

THE INFORMER

St. Peter AME Church
North, South Carolina

Sunday, May 18, 2014
Volume 2, Issue 1



*St Peter AME Church Newsletter
147th Church Anniversary Edition*

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This is the day that the LORD has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it. Now is the time for the people of GOD to come together and do the work of our FATHER in heaven: *“And He said to them, “Why did you seek ME? Did you not know that I must be about My FATHER’s business?”*” Luke 2:49 (NKJV) In the same way that JESUS recognized at 12 years of age that HE had a unique relationship with GOD and a responsibility that He had to up hold, so do we as the children of GOD. Here at St. Peter, we are striving to be in a continual state of pressing. We are pressing to further the development of the relationships between the children and the FATHER. Pressing to identify and utilize the unique gifts and talents that GOD has placed in each and every one of us. Pressing to go out and find the lost and downtrodden so that we may be able to help them and witness to them about the power and the saving grace that comes through CHRIST JESUS.

It is our intent and purpose that we as children of GOD understand that we will never arrive, for arriving happens once we see JESUS. Therefore, until we arrive we will continue to seek GOD’s face as we work through the process of sanctification. I encourage you to come see, witness, and become a part of the Mighty Work of GOD that will be performed in this ministry: *“Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”*” Matthew 9:37 (NKJV)

Yours in CHRIST,

Rev. Benjamin K. Sims, Sr.

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STEWARDS' MINISTRY

Honoring Our Stewards for Their Good Works

The 147th Church Anniversary Program will be featuring the stewards of St. Peter AME Church. Current and former steward board members will be recognized. Our deceased steward board members will be honored during our candlelight memorial ceremony. Six steward board members currently serve our church: Christopher Harley, Londrae Knotts, Teretha Mitch-

ell, Gloria Moore, Nannette Sabb and Gerod Scott. They will be featured as participants on our anniversary program. They will also play a major role in the candlelight memorial ceremony honoring our deceased stewards and their good works. The families of all of our stewards will be recognized during the program. We thank our stewards, past and present, for what they have done for our great church.

"If you see any problems around the church, please report it to one of the Trustees."

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MEDIA MINISTRY



CDs of our worship services are available immediately after service for a small donation of \$5.00.

Please see Brother Isadore Harley, Jr. for your copy.

TRUSTEES' MINISTRY

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way, we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:23

St. Peter AME Church's Trustee Board is responsible for the supervision and care of the entire property and equipment that belongs to the church. The trustee board sets policies for the maintenance and administers all bequests to the local church.

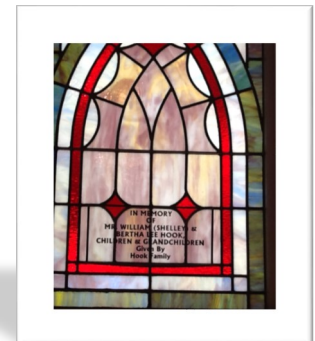
The trustees are happy to report that together, we have completed or are working on completing the following projects:

1. Refinancing the church loan
2. Upgrading the church's and educational building's insurance coverage
3. Repairing all windows
4. Repairing and replacing all doors and locks

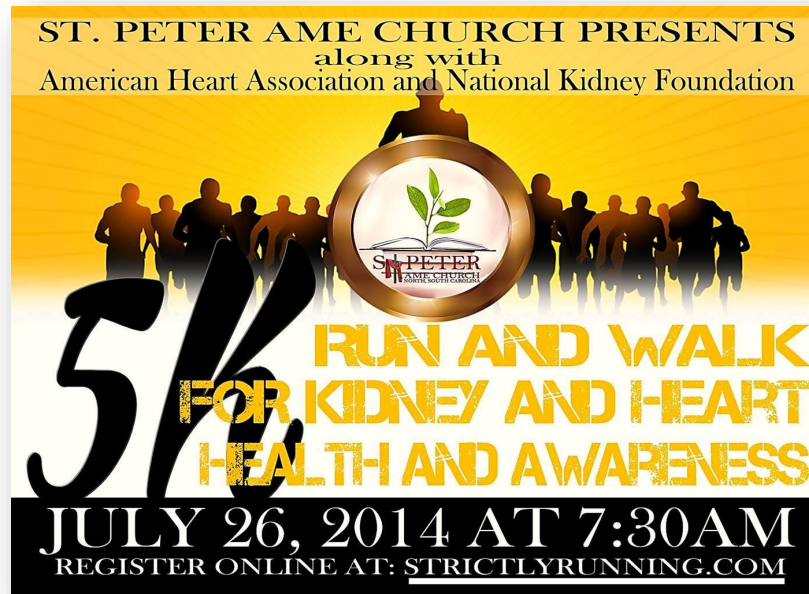
5. Maintaining the church grounds
6. Keeping up routine maintenance to the church and the educational building

If you see any problems around the church, please report it to one of the Trustees. The members of the Trustee Board are Willie C. Harley, Chairman, Curtis Harley, Isadore Harley Jr., Leroy Jones, Cecil Knotts, Ruby Stewart, and Isabella Way.

By Sister Ruby Stewart



OUTREACH MINISTRY



Save the Date: July 26, 2014, 7:30 AM
St. Peter A.M.E Church's Kidney and Heart
Health Awareness 5K Run/Walk

St. Peter A.M.E Church, along with the American Heart Association and the National Kidney Foundation, will be impacting the town of North, SC with our very first - and certainly not our last - 5K Run/Walk. The run will begin at the SCE&G pole near the town hall and finish at the SCE&G pole near the post office. The registration fee is \$25.00. If you would like to register, please go online to www.strictlyrunning.com.

Our goal is to have 100 members from St. Peter sign up. We invite everyone to support us. Please share this information with your family, friends, and co-workers. If you would like to make a donation towards this worthy cause, please see one of the following members of the committee: Isabella Way, Mary Stack, Angela White (Secretary), Rhonda Williams, Shonda Backmon, or Zareatha Harley, Events Coordinator. With God leading the way and guiding the committee to do His will, the 5K run/walk will be a success. By Sister Zareatha Harley, Coordinator

April Birthdays

Ruth C. Evans - 3rd

Rose Caldwell - 3rd

Clottie Harley - 6th

Tobias Kelly, Jr. - 14th

Harry Way - 15th

Latrice Wright - 20th

Effie Crum - 22nd

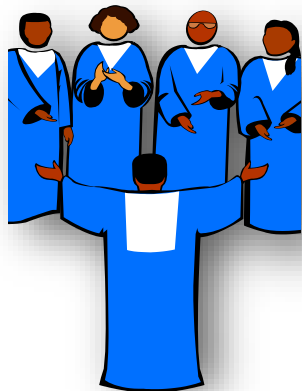
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



*For by me, your days will
be multiplied, and years
will be added to your life.
Proverbs 9: 11*



MUSIC MINISTRY



SIS. IRISH JACKSON—CHOIR DIRECTOR

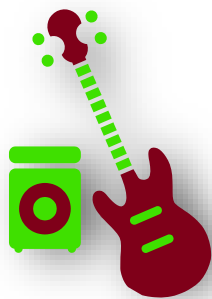
“Lead Singer Turns Leader”

Our St. Peter AME Church family welcomes our first ever church Choir Director, Sister Irish Jackson. Irish was the lead singer of the gospel group, “The Joy Gospel Singers” for eight years from 1999 until 2007. The Joy Gospel Singers were featured in a play written out of New York and performed in Sumter, SC. Irish has a passion led by God Almighty to minister through

music. Her drive and determination to make Heaven her home shows that she is truly a blessing sent from God. She is certainly a blessing to St. Peter. She brings out the best in the choir members. Irish's motto is “This is just a rehearsal; because when I get to heaven, I'm gonna really sing! Sister Irish came to Orangeburg three years ago and is engaged to church member, Brother Robert Sabb. Welcome, Irish!

“This is just a rehearsal; because when I get to heaven, I'm gonna really sing!” ~Sister Irish Jackson

BRO. BERNARD HARLEY- BASS GUITARIST



Our church is blessed to have our own home-grown member to be one of our church musicians. We call him by his middle name, but his full name is Anthony Bernard Harley. He plays the bass guitar for special programs and on Sundays when he has time off from his trucking career. His musical talent adds a special flavor to our music ministry.

Bernard is the son of Sister Toisy Mae Howell and the grandson of Sister Clottie Harley.

SPIRIT OF PRAISE MASS CHOIR

The Spirit of Praise Mass Choir was named and organized by Rev. Sims in February 2014. The choir consists of the combined members from the church's Junior-Senior Choir, Male Chorus, Voices of Victory, Anointed Expressions and Usher Board. The first song debuted by the mass choir was Donald Malloy's “I Know What Prayer Can Do” led by our pastor, Rev. Benjamin Sims, Sr..

Rev. Sims is issuing a plea to any church member who would like to be a member of the Spirit of Praise Mass Choir to come to Saturday choir rehearsals. Sister Irish Jackson is the Choir Director, Brother Reginald Jennings is the keyboardist, and Brother Bernard Harley is the bass guitarist.

JUNIOR –SENIOR CHOIR

St. Peter AME Church's Junior - Senior Choir is the oldest choir in the church. Years ago, there were two separate choirs. The older members of the church sang on the Senior Choir, and the younger members of the church sang on the Junior Choir. The leader of the Senior Choir lined the hymns and lead the congregations in singing hymns from the AME Hymnal. Many of our grandparents and great grandparents made up the choir and sang many of the songs we sing when we celebrate our church's

anniversary. We recognize Isabella Way, Gloria Moore, Ruby Stewart, Calvin Knotts, and Mary Knotts (President) who sang on the Junior Choir back in the day and still remain faithful members of the Junior-Senior Choir. Members of the former Musical Choir and other members of the church also make up the choir. Today we sing songs from the hymnal and contemporary songs to minister to all the generations in the church.

MUSIC MINISTRY



MALE CHORUS

Male Chorus Celebrates 13th Choir Anniversary

The St. Peter AME Male Chorus celebrated its 13th Male Chorus Anniversary on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.

Every year we share our talents with fellow churches through songs and praises. We would like to thank the fifteen church choirs who came out to support us. We had a glorious time in the name of Jesus.

The St. Peter AME Male Chorus was organized in 1996 under the leadership of Brother Nathaniel Heatley. At that time we had a total of seven (7) members. When the numbers changed, Brother Christopher Harley and his brother, Walter Harley continued to

represent St. Peter when visiting other churches. Today we are proud to say that we have a total of ten (10) active members. Brother Christopher Harley has served as President for 12 years.

The Male Chorus had its first program under the leadership of Rev. J. A. McDonald. Through the years, we have had our ups and downs, but with the help of our God, we are still holding on to his unchanging hands.

By Bro. Christopher Harley



CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Choir rehearsals at St. Peter AME Church are held on Saturdays, 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. The Spirit of Praise Mass Choir, which includes all church choirs (Male Chorus, Men's Choir, Junior/Senior Choir, Anointed Expressions, and the Usher Board) is scheduled for rehearsals on the first, second, third, and fifth Saturdays. Our youth choir, the Voices of Victory, is scheduled to rehearse on the fourth Saturdays, 10:00 AM until 12:00 noon. All choir members are asked to please be on time. By Sister Irish Jackson

ANGELS OF PRAISE DANCERS

The St. Peter AME Church Praise Dancers were organized by Sister Zareatha Harley. While serving as advisor for the Inspirational Choir, she recruited choir members who also wanted to "move and dance for Jesus." She named the group Angels of Praise.

We thank Quahsheema Bonnett, Tiara Evans, Alexis Felder, Destiny Harley, Shantikea Moorer, Donna Pinckney, Jamilah West, Neashia Williams Way, Chekirah Woody Way, Shade' Woody Way, and Dwayna Scott for their commitment to dance and praise for Jesus. The Angels of Praise performed many routines for our church during regular service and during our 145th Church Anniversary. Under the leadership of Presiding Elder Barbara Chisolm, they were also invited to perform at the Wateree District YPD meeting.

MUSIC MINISTRY

USHER BOARD

The St. Peter AME Church Usher Board was organized in November 1971 under the leadership of Brother Hamp Harley, Jr. and reorganized under the leadership of Rev. C. C. Shaw.

Over the years the Usher Board has been active in the community as well as in the upbuilding of our church. We have contributed financially to the purchase of new pews, an air conditioner unit, hymnals, folding chairs, chandeliers, communion outfits, offering trays, the American flag, and our church sign. We have been toiling for 42 years and with God's help and prayers, we will continue to give God praise through songs.

By Bro. Isadore Harley, Jr.

VOICES OF VICTORY

Our youth choir, the Voices of Victory, will be celebrating its 2nd choir anniversary on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at 3:00 PM. Once the "Singing Angels" and then the "Inspirational Choir," the members of the choir voted in 2012 to change their name. The choir was then renamed the "Voices of Victory" under the leadership of Rev. Wanda Rapley. Over the years, the choir has been blessed to have had several faithful advisors to lead and guide them. We thank Sister Nannette Sabb, Sister

Thawaunda Harley, Sister Zareatha Harley, and their current advisor, Sister Latrice Wright for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of the youth at St. Peter AME Church.

The Voices of Victory choir invites you to come and help them lift up the name of the Lord and celebrate Jesus!. Please share our music ministry by inviting another family member or friend.

ANOINTED EXPRESSIONS

The Anointed Expressions singing group was organized and named by Shayla Mintz under the leadership of Rev. Jacqueline Hurston. Shayla always loved to sing and wanted to sing with other church members who also had a passion for singing. So she went out on a mission and recruited members from the Singing Angels choir to be a part of her singing group. Adrian Hampton, Lucretia White, Latrice Wright, Carol Mintz, and Cedric Harley from the Singing Angels joined her newly formed singing group. Her cousin, Tanya Mintz, and family friend, Courtenay Brunson, also joined the group. Shayla, Tanya, and Lucretia have all held the position of president. Shayla, Adrian, Latrice, Carol and Tanya are the granddaughters of the late Nathaniel "Tootney" Mintz and the late Vernell Hook Mintz. Lucretia is the granddaughter of Mrs. Quearline White, and Cedric Harley, the only male member in the group, is the grandson of the late Isadore Harley, Sr. and the late Pearl Major Harley.

We thank the Anointed Expressions for sharing their talents with our church over the years and look forward to each time they reassemble and bless us with a song.

May Birthdays

Dimeshia Hook - 16th

Kenneth Wright - 16th

Margaret Bonnette - 18th

Irish Jackson—18th

Myangela White - 18th

Robert Sabb - 19th

Gloria K. Moore - 21st

Benjamin Sims, Jr. - 22nd

Corine Hampton - 23rd

Veronica McRae—23rd

Shirley Hampton - 25th

D'Andre Hook - 27th



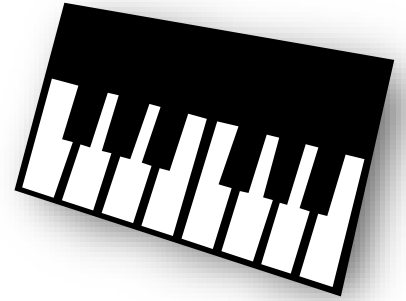
*This is the day that
Lord has made; let us
rejoice and be glad in
it. Psalm 118: 24*

MUSIC MINISTRY

REGINALD JENNINGS, KEYBOARDIST

While attending public schools, Reginald Jennings, our church keyboardist, received formal music lessons and training in piano pedagogy. He furthered his music education at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, SC., receiving in December 2001, his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music with emphasis on vocal performance. While attending USC, Reginald also had the opportunity to study abroad. He received additional music training from "Studio Lirico" in Cartona, Italy. He also had the opportunity to complete professional internships which included working as an Assistant Director as well as serving as a Piano and Vocal Pedagogy Instructor at the "Arts in Action" studio in West Columbia, SC. Reginald also shares his talents as a keyboardist with the Intensity Show Band, the Just Whalin' Band, and the Fame Band and Show.

This is Reginald's second year at St. Peter AME, and we thank him for his music ministry. He has made a big difference in our worship experience.



MINISTERING TO OTHER CHURCHES

New Hope AME Church

On Sunday, March 30, 2014, 3:00 PM, Rev. Benjamin Sims served as the guest minister at New Hope AME, Pinewood, SC, as they celebrated their 143rd church anniversary. Rev. Sims's timely sermon topic was "From Trash to Treasure."

In large numbers, our St. Peter AME church family and our Spirit of Praise Mass Choir accompanied Rev. Sims and First Lady, Sister Shantay Sims. We all enjoyed the spirit-filled songs by the New Hope Choir and our Spirit of Praise Mass Choir. Our choir sang "I Know What Prayer Can Do" led by Rev. Sims and "When the Doors of Progress" led by Brother Michael Buckson.

Rev. Sims was the former pastor of New Hope AME prior to coming to St. Peter. We would like to thank New Hope AME's pastor, Rev. Jacqueline Hurston, and former St. Peter pastor, for extending the invitation.

Grace Heritage Ministries Church

On Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 7:00 PM, Rev. Benjamin Sims served as the guest minister at Grace Heritage Ministries Church in Columbia, SC., for their 2014 Spring Revival. Rev. Sims's profound and powerful sermon topic was "When God Is With You." Again, in large numbers, our church family and our Spirit of Praise Mass Choir joined Rev. Sims and First Lady, Sister Shantay Sims. Grace Heritage Ministries' Praise Team provided beautiful music for our listening ears, and our Spirit of Praise Mass Choir sang "When the Doors of Progress" led by Brother Michael Buckson and "Yes, Lord" led by Brother Isadore Harley, Jr. We all had a "Hallelujah" good time in the name of the Lord. We thank Rev. Stephen Singleton for extending the invitation, and we look forward to worshipping with him and his Praise Team again as he serves as our guest minister at our 147th Church Anniversary on Sunday, May 18, 2014, 2:00 PM.

WE THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following churches for working with our St. Peter AME Church family throughout the years.



Bethlehem Baptist •
Ebenezer Baptist • Edisto Baptist • Gethsemane Baptist • Greater Blessings Baptist • Greater Heritage Ministries • Heyward AME • Jerusalem Baptist • Jones Chapel Baptist • Mt. Calvary Baptist • Mt. Moriah AME • Mt. Nebo United Methodist • Mt. Pisgah AME • Mt. Pleasant Baptist • St. Dorcas Baptist • St. James Church of God • St. John United Methodist • St. Mark United Methodist • Turkey Branch Baptist • First Mt. Beulah Baptist • Antioch Baptist • Mt. Carmel Baptist Friendship Baptist • Prodigal AME • Butler Chapel AME • Bethlehem United Methodist

CHURCH SEXTON MINISTRY

Don't Get Caught in the Rain Without Your Umbrella.

We all know the saying, "April showers bring May flowers." If you found yourself without your umbrella last month, perhaps you left it here at St. Peter.

Our church sexton, Bernice Pinckney, does not want any of our church members to be caught in an April shower or any future rain showers without your umbrella.

If you are missing any umbrellas, you may be able to locate them in our church's lost and found. Please see Sister Bernice Pinckney.



WELCOME HOME MINISTRY

Welcome Home Celebration

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:22-24 (NIV)

St. Peter AME Church's Welcome Home Celebration was held on Sunday, April 6, 2014. It was a blessing to see so many church members return home to worship with their church family.

Our Welcome Home Celebration is a celebration of past memories, new beginnings, and winning souls for Christ. In the name of Jesus, we pray that our loved ones and friends will return to St. Peter AME Church to not only fellowship, but to be so spirit-filled that they continuously come back!

The greatest impact of "Welcome Home Celebration" is when our loved ones and friends take time to come home or when those who have strayed away from the church return to restore their Christian walk with Jesus!

By Sister Teretha Mitchell and Sister Nannette Sabb



WMS MINISTRY

The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) has always been an active ministry at St. Peter AME Church. The WMS serves in many capacities every Sunday, but the fifth Sunday had always been WMS Sunday when Love Feast was served. Prodigal AME Church, Mt. Olive AME Church, and Butler Chapel AME church would worship with us on the fifth Sundays we were scheduled to be the host church.

When Missionary Sunday was hosted by the other churches, our faithful members were always there to represent St. Peter. On the fifth Sunday and whenever the WMS sponsored any special programs, all the women, from head to toe, dressed in white, the WMS official color. The "One Hundred Women in White"

program was one of the Missionaries special programs. The sea of white was a beautiful sight to see as women from different churches assembled in all their white attire to serve and praise God.

The Women's Missionary Society is open to all the women in the church. The annual dues are \$37.00. Dianne Mintz, treasurer, and Carolyn Wright, assistant treasurer will accept your funds. Mildred Scott, WMS Vice president is asking for the address, phone number and email addresses of WMS members. Please give this information to the Janice Haynes, WMS secretary. May God continue to bless the WMS as they continue to serve and minister to the needs of His people.

YPD MINISTRY



Angels in White Program

The "Angels in White" program was held Sunday, May 4, 2014, at St. Luke A.M.E. Church in Lone Star, SC. The "Angels in White" is a program that recognizes the wonderful young people of the Wateree District YPD. The participants get to model their

beautiful white outfits and showcase their awesome talents. This year the YPDer who represented St. Peter AME, North was Destinee' Scott. Destinee' is the seven-year old daughter of Gerod and Mildred Scott and the little sister of Dominique and Da'Shon Scott. She wowed the congregation with her rendition of Erica Campbell's "Little More Jesus." Destinee' definitely made St. Peter proud. Our past representatives for the "Angels in White" program were Jamilah West and Che'Kirah Woody Way, who also did an excellent job. The program was an overall success. All the participants did a great job, and our Area YPD Director, Iris Larrymore, did a awesome job organizing this wonderful event.

MARKETING MINISTRY

The Marketing Ministry at St. Peter AME Church has only just begun, but there is so much to look forward to. The purpose of this ministry is to prosper and grow in areas where God has gifted the church. The marketing ministry would like to improve communication with people we would like to reach so that we may influence lives and introduce people to Christ through Christian discipleship. The Marketing Ministry team is excited about this new venture and doing God's work.

By Sister Brittney Mitchell, Chairperson



The purpose of the marketing ministry is to prosper and grow in areas where God has gifted the church.

STEWARDESS MINISTRY

Stewardesses: Dedicated and Faithful Women of the Past and Present

Many dedicated and faithful women have fulfilled the responsibilities of the Stewardess Board and served under the leadership of many fine pastors over the years.

We honor our deceased members of the Stewardess Board: the late Equille Rumph, the late Pearl Hair, the late Vertell Lykes, the late Gracie Knotts, and the late Idella Harley.

We thank our former stewardesses: Willa Dean Baxter, Vernell Caldwell, Eloise Gladden, and Bernice Pinckney.

We thank our former Junior Stewardess: Diane Hook, Gloria Moore, Jacqueline Jones, Ruth Evans, Mary Stack, Rose Caldwell, Ruby Stewart, Ann Jenkins, and Betty Jo Jones. They all were committed servants.

Our current stewardesses are: Mary Harley Stack, President; Ruby Stewart, Secretary; Diane Hook, Treasurer; Sylvia

Harley, Toisy Howell, Isabella Way, Betty Jo Jones, Shalonya Holiday, Mary B. Knotts, Janice Haynes, and Carolyn Wright.

Today, under the leadership of Rev. Benjamin K. Sims, the women of the stewardess board continue to be dedicated and faithful in their duties to provide the implements and elements of the Holy Communion and Holy Baptism.

"Faith without works cannot be called faith, "Faith Without Works is dead." (James 2: 26), and a dead faith is worse than no faith at all. Faith must work, it must produce, it must be visible. Verbal faith is not enough; mental faith is insufficient; faith must be there, it must be more; it must inspire action.

We pray. We believe. We receive that God will continue to pour out his blessings on St. Peter AME Church, North, SC.

By Sister Mary Harley Stack



June Birthdays

Bianca Stewart -1st

Jessie Harley—5th

James C. Hook - 16th

Tobias Kelly—22nd

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**



*So if a person lives
many years, let him
rejoice in them all.
Ecclesiastes 11: 8*



FAMILY AND FRIENDS MINISTRY

Family and Friends Day: A Spiritual and Glorious Occasion!

Family and Friends Day at St. Peter AME Church is an annual program where family and friends of church members are invited to praise and worship with them. St. Peter's first Family and Friends Day started because of the leadership of Sister Rhuebell Jones and Sister Gracie Knotts.

After many years of serving as chairpersons, Sister Gracie and Sister Rhuebell passed the leadership torch on. I prayed and asked the Lord what should I do, and he said take it and that he had my back. So far, it has been one of the biggest church functions. Five team captains raise money, and they do a good job. I really enjoy it. Hats off to all the captains that assisted me in the past. Thanks and much love to all our friends and family who always help make Family and Friends Day a spiritual and glorious occasion.

By Sister Mary B. Knotts, Chairperson



LAY ORGANIZATION MINISTRY

Who is the Lay? You are. Every member of St. Peter AME Church who is not a minister, is a Laymen. Stewards, trustees, class leaders, missionaries, ushers, deaconesses, stewardess, choir members, Sunday School students and staff, the YPD, the DMC, etc. are all laymen.

The purpose of the lay organization is to organize and train the lay members of the AME church so that each member can utilize to the maximum the abilities and skills granted by God in assisting with the improvement and extension of God's Kingdom, and creating happiness, and peace and harmony among its members. The current president of St. Peter AME Church Lay Organization is Brother Cecil Calvin Knotts.



SONS OF ALLEN MINISTRY

While the Women's Missionary Society is the official Women's Ministry of the AME church, The Sons of Allen is the official Men's Ministry of the AME church.

The mission of the Sons of Allen is as follows: The Sons of Allen Ministry, the official Men's Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church fosters an atmosphere where men are inspired through worship, study and prayer to have fellowship and relationship with God and their fellowmen. The Sons of Allen will build men as providers, protectors, pro-

ducers, and priests for their families and the community of the faithful.

The platform and foundation of the Sons of Allen ministry is based upon the character of Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the A.M.E. Church, and the character he displayed throughout his ministry.

The president of St. Peter AME Church's Sons of Allen Ministry is Brother Londrae Knotts.

SENIOR CITIZENS MINISTRY

The St. Peter AME Church family annually salutes and recognizes its senior citizens. Each year, Sister Cherry McLeod schedules and organizes Senior Citizens Day the Saturday before the third Sunday in August. Our Senior Citizens Day this year is August 16, 2014. Our Senior Citizens are given the Red Carpet treatment. They get the opportunity to fellowship with each other, play a variety of games, and enjoy a most delicious meal. Ms. McLeod always gives each Senior Citizen a token of appreciation to let them know that we love them, respect them, and are grateful for their services to our church. We know that their hard work contributed much to what our church is today. The Senior Citizens ages 70 and above also receive special recognition during our church anniversary celebrations. If you are a senior citizen at St. Peter AME Church, we salute you!

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Summer Reading

The final bell has rung and it's the last day of school. The students have cleaned out their lockers and the teachers have packed up their belongings. Summer vacation has officially begun! Many people will travel, attend summer camps or just simply lounge around at home. However, learning should never come to a halt because of summer vacation. Parents, please encourage your children to continue to read during the summer to avoid regression during the long summer months. Here are a few tips to motivate your child to read:

1. Combine activities with books. Summer leaves

a lot of time for kids to enjoy fun activities such as going to the park, seeing a movie, or going to the beach. Why not also encourage them to read a book about the activity.

2. Visit the library - If your child doesn't have a library card, summer is a great time to sign up for one.

3. Lead by Example - Read the newspaper at breakfast. If kids see adults around them reading often, they will understand that literature can be a fun and important part of their summer days.



By Sister Shonda Backmon

“Parents, please encourage your children to continue to read during the summer to avoid regression during the long summer months.” ~Sister Shonda Backmon

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

There are only a few weeks of school left and students will be excited to be starting their summer vacation. At St. Peter AME Church, we are already preparing our children for a skit to get everyone excited about our annual Vacation Bible School June 19 –20, at 6:00 PM.

Please mark your calendars and see Sister Thawaunda Harley, Coordinator of Vacation Bible School activities, if you have any questions.



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today, Sunday, May 18, 2014, 2:00 PM, we celebrate our church's 147th church anniversary. It has been 147 years since our ancestors saw the need to build a church in the community, namely St. Peter AME church. By means of celebrating, we are attempting to keep our heritage alive.

We are asking that each member support St. Peter both spiritually and financially. Spiritually, we ask that you continue to worship with us and pray with us. Financially, we are asking that each member pay \$1.00 for each year that the church has been in existence, which comes to a total of \$147.00 or whatever you are able to contribute.

All church members have been placed on teams with assigned captains. Please submit your contributions to one of your captains by no later than 2:00 PM, Sunday, May 18, 2014.

By Brother Reginal Jones



FUNDRAISING MINISTRY



BLACKOUT SUNDAY

The Steward Board of St. Peter AME Church sponsored Blackout Sunday on March 2, 2014. The purpose of this fundraising project was to raise funds so that the church can become mortgage-free. The stewards feel that once the mortgage is paid, the church can then focus its funds on other ministries that support the growth of the church.

The Steward Board asked each member to contribute \$100 or any amount

they could to help with this most worthwhile goal. The church members were asked to dress in all black to honor the "Blackout." The members of the steward board would like to thank everyone who participated and contributed this fundraising project.

By Sister Nannette Sabb

*".....once the mortgage is paid, the church can then focus its funds on other ministries that support the growth of the church."
~Sister Nannette Sabb*



FIFTY STATES PROGRAM

We would like to thank Sister Culine Jones for coordinating the "Fifty States" fundraising program. Fifty members of the church are assigned a state for which they seek donations from other members, family, and friends to support them in raising \$100. Each participant researches his or her state and makes a creative presentation so that everyone remembers that state. We have had some very creative presentations and each year we expect the presentations to get better and better. This educational project allows members, children, and adults to learn more and more about our great country. We thank everyone for their past support and participation and look forward to our next program.

ANNUAL HAT CONTEST



On Sunday, October 19, 2014, St. Peter will hold its annual Hat Contest. We encourage everyone to participate by providing donations to the contestants. Please see any member of the Hat Day Committee if you would like to be a contestant or if you need additional information about the contest. The members of the Hat Contest committee are Sister Bernice Pinckney, Sister Gloria Moore, and Sister Ruby Stewart.

FUNDRAISING MINISTRY



Sister Effie Crum thanks the church for supporting The Rainbow Tea Program 2013.

RAINBOW TEA PROGRAM

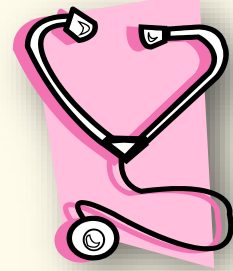
On Sunday, July 21, 2014, St. Peter will be celebrating the colors of the rainbow at its sixth annual Rainbow Tea. Our fellowship hall will be transformed into a rainbow with the colors red, yellow, blue, orange, purple and green.

Everyone looks forward to the Rainbow Tea each year. Rainbow Team Captains decorate tables for their assigned color and provide delicious food items and drinks to match their colors. A special program shares why God's rainbow should be viewed in a sacred way, and a biblical explanation for what each color symbolizes is given. The Rainbow Team Captain who collects the most donations for this program is crowned as the Rainbow Tea king or queen for the year.

Please see one of the captains to make your donations. We thank you in advance for your support. The funds collected are used for the improvement of our church.

We invite everyone to come out this year, support us, and help us celebrate God's rainbow in a very special way.

By Sister Effie Crum, Chairperson



HEALTH MINISTRY

The Medical Team wants to remind everyone that May is known as Women's Health, National Stroke, Mental Health, Arthritis, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness, National Blood Pressure Education, and National Cancer Research Month.

Everyone is encouraged to be diligent about your medical check-ups with your doctor and take preventive health care steps to ensure that you are in the best possible health.

June is Men's Health Awareness Month, and everyone is encouraged to wear blue the week of June 15–21. We encourage our men to let June be the month to schedule a medical check-up with your doctor.

Please see a member of the Medical Team if you have any specific questions regarding your health. Our Medical Team members are Vernon Hampton, Mildred Scott and Isabella Way.

By Sister Mildred Scott

SIS. ISABELLA WAY: MEDICAL LICENSE RENEWED!

We salute Sister Isabella Way, who has completed requirements to renew her Registered Respiratory Therapist License. Sister Way attended the "Seminar at Sea: Tampa, Florida to Cozumel, Mexico," April 10–14, 2014. Congratulations, Sister Way, on this great accomplishment. The St. Peter Church Family is proud of you.

CONGRATULATIONS!

July Birthdays

Bernice Pinckney-1st

Jordan Buckson - 6th

Donna Pinckney—12th

Shalonya Holiday—13th

Cyteria Haynes—18th

Dominique Scott—24th

Zareatha Harley—27th

First Lady
Sis. Shantay Sims—28th



*Hear my Son and accept my words that the years of your life may be many.
Proverbs 4: 10.*



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Happy 31st Anniversary to Marvin and Mary Stack!

Marvin and I celebrated our 31st Wedding Anniversary on March 18, 2014. We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Our lives have changed, and so have we since all those years ago when we were young and full of dreams and loved each other so. But through the changes that we have come through, they have made us more mature. There also is serenity, a feeling we've secured. In knowing that our love

survives through everything we face, and this great love that we have shared so long ago, could never be replaced. That's why we remember, that the years are passing too. We don't mind growing older, sharing life, and love with each other. We love each other, not only for who we are, but for what we are when we are together.

By Sister Mary Harley Stack

Happy 31st Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Marvin (Mary) Stack!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Congratulations to Ricardo L. White!

Ricardo graduated from Nascar Technical Institute with a degree in Automotive Technology with NASCAR Engines I and II. Ricardo is the son of Sister Nannette W. Sabb.

Congratulations to Dominique Scott and George Esaw!

Dominique and George will be graduating from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School on May 31, 2014. Dominique plans to attend South Carolina State University and major in Mechanical Engineering. Dominique is the son of and George is the nephew of Brother Gerod and Sister Mildred Scott. Dominique also made the A/B Honor Roll the Third Nine Weeks.

Congratulations to George Sistrunk, Jr.!

George will be graduating from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School on May 31, 2014. George is the son of Brother George Sistrunk, Sr. and Sister Dorothy Harley Sistrunk. He is the grandson of Sister Shirley Harley and the late James Harley, Sr.

Congratulations to Tierra Evans!

Tierra will be graduating from North High School on May 31, 2014, 3:00 PM. Tierra plans to attend Benedict College in the Fall and pursue a degree in Psychology. Tierra is the daughter of Brother Belton Evans and Sister Ruth Caldwell Evans.



CONGRATULATIONS!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A MEAL for MOTHERS on MOTHER'S DAY!

The women of St. Peter AME Church would like to thank the men of the church for the delicious Mother's Day meal on Sunday, May 11, 2014. It was heartwarming to see the smiles on your faces as you fix our plates and handed them to us. We look forward to celebrating and serving you on Father's Day. The women of the church would like to wish all of you Happy Father's Day!

HAT CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Sis. Jessie Harley who was a winner in the Hat Contest held at Antioch Baptist Church. Sister Jessie won in the Small Hat category. Again, Congratulations!

YPDerS REPRESENT ST. PETER AT YPD RETREAT

We would like to thank YPDers, Keyshawn Wright and DaShon Scott, for attending the YPD Retreat in Columbia in March. We appreciate your representing St. Peter's Young People's Department.

SCHOOL HONORS

Congratulations to the following YPDers for making the Honor Roll at their schools the 3rd Nine Weeks!

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Congratulations to Sister Isabella Way!

On May 20, 2013, Sister Isabella Way was honored for her thirty plus years of service as a Respiratory Therapist at the Regional Medical Center. The Annual Commitment Awards Banquet was held at the Palmetto Room in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Mrs. Way is a very active member at St. Peter. In addition to serving as a trustee, she is a member and lead singer of the Spirit of Praise Mass Choir, the Junior/Senior Choir, and the Usher Board. Mrs. Way is the wife of Brother Harry Way and the daughter of the late Brother Isadore and Pearl Harley.



Desmond Harley
B/C Achiever
CC High School
Parents: Mr & Mrs. Isadore (Vera)Harley, Jr.



Destiny Harley
A/B Honor Roll
CC High School
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Isadore (Vera) Harley, Jr.



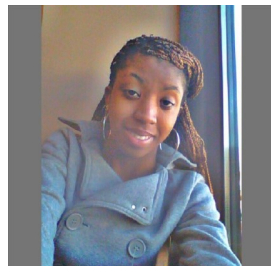
Brooke Mitchell
Principal's List
CC High School
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Mark (Teretha) Mitchell



Dacia Sabb
A/B Honor Roll
CC High School
Parents: Ms. Nanette W. Sabb and Richard Sabb.



Destinee Scott
Principal's List
Sheridan Elementary
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Gerod (Mildred) Scott



Congratulations to **Shantikea Moorer**, a Criminal Justice Major at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, for making the A/B Honor Roll this past semester. Shantikea is the daughter of Sister Zareatha Harley.

ST. PETER AME CHURCH NEWSLETTER

147TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CHURCH CALENDAR

- May 18, 2014, 2:00 PM
147th Church Anniversary
Celebration
- May 21, 2014, 7:00 PM
Mid-Week Worship
Services
- June 1, 2014, 3:00 PM
Voices of Victory Choir
Anniversary
- June 15, 2014
Father's Day/Men's Day
- June 18, 2014, 7:00 PM
Mid-Week Worship
Services
- June 19 -20, 2014, 6:00 PM
Vacation Bible School
- July 20, 2014
Rainbow Tea Program
- July 26, 2014, 7:30 AM, North, SC
5K Run/Walk for Heart and
Kidney Health Awareness



ST. PETER AME CHURCH

Post Office Box 789

954 Bull Swamp Road (Hwy 172)
North, South Carolina 29112
803-874-2513
www.stpeteramechurchnorth.com
blessed@stpeteramechurchnorth.com

Rev. Benjamin K. Sims, Sr., Pastor
bsims26412@aol.com
803.920.1337(m) 843.629.9937(h)



The Informer Newsletter Staff

Sylvia Harley
Shalonya Knotts
Delphine Scott, Editor

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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