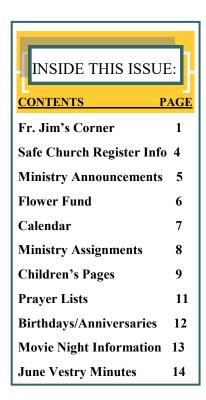
AUGUST 2023





Jim's Corner

This article may be a tad long, but I think, if you read it completely, you will find it worth the time. It addresses a facet of our current culture that the Church is facing.

hat would it look like if mankind were God? The answer to that question, it could be argued, would be humanism. This is a philosophy, some would call it a religion, which emphasizes the supremacy of humanity. According to humanism, humanity is the ultimate life form in existence, and God, if not dead, is irrelevant. The humanist's system is built on mankind's ability to reason things out and build upon that foundation to make life better and better through the application of science. This is the progress myth (myth not in the sense of a false story but in the sense of a founding narrative) of modernism focused in the 15th Century, some putting it at 1492 when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. According to the progress myth, history begins with Egypt and Greece and unfolds as a story of cumulative development leading up to modern times [Columbus] and to Western

Peter Moore tells us

that, as a group, humanists are defined by their criticisms of religion – especially the Christian religion – and by a set of assumptions that they substitute for those of the Bible. The first of these criticisms is that Christians have the wrong focus. We are not to view the world theologically but scientifically. Pythagoras, the ancient Greek philosopher said, "Man is the measure of all things." Mankind is autonomous, self-sufficient, and there is no place for God.

The second criticism is that Christianity has a backward focus. Because it cherishes tradition, Christianity inhibits progress and, thus, does not comport with the progress myth.

Diocesan Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

ST. PETER'S CHURCH STAFF

Interim Rector:

The Rev. Dr. James W. Hunter

Secretary:

Laura Kallestad

Organist:

Elizabeth Miller

Treasurer:

Charlie Pfeifer

culture.1

¹J. Richard Middleton, *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be: Biblical Faith In A Postmodern Age* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995), 15.

Jim's Corner, Cont. from page 1

Humanists believe that traditional Christianity "is an unproved and outmoded faith ... Reasonable minds look to other means for survival ... Humanism offers an alternative that can serve present-day needs and guide humankind toward the future." Hermon Wouk, a Jewish survivor of the Nazi concentration camps and author, has said that if we forget the past we are doomed to repeat it. So, Christians do look to the past, and for good reason. Moore says that it is by understanding the past that "we gain both a vision and the energy to shape the future."

The third criticism humanists made is that the Christian focus on life is harmful, "diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter" (68). Christianity is by nature irrational. Their system is based on reason. Humanist H.J. Blackham rejects the association of religion to humanism. "For him it is the lack of dogma that is humanism's real attraction. He says, 'One of the fundamental positions taken by Humanists is that men should have freedom to think out for themselves how they ought to live, to think out their own principles." ⁴ I will address the disastrous implications of this below.

"Modern humanists displace God and exalt themselves, and thus repeat the age-old fallacy of thinking that good and evil can be known apart from submission to God's will. The result is an ethical system which locates good and evil subjectively in one's own perceptions. Good is what I perceive or feel to be good, and evil is the opposite.... Because there are no objective values [biblically derived] to point to, it is just as easy for humanists to justify killing someone for the benefit for them [euthanasia] as it is to justify killing someone because of the apparent benefit to others [abortion, though not for the benefit of the baby]." ⁵ It is all subjective and postmodern.

Humanists make a fundamental distinction between "persons" and "human beings." According to this "reasoning," a human being does not become a person at conception or even at birth. "Furthermore, a human being can cease being a 'person' when someone else decides that they are no longer able to function as a full person. Humanist Michael Tooley argues that "There ought to be a three-day waiting period following birth during which the parents decide whether or not to confer personhood on their baby. In the event they do not, the baby may be destroyed. While believers would want to insist that only God can evaluate the significance of a person's life, humanists have no judgment beyond their own. Therefore, what they see to be good for another must be final." This is the slippery slope that gave way to the anti-Semitism of the 1930s and the rise of Nazism. Jewish people are not considered humans, worthy of life. We see this in the Islamic State In Syria (ISIS) today, a terrorist group which is rebounding in influence.

²Peter Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods: How to Talk So Skeptics Will Listen* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1989), 65-67.

³Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods*, 67.

⁴Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods*, 68-69).

⁵Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods*, 70-71.

⁶Moore, Disarming the Secular Gods, 72-73.

A second distinguishing mark of humanists is their utopian, optimistic belief in progress. Humanists are unwilling to come to terms with misery, seeing only grandeur. They refuse to face human nature as it really is. ⁷ WWI, the great depression of the '30s, and the carnage of WWII did not dampen this enthusiasm. Since humanists have no objective reference point for right and wrong (no God or Scripture to turn to), all values are subjectively determined by the individual. ⁸ This is indeed dangerous. Moore tells us, "While it [humanism] eschews the description of itself as a religion, it functions as just that – a deeply held conviction that human being are essentially good, rational and destined for utopia once the restrictions and negatives of Christianity and its traditional ethics are thrown off.... Seeing itself as the defender of Reason as over against superstition, it falls into the trap of elitism, for only those who believe themselves to be "rational" are in a position to decide what is best for the rest of humanity." ⁹

The biblical view of humanity is, by contrast, "refreshingly realistic." ¹⁰ From Genesis 1 we learn that we are different from God, neither divine nor dumb beasts. We are created "in God's image" (Gen 1:26). We have been given authority over the earth, not to abuse it but to protect and preserve it. We are to name the animals and, thus, share with God the task of giving these other creatures their unique identity. The second clue to being made "in God's image" in creation is the result of a decisive choice by God. God said, "Let us make ..." Creation was not the result of random chance. The third clue to the meaning of "in God's image" is found in the overall picture in Genesis 1-3. Here we find a God who cares deeply about his creation, and especially about the man and the woman. He blesses them, provides for them, delights in them, is concerned about their loneliness, seeks communion with them, clothes them, and holds them accountable for their actions. 11 Even after being cast out of the Garden of Eden, God desires to be in relationship with Adam and Eve. "Humanism, by seeking a way to elevate us from mere corporeality, robs us of the ability to find our true dignity in our relationship to God. It first turns us into gods, and then proceeds to smash the very idols it has made.... We know we are moral, although flawed. And we know that we are individually responsible, although part of a wider human community. Moreover we know that whether we are a fetus in the womb, a handicapped newborn, a mental retardate, or a senile old person, we are human, not because somebody has decided to confer personhood on us, but because in our relationship to God we discover who we are."12

Humanism claims that Christianity is based on irrational and foolish claims. Christianity claims, no, proclaims that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Without faith, which Christianity is

⁷ Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods*, 73.

⁸ Moore, *Disarming the Secular Gods*, 76.

⁹ Moore, Disarming the Secular Gods, 78.

¹⁰ Moore, Disarming the Secular Gods, 80.

¹¹ Moore, Disarming the Secular Gods, 81.

¹² Moore, Disarming the Secular Gods, 82.

all about, rationality is cut adrift in a sea of individual subjectivity and tragic consequences result. There is no hope for salvation in humanism, but in Christ we have hope in life everlasting. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6) Jesus tells us. This is our hope which we can trust because He rose from the dead and will never die again. No other religion, or philosophy can make that promise. St. Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo, said "I believe in order to understand" (*credo ut intelligam*) and centuries later, St. Anselm of Canterbury, echoed his statement in similar fashion, "I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand." These great Christian thinkers understood the proper use of reason must be preceded by faith in the proper object. Not faith in ourselves or science, but faith in God, specifically in His revelation of Himself in His Son Jesus the Christ. Their statements echo the words of the writer of Hebrews, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." (Hebrews 11:3, NIV) Humanism crumbles under its own weight.



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



The ladies of St. Peter's meet on the second Monday of each month for lunch and fellowship. On August 14th at 12:30 P.M., we will be enjoying fellowship at Bangkok Garden 417 W. 21st St., Norfolk. If you plan to attend, please sign the list on the bulletin board in the parish hall. For more information contact Millie Coward cell (757) 469-5887/m.jlc@verizon.net.

The Altar Guild – We are looking for any man, woman, or young person that is confirmed in the Episcopal Church to join this ministry. We need your help! We welcome you to join our team to help prepare the altar for celebrations of worship such as weddings, baptisms, funerals, and Sunday services. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Millie Coward cell (757)469-5887/m.jlc@verizon.net. Please consider this calling and give prayer over joining this very critically needed ministry of St Peter's.





The Prayer Shawl Ministry- We are taking a summer break in August from our nor-Prayer mal meetings, but please consider joining us for our next meeting September 5th at 10 A.M. in the Diffenbaugh Library. If you would like to learn one of these crafts, we MINISTRY have expert teachers and all the supplies you will need to practice. For more specifics

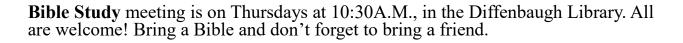


The Acts of Kindness have been busy providing more acts of kindness. Recently Chanco Camper's Closet. This closet we donated items for the Camp helps young campers who attend and have forgotten some of these items. We are proud to be part of assisting the children who attend camp at Chanco on the James.

Items we supplied were: 2 pillows, 2 sets of sheets, 4 pairs of flip flops, 4 pairs of water shoes, 3 cans of bug spray, 4 water bottles, 4 beach towels.

We thank each of you for your generosity in all our fundraising efforts to be able to provide to those in need.

Nancy Comfort







Sunday School will be taking a summer break through the month of August. They will restart in September, 2023. The nursery will be available for diaper changes, feedings, etc. if needed. Please do not leave children in any of the Sunday school rooms without supervision. Thank you.



Dear Parish Family -

Sometimes you may notice the flowers on the altar are not given to the church by anyone in particular. These flowers were simply given to the Glory of God by the people of St. Peter's who have graciously donated to our Flower Fund. The idea of having fresh-cut flowers on the altar provides an acknowledgment to the living God in our midst at our Sunday services and always.

We welcome and need contributions to this fund to keep the supply of flowers available <u>every</u> Sunday. If you are enjoying the look of the altar with the fresh flowers, we please ask for your contribution however large or small. All proceeds will be allocated to the "Flower Fund" only.

If you desire to donate or contribute flowers any given Sunday "In Thanksgiving for" or "In Memory of" a person or persons, you may:

•note that on the Flower Fund offering envelope*

sign up on the board in the vestibule

order on our website

•note it in the memo line of your check.

*The envelopes are located in the Parish Hall and Narthex.

August 2023

St. Peter's Episcopal Church & Day School 224 S. Military Hwy Norfolk, VA 23502 Office: (757) 466-9392 Fax: (757) 466-9414



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	2 MOVIE NIGHT "Jesus Revolution"	Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II			MOVIE NIGHT			
The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ		8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	"Play the Flute"	Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.		
8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II 11th Sunday after Pen- tecost	14 Ladies Luncheon at Bangkok Garden @ 12:30 P.M Finance/Vestry Meeting 6:30 P.M.	8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	THE LAST MOVIE NIGHT "The Mulligan"	Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.	18	19
20	21	22	223	24	25	26
8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II 12th Sunday after Pentecost Canon Farlin will meet with the Vestry @1130 for a Mutual Ministry Review	Day School Board Meeting - 7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M. AA MEETING		Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M.		
27	28	29	30			
8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II 13th Sunday after Pentecost		8:00 P.M. AA MEETING	Day School - Last Day of Summer Camp			

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

AUGUST 6 - Transfiguration of Christ

Acolyte: Magdalena Kress

Ushers: Larry Shreve, Howard Belote

Lector: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice 10:00 - Jeffrey Pfeifer LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Kimberly Truxell

Altar Guild Duty: Millie Coward, Judy Eller



Acolyte: Eric Evans

Ushers: Vicky Martin, Steve Kakol

Lector:8:00-Bob Vanderslice; 10:00-Laura Kallestad LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Nancy Comfort

Altar Guild Duty: Charlette Corbett, Elizabeth Miller

AUGUST 20–12th Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte: Carys Shreve

Ushers: Jim Jimeno, Greg Evans

Lector: 8:00 - Bruce Comfort; 10:00 - Bronwyn Shreve

LEM: 8:00 - Bruce Comfort; 10:00 - Bruce Comfort

Altar Guild Duty: Ashley Pierce, Vel Shreve

AUGUST 27 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Acolyte: Eric Evans

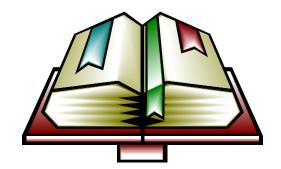
Ushers: Larry Shreve, Susan Sigler

Lector: 8:00 Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Janet Chauncey

LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice; 10:00 - Kimberly Truxell

Altar Guild Duty: Jessica Trochanowski, Nancy Comfort









CHILDREN'S LESSON FOR AUGUST

The Bible tells us that one day Jesus took three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, and went up on a mountain to pray.

As Jesus prayed, His face was changed and His clothes became a dazzling white. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking to Jesus. Peter and the others had fallen asleep and when they woke up, they saw Jesus and the other two talking. They were amazed at that wonderful sight!

What an experience! Do you know what caused the face of Jesus to be changed and His clothes to become dazzling white? It was because they were in the presence of God!

The Apostle Paul said in a letter he wrote to the church at Corinth, "For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ."

You and I have many wonderful experiences in our daily walk with Jesus. Others can see that we have the love of Jesus in our heart by seeing his reflection shining bright in us!

Dear God, we thank You for the joy we experience in Jesus Christ. Help us reflect that joy in our bright, shining faces. In Jesus' name, amen.



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GOD BLESS OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.". (Ephesians 6:10-11)

Joe, Chloe, Hannah, David, Courtney, Frank, Kyle, Michael, Allan, Mario, Roger,



The Veterans are always in need of:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, tissues & handkerchiefs (new unopened). No candy, food, or drinks right now. They **are** accepting used clothing items again.

Please bring your donations to church and place them in the baskets and box provided in the parish hall. Thank you all for your continued support!



VESTRY MEMBERS

Kimberly Truxell, Sr. Warden - ('23) Bruce Comfort, Jr. Warden— ('23)

Linsey Shreve ('23), Vel Shreve ('23), Judy Eller ('24), Charlie Pfeifer ('24), Debbie Whitehorne ('24), Liz Kress ('25), Peggy Pfeifer ('25)

Holy Father, the navigator of our souls, hear us as we hold up before you our annual Vestry. Be with us as we chart a course together, inspired by the presence of your Spirit. Give courage to our clergy, our leaders and each of us, as we move forward with your blessing. For all we do, we do to your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.



11

Please keep these people in your prayers

John	Charlie	Eddie	
BJ	Rick	Niko	
Lois	Sebastian	Jessica	
Patsi	Wayne	Becky	
Kathy	Bill	Laura	
Joan	Kathie	Bryan	
Tammy	Lisa	Brian H.	
Kathleen	Bob	Dewey	
Luanne	Daniel	Sean	
Mary	Dylan	Eastin	
Teresa	Robyn	Megan	
Jonathan	Diane	Sarah	
Charlotte	Howard	Susan	
Hannah	Jodi	Charles	
Nancy	Gary	Eddie	
Elma	Nancy D.	Katie	
Kevin	Samantha	Jennifer	
Perry & Mary	Jack & Dianne	Myles & Family	
Charlie & Leslie	Toby & Debbie	Kathy & Tim	
Clay & Wanda	Bert & Ann	Debbie & Kenny	
Paul & Lee	Johnny & Nancy		

AUGUST

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings are on the 1st Sunday of the month at both the 8:00 A.M. and10:00 A.M. services.





Elizabeth & Chuck DeLoatche 8/3/91

If you want to stay informed of church activities and updates, consider joining St. Peter's REMIND group. All you have to do is send a text message from your phone. Reminders and alerts will be sent to you on your phoneit is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

(1) Text To Number: 81010

(2) Include this Message in the comments: @3c6efe8

(3) Then press: SEND.

If you have questions or need assistance, please see Liz Kress or visit/call the office.

The deadline for articles for the August issue of "The Call" is August 14th.

Send articles to: laura@stpeters-norfolk.org or call the church office 757-466-9392.

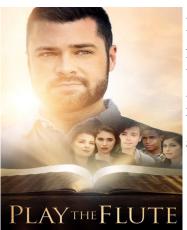
A 2023 Flower Chart is located in the vestibule as you enter the parish hall. It is **ONE** way to order flowers for a special Sunday. Please visit our website for online ordering if you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving. The website eliminates mistakes that could hinder the ordering of flowers. The price stays the same, \$72 per Sunday or \$36 if two people give on the same day.

St. Peter's Movie Night Finale



Jesus Revolution August 2 Film length: 2 hours

Tells the story of a young Greg Laurie being raised by his struggling mother, Charlene, in the 1970s. Laurie and a sea of young people descend on sunny Southern California to redefine truth through all means of liberation. Inadvertently, Laurie meets Lonnie Frisbee, a charismatic hippie-street preacher, and Pastor Chuck Smith who have thrown open the doors of Smith's languishing church to a stream of wandering youth. What unfolds becomes the greatest—spiritual awakening in American history. Rock and roll, newfound love, and a twist of faith lead to a JESUS REVOLUTION that turns one counterculture movement into a revival that changes the world.



Play the Flute August 9

Film length: 1 hour; 43 minutes

Faced with an indifferent youth group, a new Youth Pastor (actor: Brett Varvel) tries to motivate his students to read God's Word and get serious about their faith.



The Mulligan August 16

Film length: 2 hours; 5 minutes

Paul McCallister is a big-shot businessman who's estranged from his wife and son so he can pursue business and golf. At a charity golf tournament, Paul loses his temper. A tournament organizer introduces Paul to Will Dun. Golfers have nicknamed Will the "Old Pro." Will takes Paul under his wing and mentors him on golf, and, more importantly, on life. Paul's heart begins to change, but will the change be a lasting one?

Refreshments begin at 6:30 P.M. Film starts at 7:00 P.M.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2023

Opening: The St. Peter's Vestry met together in the Diffenbaugh Library on June 5, 2023. Attending the meeting were Fr. Jim, Kimberly Truxell, Debbie Whitehorne, Bruce Comfort, Linsey Shreve, Vel Shreve, Charlie Pfeifer, Peggy Pfeifer.

<u>Vestry Meeting Opening</u>: The Vestry Meeting was opened with the beginning of the service of Evening Prayer led by Charlie Pfeifer.

Agenda: Fr. Jim asked all to look at the agenda for the evening and see if any changes or additions needed to be made before starting. Charlie motioned to accept the agenda, and it was seconded by Debbie. The agenda was accepted by acclamation.

<u>May 2023 Minutes</u> were distributed to the vestry. The minutes were moved to be changed to eliminate several extraneous parts that Fr. Jim believed would streamline the minutes. The changes were accepted as changed. Charlie motioned to accept the minutes with changes, Vel seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

<u>Finance Report:</u> Charlie reviewed the May Financial Report with the vestry.

The Cash Account Balances for May 2023 are as follows:

Operating Account: \$41,509.95

Money Market Account \$40,070.03

Composite Fund: \$69,524.38

Total Net Assets: \$153,974.61

Vel motioned to accept the Financial Report, Kimberly seconded, and it was approved by acclamation.

Rector's Report: Fr. Jim said he would be deferring his report until discussion of Old Business.

Senior Warden's Report: Kimberly had nothing to report at this time.

<u>Junior Warden:</u> Bruce reported that a new pump would be installed in the drain for the parking lot. He also announced that the next Faith and Family Night at Tides Park would be July 25th, 2023.

New Business:

- 1. Water Fountain: The water fountain is a problem due to drainage. We will investigate other options. Laura will check into having a water cooler with bottles installed and obtain quotes (3).
- 2. Supporting the Day School Program at Graduation: Fr. Jim asked that the members of the Vestry (and will ask the Day School Board) attend the End-of-the-Year program to show their support and commitment to the Day School.

Old Business:

- 1. Cleaners: Debbie presented the options of new janitorial services to replace Cleaning Guyz (Christian). Vanguard is the preferred option in the opinion of Fr. Jim, Laura, and Debbie, who interviewed all the possibilities. Charlie moved to accept Vanguard as the new janitorial service for the Church and the Day School. Linsey seconded and it was approved by acclamation.
- **2. Playground:** Bruce and Larry will finish the outside parameter so that mulch can be delivered and the playground open to the PreK-2 class.

Continued from Page 14

- **3.** Reviewing the Annual Audit of the Church Books: Charlie is in contact with Carolyn King to do this audit while she is in the area.
- **4. Security Lock on the exterior white door**: Bruce is still trying to get an evaluation of needs from the Fire Department regarding the doors and the access thereof for safety.
- **5. Interim Ministry Update**: Fr. Jim met with Lynn Farlin on Saturday. There will be 4 formation events each 1 hour long:
 - Day 1. Who are we?
 - Day 2. Who is our neighbor?
 - Day 3. Hear what the Spirit is saying.
 - Day 4. Seek, name, and celebrate!
 - Fr. Jim will be working with the Transition Team during this time.
- **6. Trustees**: Kimberly has the forms drafted to change the Trustees of the Church/property. It is in the works.
- 7. By-Laws: Kimberly has not started that process yet.
- **8. Lenten Offering for the Trinidad Cathedral**: \$2,000 has been collected and the check will be sent via USPS/Return Receipt.

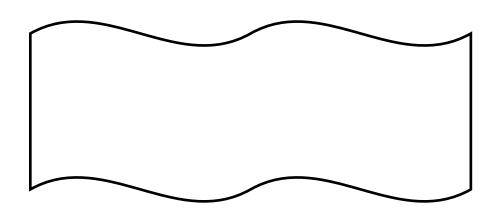
The next Vestry meeting will be July 10, 2023.

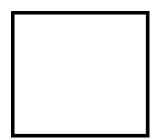
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer and the conclusion of the Evening Prayer at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kallestad

Registrar





St. Peter's Episcopal Church & Day School 224 S. Military Hwy Norfolk, VA 23502

"LHE CYLL"

"Celebrating and Proclaiming our Life in Jesus Christ!"

"THE CALL" - AUGUST 2023

St. Peter's Episcopal Church & Day School 224 S. Military Hwy Norfolk, VA 23502 Office: (757) 466-9392 Fax: (757) 466-9414

St. Peter's Church was organized in 1885 and the cornerstone was dedicated September 5th, 1886.
This structure still stands on Brown Avenue in Norfolk. The first worship service at our present site was in the parish hall on Christmas Eve, 1959. All existing construction was completed in 1965.

Dog
Days of
Summer

