APRIL 2024

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Presiding Bishop:

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Diocesan Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

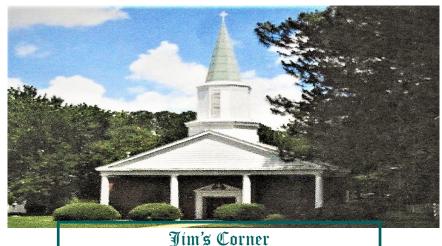
ST. PETER'S CHURCH STAFF

Interim Rector: The Rev. Dr. James W. Hunter

Secretary: Laura Kallestad

Organist: Elizabeth Miller

Treasurer: Charlie Pfeifer



April 2024

pril first is commonly, and fondly, known as April Fool's Day, a day to play innocent practical jokes on family and friends. Although its true origins are not known, one interesting theory is that it began in France in 1564 when King Charles IX decreed that the new year would no longer begin on Easter, as had been common through Christendom, but rather on January 1. Because Easter was a lunar and therefore moveable date, those who clung to the old ways were the "April Fools." There are numerous other explanations of the origin of this tradition.

Those who do not believe, either atheists or agnostics, often accuse believers in the resurrected Jesus as the Christ to be fools. Not possessing faith themselves, they cannot understand how anyone could give of their time, talent,

or treasure to an idea that cannot be proved or touched, in effect cannot be real. Of course, from a Christian perspective, this is a misunderstanding of faith. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Faith tells us that God does exist. Living into faith proves to us, in many intangible ways, that this is true. Further, two great theologians, Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109, and Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Friar, 1274, provide convincing arguments that appeal to faith.

"Anselm remains the great exponent of the so-called "ontological argument" for the existence of God: God is 'that than which nothing greater can be thought.' Even the fool, who (in Psalm 14) says in his heart 'There is no God,' must have an idea of God in his mind, the concept of an unconditional being (ontos) than

Jim's Corner, Cont. from page 1

which nothing greater can be conceived; otherwise he would not be able to speak of 'God' at all. And so this something, 'God,' must exist outside the mind as well; because, if he did not, he would not in fact be that than which nothing greater can be thought. Since the greatest thing that can be thought must have existence as one of its properties, Anselm asserts, 'God' can be said to exist in reality as well as in the intellect, but is not dependent upon the material world for verification. To some, this 'ontological argument' has seemed mere deductive rationalism [to those who have no faith]; to others it has the merit of showing that faith in God need not be contrary to human reason. As for which comes first, faith or understanding, Anselm said this, 'I do not seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe in order that I may understand. For this, too, I believe, that unless I first believe, I shall not understand."¹

Over a century later, c 1270, Thomas Aquinas came at the subject from a different angle. "Perceiving the challenges that the recent rediscovery of Aristotle's (an ancient Greek philosopher) works might entail for traditional catholic doctrine, especially in its emphasis upon empirical knowledge derived from reason and sense perception, independent of faith and revelation, Thomas asserted that reason and revelation are in basic harmony. 'Grace' (revelation), he said, ' is not the denial of nature' (reason), 'but the perfection of it." This synthesis Thomas accomplished in his greatest works, the *Summa Theologica* and the *Summa Contra Gentiles*, which even today continue to exercise profound influence on Christian thought and philosophy...."

"Thomas understood God's disclosure of his Name, in Exodus 3:14, "*I AM WHO I AM*," to mean that God is Being ["to be" is a form of "I am"], the Ultimate Reality from which everything else derives its being. The difference between God and the world is that God's essence is to exist, whereas all other beings derive their being from him by the act of creation. Although, for Thomas, God and the world are distinct, there is, nevertheless, an analogy of being between God and the world, since the Creator is reflected in his creation. It is possible, therefore, to have a limited knowledge of God, by analogy from the created world. On this basis, human reason can demonstrate that God exists; that he created the world; and that he contains in himself, as their cause, all the perfections which exist in his creation. The distinctive truths of Christian faith, however, such as the Trinity and the Incarnation, are known only by revelation [something a person who has no Christian faith would recognize]."²

Whether or not an individual accepts the Christian worldview is a matter of faith. The apostle, Paul, tells us, "Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ Crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness oof God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:20-25, RSV) He goes on to say in 3:18-20, "Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness,' and again, 'The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.'" In essence, let's be fools for Christ's sake. That's being no April Fool.

¹Charles M. Guilbert, ed., *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Fourth Edition* (New York, NY: Church Pension Fund, 1988), 212.

² Guilbert, Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Fourth Edition, 138.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Ladies Luncheon-The ladies of St. Peter's meet on the second Monday of each month for lunch and fellowship. Please join us on April 8th, 12:30 P.M., at Black Pelican, 1625 Mall Ring Road, Greenbrier, Chesapeake. Bring a friend. 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/<u>m.jlc@cox.net</u>.

The Altar Guild –The Altar Guild really could use your help!! We are looking for any man, woman, or young person that is confirmed in the Episcopal Church to join this ministry. 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@cox.net. Please give some prayer about joining this very critically-needed ministry of St. Peter's.





Flower Guild- The newly-formed Flower Guild is in need of some talented folks, both men and ladies, that can arrange flowers. Please consider joining us so that we can make this a successful ministry. Contact Dot Pierce for more information at (757) 420-4785.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry- We **welcome new members** to join us to knit, crochet and loom for various organizations. In March we completed 3 washcloths and 2 soap sacs for Judeo Christian Outreach Center, 11 chemo hats for Virginia Oncology, 2 scarves for our Homeless Ministry, 27 preemie hats, and 9 infant hats for area hospitals, and 6 breast prostheses for a local breast surgeon. If you would like to help us supply these much-needed items or learn how to knit, crochet, or loom, please join us April 2nd at 10:00 A.M. in the Diffenbaugh Library. If you prefer, you may supply any of the above items from the comfort of your home. Just give me a call and I will be happy to pick them up. We have expert teachers and all the supplies you will need to practice. For more specifics please contact Millie Coward, cell (757) 469-5887/ m.jlc@cox.net





St. Peter's Day School is looking for a Teacher's Aide for an expanded $PreK-2\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 class. The applicant must be 20 or older and love working with children. Hours for this position are 10:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Contact the office if you, or someone you know, might be interested.



Bible Study meeting is on Thursdays at 10:30A.M., in the Diffenbaugh Library. All are welcome! Bring a Bible and don't forget to bring a friend.

CURSILLO - We are making plans for another Cursillo weekend (#172) to be held at **Chanco on the James**. The **Lay Rector** for the weekend is Karey Sitzler (Some may remember Jimmy Sitzler was our Youth Director for a while). The dates for the weekend are April 25th through April 28th. <u>ANYONE</u> can attend. If you would like more information, please contact anyone who has attended a weekend, the office (Laura Kallestad), or Fr. Jim+. We do have scholarships available. *Be the hands and feet of Christ!*



There are <u>no secrets</u>, just good surprises!

Search Committee

The search for a new pastor

St. Peter's Search Committee has now completed the development of the documentation to submit to the Diocese of Southern Virginia for their input and finalization before advertisement on their network. The Vestry reviewed this documentation at their March 17 meeting and some modifications were made based on their input prior to sending on to Canon Hoffman.

We will continue to advise the parish as things progress through the search and interview processes; however, at this point we are just waiting for the Diocese to get back to us after their review.

Respectfully, Bob Vanderslice Search Committee Recorder APRIL 2024

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
Speaks OCC10d	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Prayer Shawl Meeting 10:00 A.M.	3	4	5	6
speaksed hod	DAY SCHOOL CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK - 1ST - 5TH					
God Speaks Speaks Speaks are you listening?	April Fool's Day	8:00 P.M. AA MEETING		Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II	Ladies Luncheon - 12:30 P.M.					
2nd Sunday of Easter	Vestry Meeting 7:00 P.M.					
		8:00 P.M. AA MEETING		Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II	TAX FILING DEADLINE					ACOLYTE TRAINING
3rd Sunday of Easter	60	8:00 P.M. AA MEETING		Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M		10:00 - 12:00 LUNCH PROVIDED
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II	PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNSET	8:00 P.M. AA MEETING				
4th Sunday of Easter				Bible Study in the Library - 10:30 A.M		
28 8:00 A.M Rite I 10:00 A.MRite II 5th Sunday of Easter	29 Day School Board Meeting—7:00 P.M	30 PASSOVER ENDS	The eight-day Jewish holiday of Passover is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, April 22 - 30, 2024. Passover (Pesach) commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. <u>Pesach</u> is observed by avoiding leaven, and highlighted by the <u>Seder</u> meals that include four cups of wine, eating matzah and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus. 5			

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

APR. 7 -Second Sunday of Easter

Acolyte: Magdalena Kress Ushers: Vicky Martin, Larry Shreve Lector: 8:00 - Charlotte Corbett, 10:00 - Bronwyn Shreve LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice, 10:00 - Judy Eller Altar Guild: Jessica Trochanowski, Elizabeth Miller

APR. 14—Third Sunday of Easter

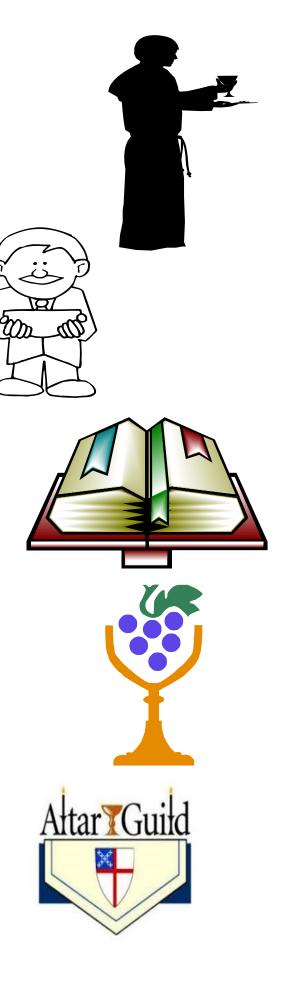
Acolyte: Carys Shreve Ushers: Greg Evans, Susan Sigler Lector:8:00-Susan Sigler,10:00 - Laura Kallestad LEM: 8:00 - BobVanderslice,10:00 - Judy Eller Altar Guild: Vel Shreve, Charlotte Corbett

APR. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte: Eric Evans Ushers: Steve Kakol, Larry Shreve Lector: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice, 10:00 - Greg Evans LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice, 10:00 - Charlie Pfeifer Altar Guild: Judy Eller, Ashley Pierce

APR. 28—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte: Bronwyn Shreve Ushers: Vicky Martin, Greg Evans Lector: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice, 10:00 - Linsey Shreve LEM: 8:00 - Bob Vanderslice, 10:00 - Nancy Comfort Altar Guild: Dot Pierce, Millie Coward



APRIL

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



Happy Anniversary!

Leanne & Ricki Wright 25th

	th
Roland Midgette	4 th
Abigail Sigler	11 th
Tony Fry	11 th
John Belote	13 th
Larry Laine	13 th
Allan Monette	19 th
Haley Glaeser	23 rd
Valerie Sasser	23 rd
Jeannine Hunter	25 th
Ann Ekberg	25 th
Stephanie Eidam	25 th
Corrin King	28 th
Kimberly Truxell	29 th

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 next month's 'The Call' is the fifteenth.

Send articles to : laura@stpeters-norfolk.org or call the church office 757-466-9392. Please visit our website for online ordering if you would like to donate flowers in memory, thanksgiving, or celebration of a loved one or event.

The website helps to <u>eliminate</u> <u>mistakes</u> that could hinder the ordering of flowers.

There is also a <u>Flower Chart</u> located in the vestibule as you enter the parish hall.

Either way, the price stays the same, \$82 per Sunday or \$41 if two people share the date.

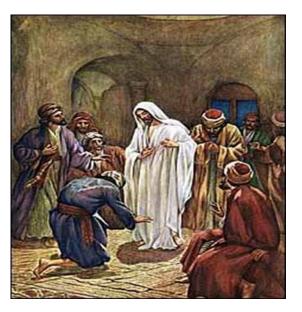




April 2024

- April 7 Debbie Whitehorne, Yvonne Authement The Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35
- April 14 Wendy Glaeser, Bronwyn Shreve Jesus Visits his Disciples Luke 24:36-49
- April 21 Linsey Shreve, Debbie Whitehorne Doubting Thomas John 20:19-31
- April 28 Yvonne Authement, Wendy Glaeser Jesus's Ascension Acts 1:9-12





St. Peter's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes February 12, 2024

Opening: The St. Peter's Vestry met together in the Diffenbaugh Library on February 12, 2024. Attending the meeting in person were Fr. Jim Hunter, Vel Shreve, Linsey Shreve, Judy Eller, Charlotte Corbett, and Debbie Whitehorne. Via Facetime was Liz Kress and via phone call was Charlie Pfeifer. Absent was Peggy Pfeifer. This meeting began with Evening Prayer at 7:00 P.M.

<u>Agenda</u>: 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. Vel Shreve motioned to accept the agenda as is and Debbie Whitehorne seconded. It was approved by acclamation.

<u>Minutes</u>: The minutes from January 8th, 2024, were approved with a motion from Linsey Shreve and seconded by Vel Shreve. It was passed by acclamation.

Financial Report: Charlie Pfeifer presented the January financial report via phone to the Vestry. With no further discussion or questions, Vel Shreve motioned to accept the report and Linsey Shreve seconded. It was passed by acclamation.

<u>Rector's Report:</u> Fr. Jim reported that the Vestry Retreat with Lynn Farlin was very successful. He also reported that he did take communion to Mary and Larry Laine.

<u>Senior Warden's Report</u>: Linsey Shreve asked for help with the Vestry Lenten dinner and a sign-up sheet was presented. The Search Committee was inquiring about a consultant to help with the search. It would be approximately \$100 - \$200 depending on how many times they use them. There is an amount in the MAP that covers this cost. Charlie Pfeifer motioned to hire a consultant for the Search Committee and Debbie Whitehorne seconded. It was passed by acclamation. Lynn Farlin recommended we "lock down" our core values. The list that came out of the Retreat was narrowed down to "Education", "Outreach", "Welcoming" and "Serving".

Junior Warden: Debbie Whitehorne has received quotes for painting, cleaning, and fixing the church. Lighting would also be quoted, as well as fixing the termite damage. It is suggested that we paint all the doors red to eliminate any rust bleeding through. Debbie has contacted Felix (group that repaired the steeple over the Parish Hall) and she is expecting him to come out this week to measure and give her an estimate on replacing the roof. She is also exploring putting carpeting on the back wall in the Church to help with acoustics.

New Business:

- 1. <u>Search Committee</u>: Vel Shreve reported that they are moving right along. They have finished the OTM (Office of Transitional Ministry) documents. Liz Kress has done a fantastic job keeping it all together. Canon Hoffman has the documents and will look it over this week and get back to the committee. Liz has sent a link to the Parish Profile to all Vestry members. Editing can be done to the document, but it is very important that all changes be reported to Liz Kress. The Committee has worked on a list of questions to ask the potential candidate. When they have narrowed the applicants down to 2, they will then forward the information to the Vestry for a decision.
- 2. <u>Meeting with the Bishop:</u> Fr. Jim has a meeting with the Bishop on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024. He believes that the only information he can give her right now is that St. Peter's is a healthy parish, not dysfunctional. Full of faithful, kind, hard-working and generous parishioners. St. Peter's experiences the same stresses other parishes have, reduced membership, facility upkeep, and membership. The parish is fully aware of the challenge of finding a clergy person who is willing to do what is needed on a part- time basis. Options include a bi -vocational priest, a retired military chaplain who with a pension can afford to take on this parish, or sharing a priest with another parish, something we have done before with St. Bride's. The question from Bishop Susan was "What does St. Peter's need after Fr. Jim steps down in July?" From the email Fr. Jim sent out, the only replies to this question he received were from Vel and Bob Vanderslice. He wants input from the Vestry on this subject.

Vestry Meeting Minutes cont. February 12, 2024

- 3. <u>Buildings and Grounds Grant Guidelines</u>: Debbie distributed the information to the Vestry. She is asking for assistance with filling out the forms and accessing the information required. The caveat is Safe Church, which requires 2 years of records and St. Peter's does not have that. Debbie will need assistance in narrowing down all the work that needs to be done and the cost involved.
- 4. <u>Bishop Curry's Letter asking for donations to the Absolom Jones Fund</u>: Fr. Jim's suggestion was to send out the information to the parish members and then they in turn can contribute. The Fund was not in the church's budget this year, so we cannot afford to contribute.
- 5. <u>Tidewater Family Plus</u>: Suggestion to advertise in this again. We currently advertise through Welcome Wagon. Discussion went to advertising through Social Media and Online. Liz Kress and Linsey Shreve will look into their businesses (or in Liz's case, her mother's business) to find out how we can do this.

Old Business -

- 1. <u>Electrical issues</u>: Debbie is looking into this also. She has received an estimate from Hutton. The most critical fix at this moment is to the outlet outside for the pump (which the Fire Department has pointed out and asked to have fixed), the parking lot light (that is not Dominion Powers light) and the lights outside the church that shine on the stained glass windows. Barry Connelly, who has done a lot of electrical work for us, has given an estimate of \$1300.00 for all of it. Hutton Electric quoted \$1700.00 just to come out and find the electrical line. Charlie made a motion to accept the quote from Barry Connelly. Vel seconded. Passed by acclamation. Hutton Electric is also one of the quotes Debbie received to work on the fuses for the church and day school, and a quote on the lights in the Sanctuary. It would require a JLG (one-man bucket lift) to reach these lights. These items will be tabled at this time and may best fit the grant application.
- 2. <u>Dominion Power Energy Savings Inspection</u>: The gentleman was a contractor for Dominion Power and they would look throughout the church, especially the HVAC system to check for leaks or other energy waste and make suggestions on repairs, changes, etc. This will be tabled until more investigation.
- 3. <u>Old Copier Disposal</u>: Linsey has posted it on Offer Up and Debbie would put it on Marketplace. The ad Linsey had the cost was \$1200. The extra supplies could be sold separately for probably more than the actual copier. Debbie will start the listing cost at \$2000 and move it down as needed.
- 4. <u>Fence</u>: No decision was made about what to do with the fence. Do we try to get it back up or take it down? Part of the fence has been put back up not well, but an attempt was made. We had no contact from Teresa (the truck driver that knocked the fence down), but people were seen out there measuring and exploring the area. Vel asked for Teresa's phone number, and she would call her.
- 5. <u>Bylaws</u>: Charlie is still working on the bylaws. The Search Committee needs them by the end of February for submittal to Canon Hoffman.
- 6. <u>Cleaning Company</u>: Debbie is receiving offers, but the cleaners have been doing a good job in the day school. Charlie would like to see a lower cost if possible.

The next Vestry meeting will be March 11, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the remainder of the Evening Prayer service and then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kallestad

Registrar

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, Chris



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

Sr. Warden - Linsey Shreve ('25) Jr. Warden - Debbie Whitehorne ('24)

Judy Eller (*24), Charlie Pfeifer (*24), Liz Kress (*25), Peggy Pfeifer (*25), Vel Shreve (*26), and Charlotte Corbett (*26)

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.



Please keep these people in your prayers. Notify the office to remove from or add to this list. Thank you.

Edward Klaus III	BJ Neaves	Karen Kakol			
Rick Daniels	Niko Miyashiro	Lois Deloatche			
Haley G.	Jessica T.	Patsi Walton			
Wayne Radford	Kathy Vanderslice	John Eidam			
Karleen Smith	Dewey Radford	Barbara LaDue			
Luanne Cattley	Mary Robson	Robyn Klaus			
Roger Bowser	Sarah Kakol	Charlotte Corbett			
Howard Belote	Susan Sigler	Eddie Klaus II			
Nancy Davis	Dot Pierce	Joyce Caldwell			
Mary Horkey	Josie C	Megan C			
Val Powell	Debbie Hollister	Joan Crowther			
Denise McCue	Shelly-Ann Tenia	Bert Truxell			
Teri Stephenson The Rev. Canon Ross Wright					
Christine Alexander Krista Itzen					
Eddie & Lisa Stanfield Paul & Lee Nelson					
Bruce & Nancy Comfort Clay & Wanda Smith					
Charlie & Leslie Pereira Debbie & Kenny					
Jack & Dianne McKnight Myles & Family					
Brian & Brenda Hallman Jodi & Sean McGinty					
Kathy & Tim Sarver Mary & Larry Laine					

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.

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



APRIL, 2024

"We celebrate the love of Christ and proclaim our faith by welcoming and serving all."

"LHE CVFF.

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

