

A Chosen Generation

JANUARY 2024

From Our Priest-in-Charge

By The Rev. Natalie Blasco

It always seems like December goes by so very fast. There is never enough time to do all the things that need to be done before Christmas. I pray that has not been the case for all of you and that you have had the opportunity to stop, reflect, repent and prepare to receive our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, as I am writing this, in just a few short days, we will finally be able to say, "Merry Christmas" and rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child. Please join us for our Christmas Eve December 24 service at 6:00pm and our Christmas Day service at 9:30am.

By the morning of December 26, most of us will be thinking about putting away all of our decorations and going on with our regularly scheduled lives but, in fact, Christmas Day is only day 1 of the twelve days of Christmas. Let's not forget that, although we celebrate Jesus every day of our lives, the celebration of his birth is one that takes many days as we sit with Mary and Joseph in their delight and their awe and wait for visitors from afar to join them in witnessing the greatest gift that God has given humanity.

Where I come from, Puerto Rico, the celebration continues even past the visit of the three kings on Epiphany. The island has the longest Christmas celebration/season in all the world. It begins on November 19th, Discovery Day, which is the anniversary of the date on which Christopher Columbus landed on the island. The Christmas celebration then continues throughout Advent, the twelve days of Christmas, the Epiphany (or as we know it, Three Kings Day), the Octaves (which is an old Medieval Catholic tradition of celebrating a feast day for eight days) and on to the celebration of the St. Sebastian Street Festival, which lasts four days, in mid-January. Throughout those two months, the island is filled with the Christmas spirit, lively music, and colorful celebrations of the Nativity.

(Continued on page 2)

Church Calendar

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Church Office CLOSED |
| 2 | Church Office CLOSED |
| 3 | NO Bible Study |
| 6 | The Epiphany of our Lord
12:00PM 3 Kings Day Festival |
| 7 | 9:30AM Worship Service
De-greening of the Church |
| 8 | 6:30PM Zoom Vestry Meeting |
| 9 | 10:30AM ECW Glory Circle |
| 14 | 9:30AM Worship Service |
| 15 | MLK Day: Church Office Closed
6:30PM ECW Prayer Circle
Newsletter DEADLINE |
| 17 | 6:00PM Bible Study |
| 18 | 11:30AM ECW Grace Circle |
| 21 | 9:30AM Worship Service |
| 27 | 8:00AM Core Outreach |
| 28 | 9:30AM Worship Service |

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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From our Priest in Charge

(Continued from page 1)

Thankfully, we don't have to worry about celebrating for that long of a season. Just thinking about it makes me tired. On January 6, St. Peter's will celebrate the Epiphany with our surrounding community, one that is predominantly Latino. Even if this is not part of your tradition, please join us for the festivities. It is an opportunity for us, as a church community, to celebrate with the

broader community. This event will also serve as a fundraiser for the Guatemala missionaries. This particular year, we may not raise a lot of funds, but we are investing in a tradition that can grow every year and serve as an annual fundraiser and outreach program. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Merry Twelve Days of Christmas, my friends. Rejoice, our Savior is coming into the world. May you have a peaceful and favorable New Year!



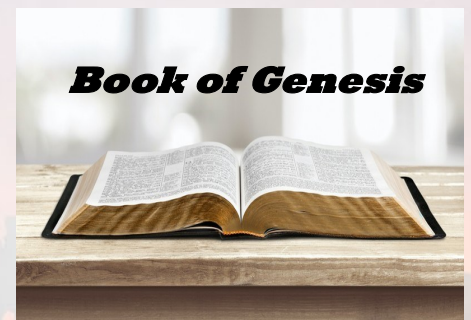
Midweek Bible Study Kick-Off

Submitted by JoAnne Rodriguez, Church Office Mgr.

Our Bible Study Kick-Off starts Wednesday, **January 17**, starting with dinner at 6:00PM in the church library. We will meet on the **first** and **third Wednesdays** of the month.

TOPIC: *Book of Genesis.*

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



New Ministry Partner

By Yamoni Napoleon, Executive Director

Welcome to **Positive Family Pivot**, a nonprofit organization that will provide a reassuring, supportive space where families of all backgrounds are served with dignity and love. We will be committed to providing as many essential needs as possible to assist families through adversity.

My name is Yamoni Napoleon, Executive Director of Positive Family Pivot! I have been involved, volunteering and managing in the non-profit arena for the past 3+ years. In August 2023 the program that I was managing ceased operations and let me go, which deepened my desire to serve our community.

Over the past few months I have taken the time to immerse myself into creating a program that will become an essential needs hub for Jacksonville, FL and surrounding counties.

Positive Family Pivot is beyond grateful and humbled that St. Peter's Church has opened up their space to allow us to provide these resources to families in need! We welcome you to support or get support from Positive Family Pivot. Contact us today!

Facebook: positivefamilypivot

Instagram: positivefamilypivot

Email: positivefamilypivot@gmail.com

Website: positivefamilypivot.com

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Join us on

Sunday

January 14

at 9:30AM

GUEST SPEAKER:

Yamoni Napoleon

Executive Director

Positive Family Pivot

Positive Family Pivot
An Essential Needs Hub

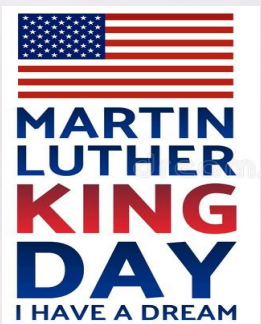
Volunteers Needed

Positive Family Pivot is looking for compassionate and dedicated individuals to join our team of volunteers.

Whether you want to help organize events, assist with daily operations, or provide your professional skills, we have a place for you!

Register at 

More information :
 positivefamilypivot@gmail.com
 positivefamilypivot.com/get_involved



Observed Monday

January 15

Church Office

CLOSED

Advent Parish Celebration

By Virginia Pillsbury, Vestry Senior Warden

We celebrated our first annual Advent parish-wide celebration on Saturday, December 9, in the Church Library and decorated for the occasion by two of our Altar Guild ladies, Linda and Katharine Boyd.

Those attending were asked to bring their favorite holiday treat so we enjoyed cheese balls, cookies, cakes,

veggies and dip, sausage cheese balls, and cheesecake bites.

Along with fellowship, we also played the “White Elephant” Christmas gift exchange. We are grateful for the time spent together outside of church as we grow together.



Avery Peacock opening her “White Elephant” gift.



Mtr. Natalie conversing with Marina Peacock as they choose from the lovely festive spread.



Terri Ruberti Showing off her “White Elephant” gift.



Arts and Crafts
L-R: Mai Trog and Patricia Wright

Rose Sunday Baby Blankets

By Virginia Pillsbury, Vestry Senior Warden

Rose Sunday is the Church year of penitence permeated with joy and recognized the **3rd Sunday** in Advent and is always marked at St. Peter's with a gathering and blessing of baby blankets.

This year on December 17, the altar rails were draped with baby blankets and there was also a large basket filled with blankets.

Mtr. Natalie Blasco led the congregation in a blessing of the baby blankets and also invited them to lay hands on the blankets during the blessing.

The blankets were presented to the new nonprofit that is housed at St. Peter's, *Positive Family Pivot*, and to its assistant Martha Fooshee and board member Shavon Malanga.



Episcopal



Church Women

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

GLORY CIRCLE: Bible Study the **2nd** Tuesday each month, next meeting **January 9** at 10.300AM in Room 100. We will study Chapter 4 in Max Lacado's book, "3:16".
Contact: Ann Weeks,904.287.7103

GRACE CIRCLE: Bible Study the **3rd** Thursday each month, next meeting **January 18** at **11:30AM**. Location to be determined.
Contact: Tina Griffin, 904.207.3223

VIRTUAL PRAYER CIRCLE: Intercessory prayer **3rd** Monday of each month via conference call. Next prayer circle **January 15** 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

THREE KINGS DAY CELEBRATION!

Christmas isn't over until the
Three Kings visit the Christ Child.

Join us in celebrating that special day.
There will be music, food and fun for all.



12pm-3pm
Saturday Jan. 6, 2024

at St. Peter's Church
(5042 Timuquana Rd)

¡CELEBRACIÓN DEL DÍA DE REYES!

La Navidad no termina hasta que los Reyes
Magos visitan al Niño Jesús.

Únase a nosotros para celebrar ese día especial.
Habrá música, comida y diversión para todos.

12:00-15:00

sábado 6 de enero de 2024

St. Peter's Church
(5042 Timuquana Rd)



Rakad Christmas Camp 2023

By Leslie Oxford, Rakad Dance Camp Director & Choreographer

Rakad Christmas Camp was a great success on Saturday, December 16. Along with 14 campers, we had Heidi Copple, Mimi Bell, Ari Howell, and Adisenne Taylor as leaders. Ingrid Copple and Achan Agwa served as teen volunteers. Admin assistant Mai Trog assisted director Leslie Oxford in all aspects of the day.

Thank you to our volunteers: DJ Winn, Mary Chowenhill, Mtr. Natalie Blasco, Terry Ruberti, and our camp nurse Martha Fooshee.

The day included a Bible lesson, small group time, snack time, choreography, lunch which was breakfast for lunch prepared and served by our Senior Warden, Virginia Pillsbury, human Christmas tree decorating, and a cookie party complete with gingerbread house

decorating. They also did a community service project for the Diaper Bank for Northeast Florida and learned about diaper need in our community. In addition, they brought baby blankets for the Rose Sunday baby blanket blessing.

Those who picked up the campers at day's end were treated to a performance of the dance learned by the campers.

On Friday **March 1**, join Rakad Dance Camp for a night of glamour and giving as we host an Old Hollywood-themed fundraising gala. This event is a semi-formal fundraising gala to benefit Rakad Dance Camp. There will be dinner, dancing, door prizes, silent auction, and more!

(Continued on page 9)



Campers performing on Rose Sunday, December 17.

Front Center: Zora Rumph
Back L-R: Sophia Malanga & Zuri Rumph



Rakad Dance Camp Leaders and Admin Assistant.

L-R: Mimi Bell, Heidi Copple, Mai Trog, Ari Howell, and Adisenne Taylor

Rakad, cont.

(Continued from page 8)

Adult tickets (ages 13+) are available for just \$35, and children's tickets (ages 12 & under) are \$25. Tickets will be available online until February 18.

Don't miss this opportunity to share the love and support the Rakad Dance Camp. Join the fun as we come together as we empower young girls

through joyful movement. Let's dance the night away with our friends and make unforgettable memories.

Stay tuned for Easter Camp in March!

For more information, go to **RakadDanceCamp.com**

We can't wait to see you there!

St. Peter's Annual Yard Sale

By Leslie Oxford, Children's Ministry Director

Our 3rd annual yard sale is scheduled on Friday and Saturday, **February 2** and **3**. We need items to sell, so please bring your items to the Church during the month of January.

We also need volunteers. Please see Leslie Oxford after Sunday service if you can help or call/text to 904-705-8064 or email leslieoxford91@gmail.com

Easter Team Volunteers Needed

By Virginia Pillsbury, Vestry Senior Warden

2024 is just starting, but it is already time to look ahead to Easter, which falls on March 31, 2024.

If you would like to help plan and execute our Easter celebration, please let us know. Write your name and

phone number on your Sunday bulletin Connect Card, or see Mtr. Natalie or Virginia Pillsbury after Sunday service or call the Church Office, 904-778-1434, ext. 100 or email stpetersjax@gmail.com.



Church De-Greening
Sunday, January 7
immediately after
the 9:30AM Service

Please help us take down
and put away the garlands,
the twinkle lights, the
Chrismon trees, etc.
Immediately after
the service.

Thank you!

Contact:
Marlene Miller
904-713-1659
LMMJazz@aol.com

Timucuan Elementary School A Christmas Miracle

Leslie Oxford, Children's Ministry Director

For many years, Timucuan Elementary School has been our community partner. St. Peter's provides cupcakes and juice for their monthly Student of the Month assemblies. At Thanksgiving, our parishioners provided grocery bags of food and grocery store gift cards for 10 families. But you've outdone yourselves this Advent season.

At our request, Timucuan Elementary School provided us with 10 families who needed extra help with Christmas gift cheer. Those 10 families had more than 30 children needing gifts. On the first Sunday in December, our Chrismon *a.k.a* Jesse tree was adorned with the names of those 30

children along with their ages, clothing and shoe sizes, and toy wish list. We asked our parishioners to choose a name and provide two gifts for each child: a piece of clothing and a toy.

This year, due to the large number of children's names, we asked our ministry partners to participate, and they were happy to help. So along with our many parishioners who helped to provide lovely gifts, we also thank Rakad Dance Camp, Seeds of Love, Diaper Bank for Northeast Florida, our Girl Scout Troop and St. Catherine's Hispanic congregation.



Mtr. Natalie presenting gifts to Timucuan Facility.
L-R: Ms. Contrina Bolden, Principal and Dr. Jada Smith, Assistant Principal

Thank-You-Notes

Hi my Friends I wish to say goodbye at the end of December. I also wish to say thank you so much for trusting me in doing the PowerPoint. It is with a very heavy heart that I leave after 8 years of service. I enjoyed it when I came here out of a dream that God gave me one night. Of course I was late but when I showed up as I stepped into our doors, the holy spirit hit me like a freight train! It felt like I was home.

This is the first church I was welcomed to the first day I came. Fr. Tony Ferguson was the preacher here then and his first sermon I sat through was when people come from church to church looking for a home. I knew God was talking to me. I have gone to four different churches in my life, and I must say this one has been the most exciting one as of yet.

God is not done with me yet just putting me into a different congregation. Thank you for everything. Love always!

DJ Winn

Thank you to all who donated baby blankets for Rose Sunday. What a beautiful way to welcome and honor babies in our community.

Thank you to all who donated gifts for Timucuan Elementary School. You've helped make Christmas a lot brighter for families in our community.

Thank you to all who helped with Christmas Rakad Dance Camp.

Thank you to Lori Prevatt who is our Children's Ministry volunteer on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Thank you to Sheryl Green for providing delicious treats on Sundays after church for our Fellowship Hour—and for all who assist her.

Thank you to St. Catherine's Hispanic congregation for their gifts and to the Girls Scout Troop that meets at St. Peter's for their gift donations.

Thank you to the Altar Guild for all of their hard work to make our Sanctuary so lovely and special.

*The Rev. Natalie Blasco
and Virginia Pillsbury,
Vestry Senior Warden*

Advent began on Sunday, December 3, it is a season to reflect on God's gift to His followers with the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. The Sanctuary and stairwells were decorated last month to help us celebrate the Advent season at St. Peter's Church. Many hands helped us to create the beautiful atmosphere of the season. The Altar Guild thanks these church helpers: Tina Griffin, Tina Marie Greene, Michael Grissom, Maileachan (Mai) Trog, Jennifer Trog, Kevin Miller, Scott Smith, Lori Prevatt, Terry Ruberti, Katherine Boyd, Linda Boyd, Jeannie Wright, Patricia Wright, and Eddie Haley.

*Marlene Miller
Altar Guild Chairperson*

JANUARY



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Kermit and Marlene Miller..23

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jane Yingst.....8

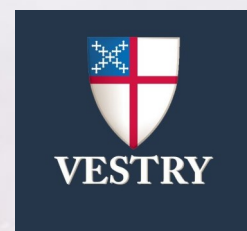
Angela Seymore.....9

Kurt Jackson.....17

Walter Pillsbury.....22

DJ Winn.....22

St. Peter's



Senior Warden
Virginia Pillsbury

Junior Warden
Collin O'Hara

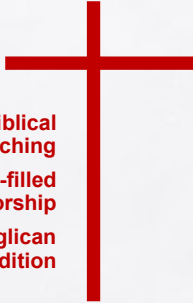
Clerk
Linda Boyd

Treasurer
Tina Griffin

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

The Epiphany of Our Lord Saturday, January 6 Three Kings Day Festival

(See page 6)



**Observed Monday
JANUARY 15
Church Office
CLOSED**

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: under construction

Email: stpetersjax@gmail.com

