

St. Peter AME Church Newsletter

The Informer

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Pastor's Message

"We are often tossed and driven on the restless sea of time, but we will understand it better by and by."

This is one of my favorite hymns because it warns us that living for Christ will not be easy, but one day God will give us all understanding. With that being said, as Christians, we must always spend time reading God's Word in order that we are strengthened to endure every test that comes our way. It is sad when we as children of God fail to use our number weapon, the Bible, to give us the needed tools to survive this spiritual warfare. Instead, we call on everyone except God.

My encouragement to you is to read daily and to become stronger. Nourish your spiritual health just as often as you nourish your body. The enemy has no fear of a weak Christian, but when you study, meditate, and listen to the voice of God on a daily basis, you become stronger and a threat to the enemy's kingdom. God's Word has told us that "No weapon formed against us shall prosper." I must say that although lies, attacks, etc. may form, God will use them for your victory and His Glory.

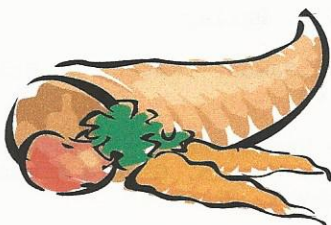
Don't short change your faith with the word that you learned as a child because that knowledge got you through as a child. Now you need to understand the word as an adult so that you can live according to God's Will, not your own. We are human beings, and the hardest thing for us to do is to surrender our will to God's Will. Just because that's the way it has been done, doesn't mean that it is right. Seek God's will, study His word daily, and He will direct your path.

Blessings and peace,
Rev. Wanda Y. Rapley



St. Peter AME Church
P.O. Box 789
954 Bull Swamp Road
North, SC 29112
803-874-2513

www.stpeteramechurchnorth.com
blessed@stpeteramechurchnorth.com
Rev. Wanda Y. Rapley, Pastor



The Amen Corner

"The Importance of Church Attendance"

by Rev. Wanda Y. Rapley



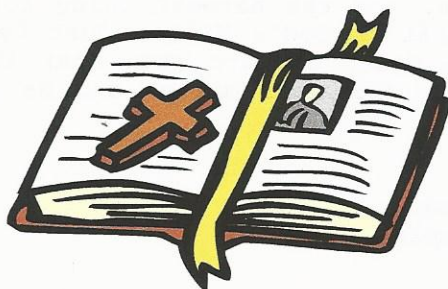
Few people today are conscious of the importance of church attendance. We have obeyed the first part of the Great Commission that pertains to evangelism, but we are lacking in the second part that has to do with the edification and training in Christian service. We are not only to "Go into all the world and preach" (Mark 16:15-16), but we are also commanded to teach them to observe all things He has "commanded" us (Matt. 28:20).

If we are to have a church, we must have church attendance. Christians should, as much as possible, attend every service of the church.

The Christian church has a fourfold program of worship which is sufficient for man's spiritual needs (Acts 2:42):

1. It is educational: Our spiritual needs require teaching. We must grow in knowledge and grace.
2. It is inspirational: Calling for fellowship in the work and worship of the church.
3. It is memorial: Reminding them of the death of Christ on the cross (I Cor. 11:26).
4. It is devotional: We gather to worship and praise God.

Neglecting this fourfold program that is divinely given is to neglect ourselves. There is grave danger in neglecting to assemble ourselves together. We are exhorted in Heb. 10:22-25 to draw near to the Lord with true hearts, and not forsake our own assembling together. In verses 26-31 the author points out the danger we are in if we fail to live the life we have begun, and there is a very close connection between neglecting to assemble our selves and finally incurring the wrath of God.



In Memoriam

"They Fought a Good Fight"



On Sunday, September 29, 2013, at Wateree District's Closing Worship Services, the members of St. Peter AME Church and any of their family members who lost their battle with cancer were remembered for the courageous fight they fought against the horrible disease.

Please keep the following deceased loved ones in your thoughts and pray for their surviving family. Please also pray that cancer researchers find a "cancer cure."

Emma J. Hampton - Daughter of Corine Hampton and Brother of Vernon Hampton

Bertha Mae Hook - Mother of Delphine Scott and Janice Haynes

William Hook, Jr. - Uncle of Delphine Scott, Janice Haynes, Carolyn M. Wright, Beverly Wright, and Dianne M. Hook

Leola Wright - Grandmother of Latrice Wright and Mother-in-Law of Carolyn Wright

Lunette Buckson - Mother of Michael Buckson

Phillip McCoy - Brother of Michael Buckson

Jervaline Durham - Mother of Reginald Jennings

Clarence Glenn - Father of Sylvia E. Harley

Carolyn Saxon - Mother of Sylvia E. Harley

Gracie Harley Knotts - Mother of Cecil C. Knotts, Gloria K. Moore and Ruby K. Stewart

Senior Citizens' Corner

"A Big THANKS to All Who Made
Senior Citizens' Day a Big Success"
by Sister Cherry McLeod



Because of generous donations from our church family, my family, my co-workers, my friends, and myself, along with everyone's generous assistance, on Saturday, August 18th, our seniors enjoyed a time of fellowship while playing Bingo, sharing a wonderful meal, and being entertained by the random singing of various gospel songs.

Thanks to our decorating staff who arrived bright and early to help decorate the fellowship hall. A special thanks to St. Peter Culinary Staff for a fine and outstanding job of preparing, serving, and donating food and drinks. Our church donated the funds for the meats (fish & chicken). As Senior Citizens Coordinator, it was truly an honor and a blessing for me to thank all our Senior Citizens in attendance at the St. Peter AME Church Senior Citizen Day 2013 by donating and giving each of them a coffee cup and a tee shirt.

And last, but not least, thanks to our pastor for providing entertainment for the children who were present. We had a wonderful time! Again, I would like to thank everyone for your generosity and look forward to working with you again next year. Please visit our church website, www.stpeteramechurchnorth.com to view the pictures that were taken.

Male Chorus's Corner

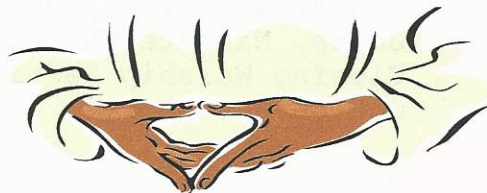
"Hold on to God's Unchanging Hand"
by Brother Michael Buckson



Our society is one where economically we seem to be on a "see-saw". Remember the equipment on the playground in the park or at school? Sometimes, when growing up we were not fortunate enough for our parents to take us to the park, therefore, we had to improvise and make our own "see-saw" in the backyard.

Because of the current financial crisis in our country and in our world, people are trying to hold on to whatever they can for security. We often find ourselves holding on to our mates even when they are out in the world and are really hurting us more than helping us. We try holding to things that we acquire that we really cannot afford like houses, cars, etc. We even try to hold on to the little money we have in case of an emergency.

On behalf of the Male Chorus, who ministers the Gospel in song often during our worship experience, I would like to offer a word of encouragement "found" in the words of a song: "Time, is filled with swift transitions, nothing on earth is unmoved and can stand forever. Build your hopes, dreams and security, on things eternal, and 'Hold To God's Unchanging Hand'!" Yes, don't worry about your best friend, or anything else you think you may have in this world, Hold to His Hand, God's Unchanging Hand, you just hold to His Hand, God's Unchanging Hand! Build your hopes, dreams, and security on that which is eternal, hold to God's Unchanging Hand! And when your journey is completed, and when to God you have served and been true, bright and fair will be your home in Glory with Him, your raptured soul will be able to view! So, Hold to His Hand, God's Unchanging Hand! Yes, hold to His Hand, God's Unchanging Hand! Build your hopes, dreams, and security on that which is eternal, hold to God's Unchanging Hand!



Congratulations Corner

Happy Anniversary!

With stars in your eyes and the moon up Above
Remember the magic of falling in Love
That glorious day when we both said "I Do"
For the love that we have that is True
Now though the year has come and Gone
And we've watched our love Grow
Bringing more joy than we thought we could Know
So give thanks to the moon and the stars up Above
And to God in his Heaven for Blessing our Love
God Bless us to have many more years in which you may Savor
A Love that is filled with such Richness And Flavor.

I Love You
Happy First Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher (Sylvia) Harley



Stewardesses' Corner



"Women Confirmed to the Board of Stewardesses"
by Sister Mary Harley Stack

The Greatest of These is Love

St. Peter AME Church's Board of Stewardesses consists of persons in good and regular standing in the local church and of good character. Their duties are very important in assisting with Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Our confirmed stewardesses are: Sister Mary Harley Stack, Sister Ruby K. Stewart, Sister Dianne M. Hook, Sister Toisy M. Howell, Sister Sylvia K. Harley, Sister Mary B. Knotts, Sister Shalonya K. Holiday, Sister Carolyn M. Wright, Sister Janice H. Haynes, Sister Isabella Way, and Sister Ann H. Jenkins.

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13: 13.



Health Awareness Corner

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and we at St. Peter AME Church would like to thank the Wateree District for saluting and recognizing our church's breast cancer survivors, Jessie Mae Harley, Voncellia Caldwell James, Nanette White Sabb, and Delphine Hook Scott, at its Closing Worship Services on Sunday, September 29, 2013. To God be the Glory!



Membership Campaign Corner

GROW

All church members are reminded to read the "Depart to Serve" section of the each Sunday's church bulletin and take an active role in our church's membership campaign.

"As you carry the Word with you this week, let us make it our duty to work for the growth of the spiritual life of our church. God has called upon each of us to Go, Teach, and Reach others for Christ."

Question: What can you do to build up the body of Christ?

Answer: Invite and bring someone to church.

"Every Member - Win a Member"

Sick and Shut-In Corner



Please remember our sick and shut-in with your calls, visits, and prayers.

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5: 14-16 (NIV)

Church Anniversary Corner

"Thanking our Church Members Who Took a Walk Down Memory Lane for the 146th Church Anniversary"

My favorite TRADITIONS

On Sunday, August 18, 2013, St. Peter AME Church took a walk down memory lane for its 146th Church Anniversary. Thanks to everyone who wore hats to honor the past tradition of wearing hats to church. Thanks to all the members and choirs who sang favorite songs of the past.

A special thanks to the Musical Choir whose members re-assembled, sang a favorite song of the past, and served as our featured choir of the day. Another special thanks to the members who shared the sweet, sweet memories of their deceased loved ones.

We were also blessed to once again publish and distribute our church newsletter, "The Informer." We also unveiled our new church website, www.stpeteramechurchnorth.com. Thanks to the culinary committee for providing and serving a delicious meal for all to enjoy. Our finance committee also thanks everyone for their contributions. We look forward to our 147th Church Anniversary.

Hook-Washington and Willis-Amaker Family Reunion

FAMILY Reunion

The Hook-Washington and Willis-Amaker family had their first big family reunion on August 30th and 31st, in Columbia, S. C., and ended the reunion as they all gathered for worship services at St. Peter AME Church on Sunday, September 1, 2013. The ancestors, relatives, and descendants of Bertha Lee Willis Hook and William "Shelley" Hook were honored and celebrated.

We thank the Hook-Washington and Willis-Amaker family members for contributions made towards the offering presented to the church in the family's honor. The family is requesting that half of the offering be donated to the Culinary Committee to help replenish food items needed and the other half be donated towards the purchase of new hymn books.

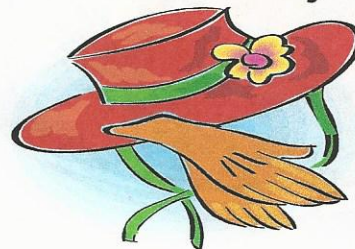
Family and Friends Day Corner

On Sunday, September 15, 2013, St. Peter AME Church had its annual Family and Friends Day. It was a joy to see the smiling faces of the visiting family and friends who came from near and far to worship with us. We thank our church members for inviting them. We also thank everyone for their donations. May God Bless You!

Ever Family

My FRIENDS

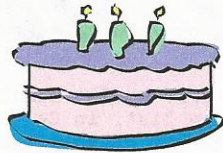
Annual Hat Day Corner



On Sunday, October 20, 2013, our church will have its annual Hat Day Celebration. We encourage everyone to participate. Please see any member of the Hat Day Committee if you need additional information about the hat contest.

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to all our church members celebrating birthdays in October and November! May you all be blessed to have many more!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!
Enjoy your family and friends and
thank God for your many blessings.

Newsletter Publishing Dates



Our church newsletter will be published every other first Sunday on the following dates. Please be mindful that the newsletter articles are due the third Sunday of the month prior to publishing date. See the publishing dates below and the dates the articles are due.

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Sunday, December 1, 2013
(Articles due 11/17/2013)

Sunday, February 2, 2014
(Articles due 1/19/2014)

Sunday, April 6, 2014
(Articles due 3/16/2014)

Sunday, June 1, 2014
(Articles due 5/18/14)

Sunday, August 3, 2014
(Articles due 8/20/14)

Sunday, October 5, 2014
(Articles due 9/21/2014)

Sunday, December 7, 2014
(Articles due 11/16/2014)

We are asking the following organizations for articles for our December 1, 2013 newsletter:

YPD, Usher Board, Church School, Sons of Allen, Lay Organization, Junior/Senior Choir, Voices of Victory, Anointed Expressions, and the Christmas Program Committee.

We thank everyone in advance for your news articles. We also want to thank all members who contributed articles to our August and October newsletters.

Wanted: Recognition Articles



Do you want to recognize a church member for an accomplishment (school awards, degrees, promotions, etc.)? Please use the space below to write what you would like to say, turn it in by the due date, and we will place your article in the "Congratulations Corner" of our upcoming newsletter.

We also want to recognize church members for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, engagements, military honors, etc. In December, we would like to be able to recognize December birthdays as well as upcoming January birthdays.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Facts and Tips

Every 2 minutes, there is a new breast cancer diagnosis.

Every 14 minutes, a life is lost to the disease.

Over 40,000 people will die this year; about 400 of them will be men.

85% of all diagnoses have no family history.

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women between ages 40 and 55.

Source: www.breastcancerawareness.com

Early Detection Saves Lives

The best way to fight breast cancer is to have a plan that helps you detect the disease in its early stages.

An Early Detection Plan enables you to be proactive about your health by reminding you to do monthly breast self-exams and schedule clinical breast exams and mammograms.

Women should perform a self breast-exam each month and any changes or abnormalities should be discussed with a doctor or physician.

Leading a healthy lifestyle can help you reduce your risk factors for breast cancer and other illnesses.

When breast cancer is detected early, in the localized stage, the 5-year survival rate is 98%.

Source: www.earlydetectionplan.org