

A Chosen Generation

MARCH 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From Our Priest-in-Charge

By The Rev. Natalie Blasco

When I was a child, I remember waking up on Easter Sunday to the sounds of the birds chirping louder than I had ever heard them any other day of the year. It helped that the A/C in the rectory never worked properly and we had to sleep with the windows open. To this day, I'm sure that the birds conspire to make Easter mornings the most beautiful day of the year.

Although I was here, last year, for part of Lent, this will be my first time commemorating Holy Week and celebrating Easter Sunday with you all. I am very excited that this year, along with our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, we have also scheduled the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday of Holy Week. This service, which is also called Paschal Vigil, is the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Historically, it is the service where people were baptized. Today, it is the preferred service for a baptism but it is also a time when all present renew their baptismal vows. It is always held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. The service begins outside with the lighting and blessing of a fire that will light the Paschal candle, which is then followed by a procession into the church and the placement of the candle at the altar. The Service of the Word can then include up to nine readings from the Old Testament, telling the story of God's relationship with his People. I promise we won't read that many but we'll have a nice sampling.

Among the Western Christian churches, which includes the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Churches and the Anglican Communion, the Easter Vigil is the most important service of the year. Although a service once limited to "Anglo-Catholic" parishes in the Episcopal Church, today it has become a favorite and is celebrated in most Episcopal churches, to varying degrees. In my opinion, one of the most important aspects of the service is that, after 40 days of Lent plus 6 Sundays in between, we finally get to say "Alleluia, the Lord is Risen."

Mark Your Calendar

- 2 7:00AM Regatta
- 3 9:30AM Worship Service
12:00PM Spanish Service
- 10 **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**
9:30AM Worship Service
11:00AM Vestry Meeting
12:00PM Spanish Service
- 12 10:30AM ECW Glory Circle
- 13 6:00PM Bible Study
- 17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
9:30AM Worship Service
12:00PM Spanish Service
- 18 6:30PM ECW Prayer Circle
- 21 11:30AM ECW Grace Circle
- 24 **PALM SUNDAY**
9:30AM Worship Service
12:00PM Spanish Service
1:30PM Easter Egg Hunt
- 28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7:00AM Standing Watch-Prayer Vigil
7:00PM Foot Washing Service
- 29 **GOOD FRIDAY**
12:00PM "Stations of the Cross"
Church Office Closed
- 30 **HOLY SATURDAY**
8:00AM Core Outreach
7:00PM Easter Vigil Service
- 31 **EASTER SUNDAY**
7:00AM Sunrise Service
9:30AM Celebration Service
12:00PM Spanish Service

A Chosen Generation

CHURCH STAFF

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Rev. Natalie Blasco

STAFF

Church Office Manager

JoAnne Rodriguez

Audio/Visual

Tony Buehler

Children's Ministry Director

Leslie Oxford

Front Office Volunteers

Bettyanne Owens

Lori Prevatt

Edna Richardson

Jeanne Wright

LAY-COORDINATORS

Altar Guild

Marlene Miller

Eucharistic Ministers,
Lectors/Ushers Ministry

Collin O'Hara

Newsletter

Lori Prevatt

Jane Yingst

Social Media

Virginia Pillsbury

Projection

TBD

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SUNDAY OF THE PASSION, MARCH 24

- 9:30AM Palm Sunday Service
- 12:00PM Spanish Service
- 1:30PM Community Easter Egg Hunt, see pg. ___.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

- 7:00 AM Standing Watch-Prayer Vigil and Bible Reading
- 7:00 PM Foot Washing Service

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

- 12:00 Noon "Stations of the Cross" Service w/Eucharist from reserved sacrament
- Church Office Closed.

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30:

- 7:00PM Easter Vigil Service

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31:

- 7:00 Sunrise Service, along St. Peter's Riverfront, South/East Parking Lot (weather permitting)

Light Breakfast after

Volunteers needed to help with setup/cleanup.

- 9:30AM Celebration Service
- 11:15AM Light Refreshments
- 12:00PM Spanish Service

**EASTER MONDAY APRIL 1:
Church Office Closed**

Ministry Spotlight

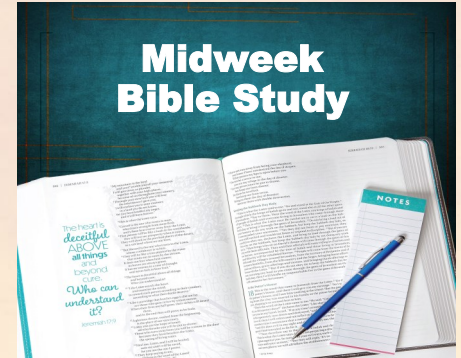
By Natalie Blasco, Priest-in-Charge

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th, the Latino congregation, which was once worshipping at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, celebrated their first service here at St. Peter's.

Founded in 2017 by the Reverend Ricardo Medina, the congregation flourished under his direction but there were strains in their relationship with the host church. Their ministry was, and continues to be, funded by a grant from the Diocese while their relationship with the host church was of landlord/tenant. As with any transition, when Father Medina left, in 2022, to answer a call in North Carolina, the majority of the congregants, who had with time moved further away, stopped attending. Mother Natalie was asked, by Bishop Howard, to serve that community and to repair the relationship with and work alongside the Priest-in-Charge of

St. Catherine's. Nevertheless, the struggle to grow the church within a neighborhood with no Latino community and with limited use of the church building was difficult. There was a core congregation of faithful, who attended on a regular basis but new members were few and far between. When Mother Natalie was then called to St. Peter's, the congregation asked to transfer their membership here – a church within a greater Latino community and in which their own priest was also the Priest-in-Charge.

At this first service, there were 27 congregants present. The hope is for greater growth here on Timuquana, especially since the majority of the people served through our ministry partners are Latino. In the near future, we will have opportunities to interact at joint refreshment hours and maybe even a bilingual service or two. The hope is that we become one church in two languages.



Midweek Bible Study

**Wednesday
March 13**

Starting with dinner
at 6:00PM

TOPIC: Genesis

Contact: Virginia Pillsbury
904-307-6808 or email
vpillsbury1126@gmail.com

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, March 31, at 7:00AM

Outside along St. Peter's Riverfront
(weather permitting)

Light breakfast after.

**Volunteers needed to help
with setup and cleanup.**

Contact: Jeanne Wright, 904-514-2572
or wrightcharles@hotmail.com



Third Annual Yard Sale!

By Leslie Oxford, Children's Ministry Director



Collin O'Hara
Virginia Pillsbury

**Usher &
Greeter
Ministry**

USHERS

Collin O'Hara
Walter Pillsbury

GREETERS

Jayne Bickerstaff
Edna Richardson
Marilyn Whiddon
Jeanne Wright

Contact:

Collin O'Hara, 904-779-0526
or clcohara@gmail.com

Our Third Annual Yard Sale to benefit our children's ministry was another big success! This year we opened for two days, Friday and Saturday, February 2 and 3 and we made more than **\$1,600.00.**

We could not have done this without the help of those who donated items to the yard sale, as well as Saved2Serve's William Darnell and

Marge Guerriero, Walter Pillsbury, David and Margie Mena, Larry Hamblin, Terry Ruberti, Jeanne Wright, Lori Prevatt, Tony Buehler, Mother Natalie, Virginia Pillsbury, and Ann Weeks.

Thanks to all and start saving your items for next year!



Rakad Easter Camp

Saturday March 23rd
9am to 3pm

FOR ALL GIRLS AGES 5+

\$25 PER CAMPER

With optional performance
on Sunday March 24th

Register online at www.RakadDanceCamp.com

Standing Watch-Prayer Vigil

Submitted by Jeanne Wright, Parishioner

Only four days earlier, He had been heralded on His entrance into the Jerusalem. Everyone cheering and praising His name.

On that Thursday night, Jesus and His 12 disciples had supper together. They laughed, and talked, and ate. Jesus said that one of them would betray Him that night. As good friends do, they cried “Oh no, not one of us. We love you.” They called Him “Master.”

Jesus washed their feet to show them His love. He passed them bread and said, “Eat this in remembrance of Me.” He gave them wine and said, “Drink this in covenant with Me.”

The one who would betray Him left. Jesus and the others went to a hilltop nearby. Jesus was worried about the coming events and asked His friends to stay with Him. His friends said they would stand watch with Him. One by one they fell asleep.

Jesus went off to pray by Himself. Peter stood watch at the campsite. Soon Peter too was asleep.

Much later, as Jesus was praying, He heard the approaching soldiers. His friends stood by and watched as their “Master” was taken away. Later, they denied they even knew Him. He endured mocking, mind-numbing torture, the ripping of His clothing. Where were His friends, His disciples, to stand watch with Him?

He was made to drag a cross through the street. No one wiped His brow, or prayed, or gave Him water. Where were His friends, His disciples, to stand watch with Him?

The soldiers laid the cross on the ground at the top of a hill. They laid Jesus on the cross and nailed His body to it. They hoisted it up. Jesus hung there. No one gave Him water.

No one covered His naked body. Where were His friends, His disciples, to stand watch with Him?

After Jesus gasped His last breath—someone besides His friends, His disciples, His Last Supper buddies—took His body, bathed it, covered it, and placed it in the tomb.

Where were His friends, His disciples, to stand watch over Him? Three days later, at sunrise, the stone before the tomb rolled back and it was known that Jesus had risen from the grave. Where were His friends, His disciples, to stand watch for Him?

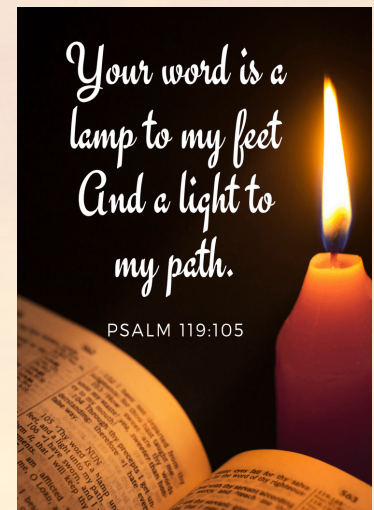
Well, we are here now at St. Peter’s Church—His friends, His disciples—to stand watch with Him, over Him, and for Him.

Starting on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 AM, we will begin reading God’s Word—the Bible until sunrise, Easter morning, March 31. We will take turns. A group, a family, or one person. We will pray prayers, praise the Lord, and thank God for His only begotten Son. We will “Stand Watch.”

Add your name to the Sign-up Poster in the Sanctuary to be part of this season’s Prayer Vigil and Bible Reading.

Contact: Jeanne Wright,
904.772.9477 or 904.514.2572
Or
wrightcharles@hotmail.com

Prayer Vigil and Bible Reading



Starting on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 AM in the Sanctuary

We will begin reading God’s Word—the Bible until sunrise, Easter morning, **March 31.**

We will take turns reading as a group, a family, and individually.

Sign-up poster located at entrance to the Sanctuary.

March Madness Diaper Drive

By Virginia Pillsbury, St. Peter's Senior Warden

St. Peter's



Senior Warden
Virginia Pillsbury

Junior Warden
Collin O'Hara

Clerk
Linda Boyd

Treasurer
Tina Griffin

Vestry meeting is
scheduled the 2nd
Sunday each month.

Next meeting:
March 10
at 11:00AM
Church Library

Help stock Positive Family Pivot's diaper shelves during the March Madness 'Miles of Diapers' drive. The most requested sizes are 4,5,6, and pull-ups. Please bring the diapers to St. Peter's and leave in the sanctuary or in the designated boxes near the elevator in the lower sanctuary. While 'Miles of Diapers' is an ongoing diaper donation program

at St. Peter's for PFP, we need everyone to pitch in diapers during March and show the diaper love. One in three families struggle with experiencing diaper need and it is a struggle that causes both anxiety and health issues that affect the whole family. Bring in diapers and be part of the solution here in our community.

March Madness! Miles of Diapers Drive



All diapers collected will go to
Positive Family Pivot.

All sizes are appreciated, especially size 3 and larger.
Please bring to St. Peter's sanctuary or place in box near
the downstairs elevator.

Opportunities for Prayer at St. Peter's

By Ann Weeks, Pastoral Team

In Philippians 4:6&7, we are instructed by St. Paul to a life of prayer. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Here at St. Peter's, we offer several opportunities for prayer for the needs of the parish.

During our 9:30AM service after receiving communion, Laverne O'Hara and I stand under the prayer station sign at the right rear of the sanctuary. Anyone wanting prayer can come and ask for prayer. If someone is unable to come to us, we will also go to pray right where they are seated.

We also have a prayer chain to which you may e-mail your prayer request to prayers@stpetersjax.org at any time. I check this site frequently during the day and try to get prayers

out promptly. We don't include last names or hospital locations or detailed medical information but offer up prayers for healing, travel mercies, or what ever the need may be.

We also have a time when the women of the church gather on the phone on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30PM for an hour of prayer or our Virtual Prayer Circle.

**To access this you call
408-418-9388
then access code 799-169-983
Password 37299826**

It sounds complicated but we have done this since the days of the pandemic and it is a blessing for those who participate.

For any more information, please contact me at 904-287-7103 or at rowahw@aol.com.

CHO Pickleball Tournament

By Miki McGarry, CHO Development Coordinator

Get ready for an electrifying experience at our Glow-in-the-Dark Pickleball Tournament in Jacksonville on **April 5-6!**

Back for its second year with an exciting twist, this event promises exhilarating Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles matches.

We're thrilled to invite sponsors seeking enhanced visibility for their company; we offer five distinct sponsorship levels. Email miki@chojax.org for more info.

Save the date and join us for a dynamic blend of sport and

entertainment. Spectators are encouraged to attend, relishing in food trucks, beverages, music, and a lively atmosphere. Don't miss out on the grand time we have in store!

**FOR TICKETS
go to chojax.org/**

Your participation supports our mission at Community Health Outreach, ensuring compassionate care for those in need. Let's play with purpose!



Rowing Races held at St. Peter's

**Saturday, March 2
7:00AM to 4:00PM**

Sponsored by
Episcopal School
of Jacksonville



Parishioner Spotlight

By Jane Yingst, Interviewer

A member of St. Peter's since the age of three, Leslie Oxford currently serves as Children's Ministry Director. She is also the founder and director of Rakad Dance Camp which is housed at St. Peter's.



Leslie was born in Bethesda, Maryland and was baptized at 11 days old because it was important to her parents to have her baptized in the church that they had been attending in Maryland. She and her family moved to Florida when Leslie was a month old.

She grew up in Orange Park and attended S. Bryan Jennings Elementary, Orange Park Junior High School, and Orange Park High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in Religious Studies with a minor in criminology from Florida State University, and her master's degree in nonprofit management from University of Oregon.

Leslie grew up in a big blended family. Her parents got divorced when she was three years old, her sister Allison was six, and her brother Mitch was nine. Her mother, Virginia, married Walter Pillsbury when Leslie was six. With that marriage the family also grew with the addition of Walter's daughters Jennifer and Margie. In 2012 the family added 18-year-old Shane Cook to the family.

Favorite Childhood Memory:

Leslie has always had a vivid imagination and could play for hours with her doll house. She also loved playing outdoors with neighborhood friends. She started dance classes in the second grade and continued them through high school. Books have always been her friends and she reads *The Lord of the Rings* every January in honor of JRR Tolkien and his January birthday. She also loves watching movies.

Career and Special Memories:

While in college, Leslie served as a resident assistant in the residence halls at Florida State University. After college, she served as a missionary with The World Race and traveled to 11 countries in 11 months and served alongside groups in each country. She also served in Beijing, China and Brooklyn, NY. She has also worked in retail and as a nanny. A favorite memory from her travels is bungee jumping from the Himalayan Mountains.

She is most proud of Rakad Dance Camp.

Time at St. Peter's:

Leslie first attended St. Peter's at age three which is also when she asked Jesus into her heart. She was active in Sunday School and part of the youth ministry through high school. Between 2012 and 2020, Leslie lived in other places and attended other churches, but she moved back to Jacksonville during the pandemic and came back to St. Peter's because God told her to come and serve here.

Past and Present Ministries at St. Peter's:

Leslie started Rakad Dance Camp in the summer of 2009 before leaving for her freshman year in college. At

that time, she saw it as a way to teach

(Continued on page 9)



**The Presidential
Preference
Primary Election
Tuesday
March 19**

Parishioner Spotlight

(Continued from page 8)

dances to the girls still at St. Peter's for the dance ministry there. God had other plans and Rakad has grown over the years and just celebrated its 15th birthday. Her passion is to continue to grow Rakad and share the love of Jesus and teach joyful movement. It has not always been easy to organize the summer camp around her life, but God always gave her the space to do it. There is also a one day Christmas camp and one day Easter camp, and workshops are also available. Leslie has also led three mission trips to Guatemala where the team served with the Jackson family.

Favorite Pastimes:

She loves to read, dance, spend time with my family, and travel. She has two wonderful black cats, Merry and Pippin, who give her endless joy.

Long Term Goals:

Leslie would love to grow Rakad Dance Camp to a full-time program. She would also love to travel more and see more of the world.

"Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp."

Psalm 149: 3



All women are welcome to join the following monthly small groups.

GLORY CIRCLE: Bible Study the 2nd Tuesday each month, next meeting **March 12 at 10:30AM** in Room 100. Study Chapter 5 in Max Lacado's book, "3:16".
Contact: Ann Weeks, 904.287.7103

GRACE CIRCLE: Bible Study the 3rd Thursday each month, next meeting **March 21 at 11:30AM** at the home of Linda Boyd.
Contact: Linda Boyd, 904.771.1814

VIRTUAL PRAYER CIRCLE: Intercessory prayer 3rd Monday of each month via conference call. Next prayer circle **March 18** at 6:30PM.

- + Call: 408-418-9388
- + Access Code: 799 169 983
- + Password: 37299826

Contact: Ann Weeks, 904.287.7103 or rowahw@aol.com

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Spring Forward

Sunday, March 10

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour, before going to bed

Saturday, March 9.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

By Virginia Pillsbury, Senior Warden

It has been a while since St. Peter's had a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, but this year more than **40** hungry pancake eaters came on Tuesday, February 13.

We were happy to welcome many from our new Hispanic congregation and look forward to an even bigger event next year!

Special thanks to Walter Pillsbury and Marlene Miller for their pancake making prowess, Jeanne Wright for helping with set up and serving, Linda and Katharine Boyd, and Mother Natalie for help with clean up.



Katharine Boyd was all smiles!



Standing: The Rev. Natalie Blasco
conversing with our Altar Guild members.
L-R: Marlene Miller, Linda Boyd,
and Katharine Boyd.



Patricia Wright enjoying her dessert.



Right: Jeanne Wright serving pancakes.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY MARCH 24 AT 1:30PM

**AT ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
5042 TIMUQUANA ROAD





SATURDAY CORE OUTREACH

Come get FREE resources available to our neighbors in need:
• Lunch • Clothes • Hygiene Items • Nonperishable Groceries •

Last Saturday of Every Month from 8-10am
In the front parking lot of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
(5042 Timuquana Road)

March 30

June 29

September 28

April 27

July 27

October 26

May 25

August 31

November 30



EMMANUEL PROJECT



Core Outreach

By Virginia Pillsbury, St. Peter's Senior Warden

Core Outreach served more than **50** friends in our community on Saturday, Feb. 24. Thanks to our ministry partners: Seeds of Love, Saved2Serve, and Positive Family Pivot for coming out to help. Thanks to Mtr. Natalie, Jeanne Wright, and Larry Hamblin!

We also had blessing bags from Middleburg Church of Christ. Thanks to all who served!

Our next Core Outreach is on Saturday, March 30 from 8AM to 10AM.



Middleburg Church of God brought blessings bags.



Just a small number of the people that turned out.



World Day of Prayer Friday March 1

World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday of March each year to encourage Christian women to engage in personal prayer and lead communal prayer within their mission auxiliaries and associations.

July 15-19, 2024
Join the Movement!

You're invited to Rakad Dance Camp,
a local week long day camp
for all girls ages 5 and older.

At Rakad, we share the love of Jesus,
empower girls, & dance with joy
(no previous dance experience is necessary)!

Registration closes June 30th.
Scholarships are available upon request.

Visit our website for more information.
www.RakadDanceCamp.com



Rakad Dance Camp is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in the state of Florida.

Rakad Dance Camp does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services, and activities.

Thank-You-Notes

Thank you to Jeanne Wright for assisting us in the Church Office on an as needed basis last month. Your willingness to serve is a blessing to us, especially with last minute requests.

A great big THANK YOU to Virginia Pillsbury for cleaning the restrooms in the Adult Center, next to the Church Library, last month before the yard sale. You are a great and true servant.

*Our sincere gratitude,
Mtr. Natalie Blasco and JoAnne Rodriguez*

Thank you to William Darnell of Saved2Serve for all the ways he helps us behind the scenes. Also thank you for donating furniture for our sanctuary lounge/bathroom area.

Thank you to Leslie Oxford, our Children’s Ministry Director, who will be teaching Children’s Church during the Hispanic Services on Sunday.

Thank you to Larry Hamblin for the donation and installation of new speakers in the Parish Hall.

Thank you to Tony Buehler and Walter Pillsbury for all of the behind the scenes work they do on everything from IT enhancements, to hauling trash, building repair and moving furniture. Your work is noticed and appreciated!

Thank you to all who helped make the Ash Wednesday Services beautiful: Marlene Miller, Linda and Katharine Boyd, Tina Griffin, Mtr. Natalie and Tony Buehler.

Virginia Pillsbury, Senior Warden



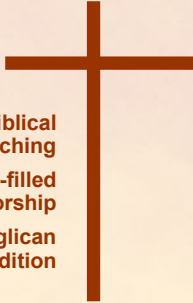
Charles Bickerstaff.....	1
Collin O’Hara.....	5
Maria Bell.....	6
Linda Boyd.....	8
Sheryl Green.....	15
Deborah Pruitt.....	16
Andy Whiddon.....	21



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

5042 Timuquana Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32210
Phone: 904.778.1434
Email: stpetersjax@gmail.com



Biblical
Teaching
Spirit-filled
Worship
Anglican
Tradition

A Chosen Generation

See Holy Week Schedule on Page 2

9:30AM Worship Service
12:00PM Spanish Service

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 24

He is risen
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

MARCH 31

Sunrise Service
7:00AM
Celebration Service
9:30AM
Spanish Service
12:00 Noon

St. Peter's Service Schedule

9:30AM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*Children's Ministry available
2nd Sunday each month.*

7:00PM MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

*1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month.
Starting with dinner at 6:00PM.*

St. Peter's Business Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday | 9:15AM to 2:00PM

Closed Weekends/Federal Holidays

904.778.1434

Website: stpetersjax.org

