that appeared in the Sunday Books section of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and across the country. Melanie had a successful (and fun!) book launch last month that was attended by a number of parishioners as well as fellow authors. Her novel can be found at Dogwood Books, Barnes & Noble or amazon.com

Bill Schoepski and Allien McNair on their marriage, Sept. 5, at St. Peter's, with reception following.

Wanda Cantrell and John Marshall Jenkins on their marriage June 14.

John W. Kirkland and Joy Schlitz on their marriage Aug. 1. John is the son of Mary and John Kirkland.

Tracie Bedwell and Eric Graham on their marriage June 24.

SYMPATHY OF THE PARISH IS EXTENDED TO:

Curt Yarbrough on the death of his sister, Eleanor Reamer, on July 15.

Nat Massey and family on the death of his grandfather, James Francis Conlon, on Aug. 3.

(New Consecration Sunday, cont.)

Mal has graciously agreed to serve as our Guest Leader through this process and you will get to know him over the next month as he directs the Vestry, the Stewardship Committee and the church as a whole through this process.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

You will be hearing much more about the program, but we would like for you to put this important date on your calendar:

Sunday, October 25

New Consecration Sunday at St. Peter's

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, followed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Vestry members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship. Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Jimmy Smith
Vestry, Senior Warden

Janet Byington
Consecration Sunday Chairperson

Consecration Sunday Committee

Lloyd Griffin

Bryan Johnson

Amanda Kinder

Sarah Molnar

Drew Moss

Rebecca Roberts

John Kirkland, Vestry

The Boy's and Girl's Club of Rome thank St. Peter's *For their Donations of School Supplies*



Thank you sign from The Boy's and Girl's Club



Peggy Nash, Chair of M&O and Boy's and Girl's Club Staff.



Writing as a Form of Interpersonal Connection and Psychological and Spiritual Growth

Beginning Friday, September 25 at 10:00 AM, I will offer a group process on writing as a way of healing. We will meet for 6 weeks on Friday mornings (ending October 25) at my home, 401 East 4th Avenue. I would like for you to sign up ahead of time by contacting me at downeywarley@comcst.net no later than Sept. 21. We will need a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 for group formation. I ask if you are interested in this type of group that you commit to attend each week because it interferes with group cohesion if members are not consistent in attendance: once the group begins, we will not add more group members to promote safety and trust among each other. If you know you will miss one session, that is fine but let us know ahead of time if you will not be there. If you are interested in this type of group and the timing of it is not convenient for you or the day of the week is not good for you, please let me know and I can consider offering this at another time frame.

At each meeting we will do “a write.” You can share as much or as little as you want. This will be an opportunity for each of you to get to know each other better and on deeper levels. You do not need to have any writing skills to do this group. This is more about sharing and being together than it is about writing. Writing is simply the medium we will use to foster connectedness. *D’Ann Downey*



THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING ST. FRANCIS CHAPTER



WITH FEATURED SPEAKER
DR. BETH-SARAH WRIGHT

***“BECOMING WHO I AM: ON
BEING OBEDIENT.”***

**“WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD IN THIS DAY
AND AGE?**

**HOW CAN WE BE OBEDIENT TO GOD AS WE EXPERIENCE THE
UPS AND DOWNS, THE MESSINESS, THE JOYS, AND THE THE
VALUE OF OUR LIVES? IN THIS TIME TOGETHER, WE’LL
RECLAIM THAT WORD, “OBEY” AND REALIZE THAT IT IS TRULY
ABOUT BECOMING WHO WE ARE , WHOLLY AND DIVINELY —
MADE, ACCORDING TO GOD’S DREAM FOR US.”**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015, 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM. BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
INCLUDED. \$35.00 PAYMENT AT THE DOOR. OPEN TO ALL WOMEN EVERYWHERE. CALL
ST. PETER’S TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT. 706 291-9111.
101 EAST 4TH AVENUE, ROME, GA 30161.**



Blessing of the Back Packs



Blessing of the Back Packs



Mother Nikki

September Schedule 2015

Altar Guild

Beth Hughes, Chair: Sunny KNAUSS, ELAINE SMTIH. MAI MAI KELLY, Lynne Hicks and Melissa Keefe

Greeters:

Bob Evans, Chair: Stephen Patton, Mary and Curt Yarborough, Susan Cooper, Bill Fricks, Allien McNair, Nat Massey and Ina Rose.

Loaves and Fishes:

Paggy Nash, Chair: Kathy Steinbruegge, Barbara Potter, Beverly Burnes, Dale Carroll, Sylvia Hine, Erica Wilson, Karen Hellriegel, Mary McGuffey, Nancy Hunter and Keri Herring.

Ushers:

Nat Massey – Chair: Buster Wright, Bruce Hunter, Bryant Steele and Roger Smith

Vestry of the Month: Stephen Smith

Fall 2015



Canterbury Club of Northwest Georgia

An Episcopal/Anglican/ELCA Student Fellowship Open to All College Students
Berry College, Shorter University & Georgia Highlands College

When?

Monday, September 14
Monday, September 14
Monday, September 21
Monday, September 28
Fri-Sun, Oct 2-4
Monday, October 5
Monday October 5
October 11-14

What?

Berry RLAC meeting
CC Food & Fellowship
CC Food & Fellowship
CC Food & Fellowship
VOCARE weekend
Berry RLAC meeting
CC Food & Fellowship
Fall Break (no meeting)

Where?

Krannert Rm 250 5:00 pm
Berry Admissions Lvg Rm 5:30 pm
Berry Admissions Lvg Rm 5:30 pm
Berry Admissions Lvg Rm 5:30 pm
Camp Mikell
Krannert Rm 250 5:00 pm
Berry Admissions Lvg Rm 5:30 pm

Rides to activities are available from all 3 campuses—just call club officer or chaplain

Canterbury Club members are encouraged to worship together at **St. Peter's Church**, downtown Rome, each Sunday morning at 10 am. Questions? Call CC Co-President John Evans (706-594-2406); CC Co-President Lydia Schlitt (865-323-3660); or Janice Wright, Canterbury Club Campus Missioner (706-506-0508).



Greetings from the New Editor

When Andye contacted me to say she and Marny wanted to retire from Letters to the Romans, and asked if I would take over, I said I'd think about it. But my brain was already screaming "No!" for a couple of reasons.

One, I like for my involvement in church, whether simply attending worship or assisting in some small way, to be a pause from what I do every blessed minute of the work week.

Two, I wasn't always an Episcopalian. For a good chunk of my life I wasn't even a Christian, except for when I had to check off demographic boxes on surveys.

I was raised in a strict Southern Baptist home. Around age 9 or 10, I got a board game for my birthday, but I wasn't allowed to keep it, because it involved rolling dice to determine movement of the game pieces.

With boundaries like that, as soon as I could leave home and attend college, I wanted to sin as much as I could on a \$5 monthly allowance. My major was journalism, but my extracurricular were girls, beer and penny-ante poker.

How I got from that bifurcated background to being confirmed in 1998 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Atlanta is perhaps an interesting story, but not worth the space it would take up here.

I've been an Episcopalian for only 17 years now. Yet other than friends and family, 17 years ranks as my longest relationship – ecclesiastical, professional, romantic or otherwise. But I still feel like a newcomer. When I attend Bible study or Adult Forum at St. Peter's, I assume that everyone in the room is a smarter, or at least a more seasoned, Episcopalian than I am.

So how on this planet could I be editor of the St. Peter's newsletter?

Two things I do know: Ever since my confirmation in 1998, occasionally I will be mentally wrestling with a decision, sometimes a seemingly insignificant one. I will fall asleep still wrestling with the issue. Then, *at dawn*, I will awake with a jolt and a clear answer.

It took awhile to figure out that the clarity was God answering the wrestling, which itself was my awkward way of praying. (I keep trying to be more disciplined and sophisticated in my prayers.)

The other thing I know: When I moved to Rome in December 2007, I felt St. Bartholomew's was the only church I'd known. I needed to know St. Peter's, so that whatever it offered would fit, or not, into the transition.

I can thank a number of people for help in that transition: Roger Ard here; Mac Thigpen, rector of St. Bartholomew's, the church home I was leaving; and more St. Peter's parishioners than space permits. *Letters to the Romans* was also helpful in that process. I thank Andy and Marny for that.

So when I wrestled with whether to take over this newsletter, it's not surprising the answer came *at dawn*.

Bryant Steele

(If you have ideas or contributions for *Letters to the Romans*, email me at steelecomm@netzero.net)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Watermelon Sharks



Hollye and Rebecca



Julia leads a group activity



Children Overboard!



With 53 children fresh out of school, and the discipline of routine the furthest thing from their minds, and “Going Overboard” as a theme, you might expect bandages or even a body count at the end of St. Peter’s 2015 Vacation Bible School. Instead, there was only a faux pas: An adult teacher kept confusing the names of our rector’s daughters.

Otherwise, “there were no disasters,” says Hollye Smith, co-leader, with Rebecca Segrest, of the June celebration and Christian education for young ones.

The weeklong classes/exercises also included 25 adult teachers, and including EYC helpers, close to 70 participants.

The children also had the opportunity to read and interact with dogs from Compassionate Paws, the caring organization headed by D’Ann Downey. VBS also collected \$163 to donate to Compassionate Paws.

Join the St. Peter's JOY Group as we visit The Anheuser-Busch Cartersville Brewery

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the seven stages of the time-honored Budweiser brewing process. Visit the brewhouse, starting cellar, packaging and fermentation areas, beechwood aging cellar, finishing tank, and tasting room.

- Saturday, September 26
- Depart St. Peter's at 10:00 a.m.
- Return by 3:00 p.m.
- Cost per person: \$25 (includes transportation and tour)

Lunch on your own at the Swheat Market Deli in historic downtown Cartersville. Guests >21 always welcome. ®

Call 706-291-9111 to reserve your space.
