



Ring in the

Good News

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 2017

Purcellville, Virginia

Lent Season

Inside this issue:

From the Rector 2
Lenten Lesson
Supper Series -
Anger

Our Path to 3
Peace

Upsee Mercy 4
Mission in
Guatemala

Top Golf Event - 5
A Range of Fun!

The Sermon on 6
the Mount:
A deeper look

An Evening with 6
the Vicar of
Baghdad

Youth News 7

What the BCP 7
Says About Wills

Kidz Page 8

Service Roster 9

Special Dates 10
& Lectionary

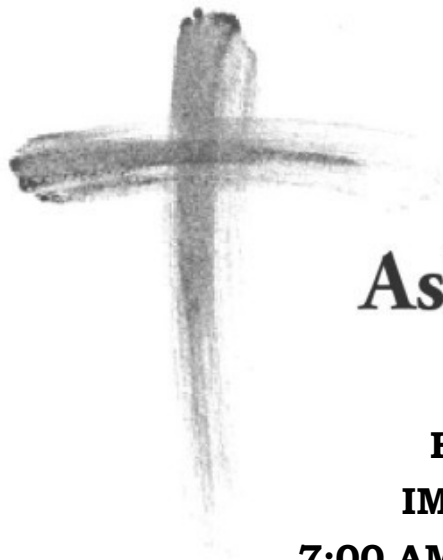
Calendar 11

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST,
AND TO DUST
YOU SHALL RETURN."

GENESIS 3:19

You have always learned that **Lent** commemorates the 40 days that Jesus spent praying in the desert before his public ministry. If, however, you actually count the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, you'll realize there are actually 46 days! What? Yes, there are 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Because each Sunday of the year, however, is a grand celebration and commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus, we don't count them in the 40 days of penance. There are six Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. So, by subtraction, we are left with 40 days.

On **Ash Wednesday (March 1** this year) at St. Peter's, people receive ashes in the form of a cross on their foreheads. As the persons who are distributing the ashes make the Sign of the Cross, they say: **Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return** (adapted from Genesis 3:19). The ashes are made of the palms remaining from the previous year's Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.



March 1

Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

HOLY EUCHARIST &
IMPOSITION OF ASHES

7:00 AM

12 Noon

7:00 PM



Lenten Lesson Supper Series—Anger

By Fr. Tom Simmons

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches his people how to deal with their anger, lust, hypocrisy and fear. In our Supper Series we will focus in on one of these: Anger.

Anger is something we all deal with, whether it's the rising tide of anger we witness in the public square and social media, or the anger we experience from people we love, or the anger we struggle with in our own hearts. It exercises great power in our lives, sometimes driving us to act in ways that damage our most valuable relationships. Anger is our response to hurt, hurt plus blame.

But Jesus seeks to break that cycle and lead us on a path of compassion.

In Lent, we will learn a very effective way to defuse our own feelings, and the angry behavior of others. God's compassion heals our hurts and inspires us to drop blame and show compassion toward others. Jesus empowers us to take loving action to help solve the problem, rather than make it worse through angry reactions. The course will include short lecture presentation, table discussion and take-home exercises to practice a powerful way of dealing with anger.

There are three good reasons to mark your calendar for Wednesdays in Lent:

1. You'd like to love better. You are probably angry at someone, or someone is angry at you. And it's not going well. It might be so familiar that, like the wall paper in your bathroom, you don't even notice it anymore. But it still hurts. On Wednesdays in Lent

we will gain effective tools to help you deal with your own anger and the angry behavior of others.

2. You'd like to form and deepen friendships. I know you are busy, but there's nothing more important than relationships to keep us sane and stable and moving in a good direction. In Lent, you can make relationships with your family and church family a priority, by making time to eat together, learn together, and support each other on our shared journey with Jesus.
3. You've got to do SOMETHING for Lent! Are you planning to give up some indulgence? Are you planning to add a spiritual discipline? Were you just going to do the usual? Consider something new: fasting from anger, making the practice of compassion your spiritual discipline. It will change your life. You'll learn how to do this on Wednesdays. Don't miss a session.



Lenten Soup Suppers Wednesdays in Lent

**Join us Wednesdays in Lent for
Potluck Soup & Salad Dinner
Study and Discussion together**

6:30 till 8:00pm

Beginning March 8

**Meeting at the stunning
Gathering Place at Trillium Farm
5 minutes south of St. Peter's at
18915 Lincoln Rd., Purcellville**



Our Path to Peace

By Fr. Tom Simmons

"God works," they say, "in mysterious ways." And it's true...in part.

Consider this: the God of the Bible is MUCH LESS mysterious than any other of the multitude of gods humans have sought. The Creator God, Yahweh, has disclosed more of his personality and priorities and plans than all the other deities in the world combined.

Sure, the way God works in space and time is often shrouded in mystery, because God has tools-we-know-not-of at his disposal to guide and shape our lives and the world. God's interests and intentions, however, are manifest on every page of Scripture. The Prophet Isaiah, for instance, portrayed God's personality with the literary equivalent of IMAX 3-D.

To Isaiah, God shows himself to be "High and Holy, inhabiting eternity" (Isaiah 57:15). Jesus gave us a glimpse of that high holiness with his teaching in the Sermon on the Mount: "be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect." It is better to cut it off than to anger God!

God's anger shows God's intense commitment to justice and truth. God is enraged at the greed and stupidity and evil that men do (v, 17) yet despite that, God is still moved by the needs of infuriating humanity.

Though "high and holy," God is also "close and compassionate." He lowers himself to associate with the lowest and the least and the lost. God shows tender mercy even for those who have offended him. God seeks them out to heal them (v 18). Jesus embodied that mercy – literally – by coming all the way down to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to God.

God's mercy shows God's intense love and desire for intimacy with people. God likes us and wants more than anything to be close to us. He can sympathize with our hurts and faults and failures and is eager to empower and restore us.

And herein lies the path of peace.

Everyone seeks peace, but peace is elusive, isn't it? Isaiah likens human hearts to the tossing turbulence of the sea, like waves that churn up muddy clouds in the water (v 20). Think of waves. A wave has a cyclical motion, rolling and turning and churning. We exhibit the same, caught in a cycle, going 'round and around, stuck in the same attitudes, behaviors, and excuses.

In my own life, I can see three big turbulent cycles: a desire cycle, a fear cycle, and an anger cycle. In the DESIRE cycle we are wanting and grasping, focused on "my precious...must have the precious."

We turn in on the object of our longing. In the FEAR cycle, we are worrying and protecting and despairing, afraid of things that don't really threaten us. We turn in on our anxiety and it feeds itself. In the ANGER cycle, we are hurt and lashing out to hurt others, retaliating and controlling people around us. In waves of blame we turn in on faults and failures of others. In these cycles, there is no peace.

Isaiah shows the God who is both holy and lowly is intervening to break these churning cycles, to heal our hearts, to make us free, get us moving forward in life.

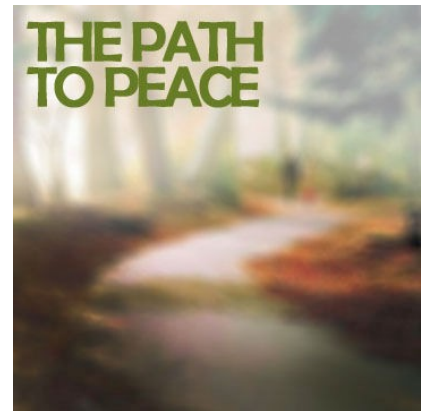
The path to this peace is found in responding well to God's initiative.

Isaiah described two responses. One response is "contrite," and the other he calls "wicked." The contrite response is humble and open. The wicked response is closed and controlling. The contrite person is open to input from others, able to learn and change. King David was "contrite" when he was confronted with his guilt. But a wicked response makes excuses, dig in the heels, or turns away. That's how King Saul responded.

Under life's pressures, the wicked are broken DOWN, but the contrite are broken OPEN, like my friend and mentor the Rev. Doug Burgoyne. Doug died last week at the age of 86. He was sixty-one years a priest and the most holy person I've known, remarkably kind, and strong, and wise. He knew the path of peace and helped many others find it.

He found that path through incredible suffering. Doug and his wife Joannie lost three of their six children: the first soon after birth, then their daughter was murdered in college, and a son died by his own hand in his forties, after a decades-long struggle with mental illness. Through almost unimaginable turbulence, Doug and Joannie found grace to trust God, to seek their comfort in God's tender mercy, to keep their hearts open to Jesus' promise of hope and change. Doug said, "Tom, I've been to the bottom, and I can report that the bottom holds."

"How did it hold?" He told me "That's where Jesus met us" and through daily Morning and Evening Prayer, having a good counselor, and experiencing the embrace of Christian community Jesus brought them through it. Isn't it nice to know that God's path of peace lies before us in whatever we may suffer? The key to finding it is responding well to God. Doug and Joannie knew the path of peace, and their witness has helped countless others find it too. God does indeed work in mysterious ways!



Upsee Mercy Mission in Guatemala

By Bob Loker



"Bob, We received the Upsee device and it works great! We tried it out on Humberto and we had him walking and kicking a soccer ball. He has been sick, so his reactions were a bit subdued on camera, but later he was laughing!"

Last week I was in Guatemala on a mission trip and I delivered four additional Upsees in different sizes from St. Peter's donors. We are waiting for more pictures!

Here is a picture of Humberto "walking" for the first time ever!

In the January *Good News* I reported that St. Peter's donors had purchased an Upsee Mobility Device which we were sending to *Hope for Home* in Guatemala. *Hope for Home* takes in critically disabled kids and most of them have spent their lives lying on their backs or sitting in wheel chairs. The Upsee is a new and revolutionary device that allows a young disabled child to experience "walking" for the first time and allows for therapy and hopefully training for him or her to walk. Our idea was to test the device in the field and, if it proved helpful to the ministry there, to order a full set in four different sizes.

We sent the Upsee to Guatemala in January with a visiting mission team and Daryl Fulp, the missionary leading *Hope for Home*, later wrote:



March Fellowship Event



Join us for an exciting evening of
FUN & FELLOWSHIP

At Top Golf in Ashburn, Virginia

Sunday March 26 4:00—7:00 PM

Sign up by March 1 at:

signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4eaaa72caafa7-topgolf

Cost is Adults \$55.00 Children under 12 \$38.00

Cost is inclusive of three hours of golf, food buffet, and non-alcoholic beverages

"The food alone is worth the cost!"

Dinner and fun for families. You do not have to be a golfer to participate.



The Sermon on the Mount: A deeper look

By Jon Corbett

During the season of Lent, Sunday morning Adult Formation will be **lessons from the Sermon on the Mount**. These will provide time for us to examine our character and standing before God, see a glimpse into who God is as seen in the person of Jesus, and make positive strides to move closer to God's intentions for us as people created in his image and called to his Kingdom

The first course **starts March 5** and will last for every Sunday that has formation classes during lent. **Taught by Jon Corbett; meets in McCray hall.**



An Evening with the Vicar of Baghdad

Thursday, March 16, 7-8:30pm, Patrick Henry College

Canon Andrew White, also known as "The Vicar of Baghdad," will be speaking at Patrick Henry College at 7:00 pm on Thursday 16 March 2017 in the Barbara Hodel Center. White grew his congregation at St. George's Church in Baghdad from 60 to over 6,500 as the vicar of the only Anglican church in Iraq. He's been the personal



friend of Pope John Paul II, General Petraeus and Yassar Arafat, and held hostage negotiations with the PLO, Hamas and Daesh. This evening event at Patrick Henry College is a rare opportunity to hear about Cannon White's fascinating journey and learn from one of the world's foremost experts on Middle East reconciliation. Admission is free and open to the public.

Thank You!

To all the people, the true Body of Christ, who attend St. Peter's Church.

This note is to thank all who have helped us get through this tough time. Carl has been hospitalized 4 times since October with various problems. He is now awaiting a procedure that has a good prognosis.

So many of you, servants of the Lord, have prayed regularly for us, prepared meals, brought flowers, sent cards and visited Carl during these last few months. And now, a wheel chair has been provided for Carl so he can attend church on Wednesday and Sunday when he is stronger. This blesses us both!

Thank you and bless you all.

Nancy Sheys

Youth—Mark Your Calendars!

Maundy Thursday Youth Lock-in / Prayer Vigil

By Jon Coate, *Director of Youth Ministries*

After the 7pm service on **Maundy Thursday, April 13**, we will have a youth lock in until the Good Friday service the following morning. We will watch a movie, have "Priest on the hot seat" with Father Tom, and keep watch and pray with Christ in the Sanctuary in half hour shifts throughout the night.

Parishioners of all ages are invited to sign up for the Prayer vigil (sign up sheet will be posted in McCray Hall the end of March) as well as join us for a traditional, meditative labyrinth walk at 11 pm. For further information, contact Jon Coate at youthd@stpetes.net.



What the BCP Says About Wills

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP

There is a counsel in the *Book of Common Prayer* to have a will? Yes, that is right. Page 445 speaks of "the duty...of all persons to make wills."

"The Minister of the Congregation" is here directed "to instruct the people, from time to time about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families." And also: "of the duty of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods."

There is one further counsel here. This is, that persons making wills or trusts or other instruments of estate planning are not to neglect, if they are able, "to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

Having a will or other estate plan is so important a part of Christian faith and stewardship that it is explicitly addressed in our book of worship. For an adult Christian, having a valid will and estate plan is essential.

Unfortunately 50% of Americans die without a valid will and allow the state courts to distribute their assets however the state thinks best. This abdicates an important area of choice. We can choose to whom we wish to pass the "temporal goods" with which God has blessed us.

In choosing our heirs, we naturally think first of our families. This is as it should be. But we need not stop here. There is also our spiritual family, the Church. There are also other charitable organizations carrying on important work in the world. Our "Last Will and Testament" can actually be a "testament"—an expression of our personal faith and our values. This is an important aspect of our Christian stewardship.

Why do you suppose that more people seem to write wills in June than in other months?

Attorneys tell me that it is because people who are planning travel during the summer perceive extra risk in international travel and take steps to have their affairs in order.

This is a good time to make your will into a testament of your faith and values. For further information or attorney referrals, contact your priest or the gift planning office of the diocese. And the next time you have the *Book of Common Prayer* in your hands, look up page 445. It's a helpful reminder for all of us.

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.

PUZZLE

The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.

Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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 B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
 because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING IN THE NURSERY!!!

Miss Leah has adopted a new baby! She is taking some time off from working in the Nursery to acclimate. Miss Ingrid is still there, so we only need one other adult or teen per shift.

Please consider volunteering in the Nursery for one of our services! **Signing up is easy!** Just go to our Sign Up Genius link: www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49aea92ea2ff2-nursery2 or you can respond to Kathleen Voss dcm@stpetes.net Please help keep our Nursery going!!! It is a great help to our young families.

Are you telling me some people don't want to help in the Nursery?? Are they Crazy?? Have they seen how cute I am??



St. Peter's MARCH SERVING SCHEDULE

		March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
		1 Lent	2 Lent	3 Lent	4 Lent
LECTOR	Early	Mark Baker	Bryan Field	Gail Donohue	Erin Schellhase
	Late	Liz Tuohy	Lauren Hunt	Kyle Voss	Mark McKinley
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Jaqueline Whalen, VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Terry Duhring, Judy Hall	Paul Donohue, Peter Schellhase	Terry Duhring, Michael Whitnah
	Late	Tom Coate, Lauren Hunt	Randy & Linda Stoutenburgh	Dan LaPre, Dave Grommons	Tom Coate, Michael Whitnah
SUB DEACON	Early	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Tim Hall	NA
	Late	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Dave Hunt	NA
INTERCESSOR	Early	NA	Peter Schellhase	Paul Donohue	Dell Nunaley
	Late	NA	Marty Thompson	Traci Eddinger	Jon Coate
ACOLYTES	Early	Aubrey & Addie Winger, VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Joshua, Megan & Olivia Smith, James Nunaley	Kimberly & Colin Donohue, John Matthews	Adam & Eric Gibson, Mark Matthews, Hayes Baker
	Late	Jonathan LaPre, Grace Falatko, Scarlett Daly	George & Henry Simmons, Lexi Eddinger	Dan LaPre, Lauren Hunt, Jon Coate	Jonathan LaPre, Grace Falatko, Scarlett Daly
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Don & Krista Winger, Chris & Terry Duhring	Cindy Coffey, Nora Young, Joe & Tanya Matthews	Sonny & Mary Hoeltzel, Mark & Nancy Baker	Mark & Clarissa Staggs, Patty & Robert Costantino
	Late	Kurt & Melissa Nordstrom, Ollie & Betsy North	Randy & Linda Stoutenburgh, Michael & Katie Marsh	Jimmy & Traci Eddinger, Joe & Rebecca Babb	Jim & Sandy Wehr, Tred & Debi Parry
USHERS	Early	Paul Miller & Laurraine Landolt	Rick & Kelly Cockrill	Jim Schatz, Dick Wilhelm	Bill & Beth Gibson, Mark & Nancy Baker
	Late	Susan Collins, Bob Ryan, Billy Dillon Volunteer Needed	Jimmy Eddinger, Jim Heim, Steve & Anne Schultz	Tred & Debi Parry, Keith & Regina Brzozowsky	Mark & Katie McKinley, Susan Collins, Volunteer Needed
GREETERS	Early	Joe Matthews	Dell Nunaley	Rebecca Smoot	Mark Baker
	Late	Steve Schultz	Traci Eddinger	Jim Heim	Jon Corbett
TELLERS		Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Howard & Linda Evans	Jim & Maggie Heim	Steve & Sally Falatko
ALTAR GUILD		Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Chris Lafferty, Patty Costantino, Rebecca Smoot, Sharon Purnell, Marina Liburdi	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill

* **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY** on a day you are assigned, please:
(1) Find Your Replacement and then **(2) Notify the Church Office** of the change in schedule

MARCH Anniversaries and Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

3-4 Peter Staggs
Linda Turner

3-5 Dave Grommons
Anne Schultz

3-8 Robert Costantino

3-9 Betsy North

3-16 Debi Parry

3-17 Hannah Marsh

3-20 Linda Stoutenburgh

3-22 Michael Marsh
Erin Schellhase

Rebecca Smoot
Dick Wilhelm

3-23 Jonathan LaPre

3-26 Anna Curtis

3-27 Linda Evans
Adam Gibson

3-28 Charlie Collins
Billy Dillon
Kurt Nordstrom

3-29 Jon Corbett



Mark Your Calendar!

Mar. 1 **Ash Wed. Services 7am, Noon, 7pm**
Mission Team Mtg. 5pm

Mar. 2 Evening Prayer 7pm

Mar. 4 Men's Breakfast 7am

Mar. 5 The Covenant 12:30pm

Mar. 7 Vestry Ministry Mtg. 7pm

Mar. 8 Lenten Lesson Supper 6:30pm

Mar. 12 *Daylight Savings Time Starts*
The Covenant 12:30pm
Youth Group 7pm

Mar. 14 Vestry Exec Mtg 6pm

Mar. 15 Lenten Lesson Supper 6:30pm

Mar. 16 Evening Prayer 7pm

Mar. 18 Men's Leadership Mtg. 7am
Literary Guild Mtg. 5pm

Mar. 19 The Covenant 12:30pm
Guatemala Prep Mtg2 5pm

Mar. 21 Vestry Mtg. 7pm

Mar. 22 Lenten Lesson Supper 6:30pm

Mar. 24 Youth Movie Night 7pm

Mar. 26 Newsletter Deadline
CONFIRMATION 10:30am
Parish Potluck 12pm
Top Golf Fellowship Event 4pm
Youth Group 7pm

Mar. 29 Pastoral Care Team Mtg. 4pm
Lenten Lesson Supper 6:30pm

Mar. 30 Evening Prayer 7pm



We are delighted to welcome Bishop Shannon Johnston on March 26th when he comes to visit St. Peter's and lead us in worship at the 10:30am service, including Confirmation and Reception for those who have been studying and preparing for it in the *Exploring Your Faith* classes these past several months.

We will have a Potluck Luncheon Reception for the Bishop immediately following the 10:30am service.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for MARCH

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
5	1 Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
12	2 Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
19	3 Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
26	4 Lent	1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41

MARCH

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1  ASH WEDNESDAY 7am-Noon-7pm Mission Team Mtg	2 Next Step Community EVENING PRAYER	3	4 Men's Breakfast HOLY EUCHARIST
5 HOLY EUCHARIST SS & SF The Covenant Bible Study	6	7 Vestry Ministry Mtg	8 HOLY EUCHARIST Lenten Lesson Supper Series	9 Next Step Community	10	11 HOLY EUCHARIST
12 DST Starts HOLY EUCHARIST SS & SF The Covenant Bible Study Youth Group	13	14 Vestry Exec Mtg	15 HOLY EUCHARIST Lenten Lesson Supper Series	16 Next Step Community EVENING PRAYER	17	18 Men's Leadership Mtg.
19 HOLY EUCHARIST SS & SF The Covenant Bible Study Guatemala Mtg	20	21 Vestry Mtg.	22 HOLY EUCHARIST Lenten Lesson Supper Series	23 Next Step Community	24 Youth Movie Night	25 1:30 Funeral for Bill Reckmeyer
26 Newsletter Deadline HOLY EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION SS & SF Potluck Luncheon Top Golf Event	27	28	29 HOLY EUCHARIST PC Team Mtg Lenten Lesson Supper Series	30 Next Step Community EVENING PRAYER	31	HOLY WEEK April 9-16

KEY: PC=Pastoral Care; SF=Spiritual Formation Classes; SS=Sunday School



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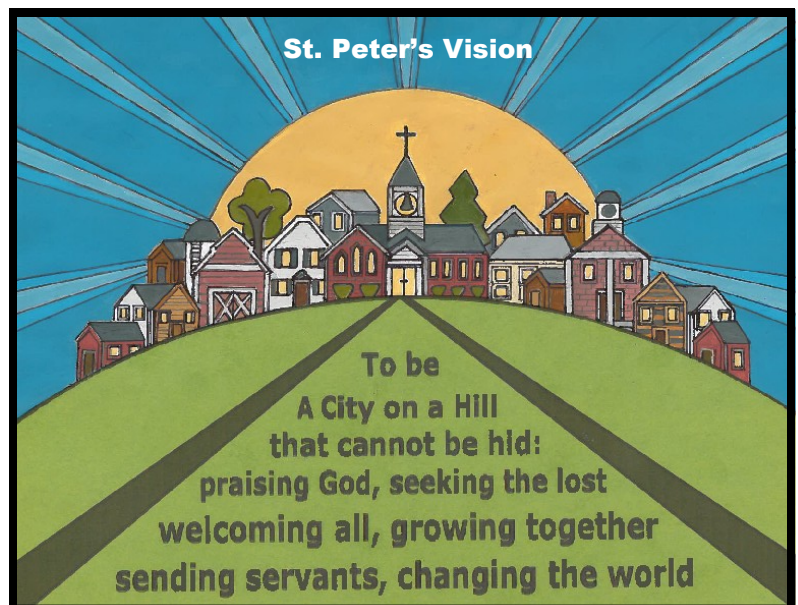
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