

December is fully upon us. I asked specifically to write a note for the Keys this week, but not because I wanted to. Rather, I felt like I had to. This is about money. But hopefully it's not.

At the end of the year, most of us feel the pinch of Christmas gift shopping, and it gets exhausting. It adds yet another layer to what may already be a stressful season. We can start to resent it. Decades ago, an economist coined the term "the deadweight loss of Christmas" to describe the waste that arises from people making choices for other people, buying things for them they would never buy for themselves. Deadweight is the value lost to one person that isn't gained by another. I'm no economist, but I have Google and can type in "Christmas economics." Article after article talks about the transactional realities, the boon to retailers and loss to consumers.

I think that's often how we relate to the Church, in transactional terms. What is it we gain from coming, from supporting, from being a part of St. Peter's? What does it cost us? We literally count the cost. Even Jesus warns us about the cost of discipleship, that we must realize what it will cost us to follow him (*see Luke 14:25-33*).

So here we are in this Advent, staring down at Christmas, and feeling the weight of cost. I get it. As an aside, and just to add insult to the injury of the season, we've just finished asking you to fill out a pledge card for the next year. We (I!) could have done more to follow up. But ask we must, because just like you, our leadership knows the weight of cost and the press of the calendar. We've had turnover in the finance staff, and it has slipped, so just like you, we're staring at a new year, at the reality of money to be spent, and we're counting the cost. **That's the shameless plug of this article—IF YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN A PLEDGE CARD, PLEASE DO SO!**

That said, *counting the cost is something Jesus knew well*. If deadweight is the loss to one person that isn't gained by another, how do we view what Jesus did for us on the Cross? Paul explained that very concept to the church in Philippi, when he encouraged them with these words:

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*  
-Philippians 2:3-8

Jesus, the one whose coming we remember and anticipate, gave up heaven to be born in a manger for us. Jesus, the one whose death bought us life, gave up his right as King of all to die on a cross for us. My friends, let the economists argue about what will happen tomorrow or a year from now. Let others get consumed by the consumerism of a secular Christmas. Whether it is through much or in little, in giving to a loved one or to a beloved church, may this Advent remind us first to have the mind of Christ. What he lost was hardly deadweight, for his loss was multiplied beyond comprehension.

You know your finances. You know the weight of cost. It feels like it's about money, but it isn't. My friends, be encouraged, and let God take the pressure and bear the weight. We often say, "it's the thought that counts," but that isn't exactly true—it's the humility that counts. Whatever you give, to each other, to the church, to someone you've never met—do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. That is the real cost of Christmas.

# MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

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## **DISCIPLED EVANGELISM: CHRISTMAS CAROLING!**

*Saturday, 17 December | 3pm* | In a world where everything seems to be Covid or social media related, we are breaking free and going Christmas Caroling! Let's join together and sing in the joy of Christ during this holiday season. Please join us at the Youth House where we will divide into three groups: Hope, Joy, and Love; and then venture out to the homes of homebound St. Peter's parishioners and their neighbors. There will be a time of caroling and praying at each of the homes. We need LOTS of volunteers to join in caroling and 3 musically talented individuals who can play guitar and start us all on a great singing note! We will have a designated route for each group of carolers and carol/pray until we return for MOVIE ON THE LAWN! We will regather at the Cathedral for hot chocolate, cider, and Christmas cookies for our MOVIE ON THE LAWN! We hope that in following the Parish Rule of Life, this will become a cathedral tradition Please contact Susan Newhouse-Burton, Discipled Evangelism Core Captain, (850.251.3418) or [Newhouse590@gmail.com](mailto:Newhouse590@gmail.com) for more information.

## **LIFE: THE PHI CENTER JOY OF GIVING!**

The PHI (*Pregnancy Help and Information*) Center is a crisis pregnancy center that not only helps families choose life, but find an abundant life in Jesus Christ. The PHI Center serves women and families who think they may be pregnant until their youngest child is 5 years old. It provides, resources, education, social services, encouragement and sonograms by a licensed nurse to its client families.

The Joy of Giving is a time where the PHI Center provides its clients with gifts they can wrap and give to members of their family. This year the Joy of Giving will be held at the PHI Center on *Tuesday, December 13* from *12:30 to 4:00pm* and *4:30-8:30pm* as well as *Wednesday, December 14* from *8:30am-noon*.

For more information on how to volunteer, e-mail Life Core Captain, Beth Medley, at [medley005@yahoo.com](mailto:medley005@yahoo.com).

## **LIFE: MAKING MIRACLES GROUP HOME**

Those of us at St. Peter's who've had any contact with MMGH have been touched beyond measure. These women, who have come from difficult beginnings yet have chosen life, need our support—our love for Jesus and His promises, and hope for a better life for their children. Please consider becoming a mentor, leading a Bible study, making an end-of-year gift to help them pay down the mortgage on the Home, or joining us at their Advent Banquet Fundraiser on *Thursday, 8 December* from *6:30pm-8:30pm* at the Golden Eagle Clubhouse. Above all else, please continue to pray for this ministry. For more information on MMGH, please visit [makingmiraclesgrouphome.org](http://makingmiraclesgrouphome.org) or contact LIFE Core Captains Elizabeth Carrouth at [ecarrouth@gmail.com](mailto:ecarrouth@gmail.com) or Beth Medley

## **PARTNERED EVANGELISM: CHRISTMAS ON THE COURT | Saturday, 10 December | 10am**

Please plan to join us for *Christmas on the Court* at New Destiny Church. This annual event focuses on interacting with youth and parents from the surrounding neighborhoods through basketball, other games, food, and gifts. It is a great way to share the love of Christ during this joyous Advent season! All ages are welcome. For more information, please contact Partnered Evangelism Core Captain, Michael Thompson, at [michaelthompson43@gmail.com](mailto:michaelthompson43@gmail.com)

## **PRISON: MERCY HOUSE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION! | Sunday, 11 December | 5pm**

Come celebrate this blessed Advent season with the residents at Mercy House as we join them in decorating their homes for Christmas, share the Gospel, a meal, fellowship, and sing a few carols! Our very own St. Peter's children will be creating ornaments to be placed on the trees at the homes, and we'll bring other decorations as well. Last year, the residents were very moved by the time and several shared they had never experienced anything like it in their own homes as a child. A great opportunity to share God's love and light! Please contact Missions & Evangelism's Prison Core Captain, Jason White, at [jasonwhite48@gmail.com](mailto:jasonwhite48@gmail.com) with questions or to rsvp as space is limited.

# DISCIPLESHIP & PARISH LIFE

## PASTORAL CARE: STEPHEN MINISTERS

Going through a tough time, emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down? Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of St. Peter's who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful. To learn more email us at [StephenMinistry@StPetersFL.com](mailto:StephenMinistry@StPetersFL.com) or speak with one of our Stephen Ministers. They will be in the Narthex wearing a blue Stephen Ministry name tag.

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY | Sunday, 11 December

Support our confirmands as they make a public profession of faith in front of our congregation. Bishop Alex Farmer will confirm them into the Anglican Church with a blessing and the laying on of hands.

## ACOLYTE MINISTRY

Interested in being an acolyte and helping to lead the Cathedral Congregation in worship on Sunday mornings, at weddings, at funerals, and other special services throughout the year? Learn more about our excellent acolyte ministry and how you can be part of it by contacting Acolyte Master, Cal Melton at 850.570.0208 or [DrCalMelton@gmail.com](mailto:DrCalMelton@gmail.com).

## PARISH VISITORS GUILD OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The Parish Visitors Guild is a group of parish members who are passionate about coming alongside those who need encouragement. It could be the loss of a loved one or job, illness, or any number of difficulties we all face. They reach out in several ways. This is a great opportunity to offer encouragement to those who truly need it.

If you are interested in being part of this vital ministry, please contact [Alice@StPetersFL.com](mailto:Alice@StPetersFL.com) for more information.



**MEN'S SUMMIT**  
with  
*Bishop Alex Farmer*  
& Speaker  
*The Rev'd Tim Surratt*

NO COST | LUNCH PROVIDED  
BRING YOUR BIBLE

DECEMBER 10TH  
2022  
10AM-2PM

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

REGISTER AT  
**STPETERSFL.COM/SUMMIT**

The poster features a circular logo for the Episcopal Diocese of the South Atlantic, the Episcopal Church in North America, and the Episcopal Church in North America. It also includes a small image of a person sitting on a rocky outcrop.



## POINSETTIAS AND MUSIC DEDICATIONS

Our lovely Christmas services will be even prettier with donations for brilliant poinsettias and special instruments to accompany our glorious choir! Look for the special envelopes in your pew or complete your dedication online at [StPetersFL.com/Give](https://StPetersFL.com/Give)

Send your submission on or before *Friday, 16 December*. Suggested minimum donations are \$25 for poinsettias and \$25 for music. Please print your dedication *legibly*.

# Advent Tree

AT ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL



Last Sunday began the season of Advent! Once again, we have set up two Advent Trees in the back of the Nave. They highlight a few of the ministries we partner with in our community, near and far, to “come alongside” and provide encouragement, acts of service, and resources. They are decorated with ornaments describing specific ways you can help these ministries.

During Advent, we are reminded what it means to wait, and to think of others. Please take the time to learn more about these ministries and how you can be a part of them. **You can take an ornament off one of the trees, follow the specific instructions on the back, and return the wrapped gifts with the ornament attached to the outside of the gift, to the Cathedral by Sunday, 18 December.** Thank you for your support and for spreading the light of Christ, near and far!

BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.” ACTS 1:8

DURING THE ADVENT SEASON, WE INVITE YOU TO REFLECT ON THE MISSIONS & EVANGELISM CORES AND THEIR MINISTRIES WITHIN ST. PETER'S.

LIFE | UNDER-RESOURCED | PARTNERED EVANGELISM | DISCIPLED EVANGELISM | PRISON | HUMAN-TRAFFICKING | CAMPUS | INTERNATIONAL

*ways to*  
**GIVE**



*Life* 

MAKING MIRACLES GROUP HOME  
Purchase listed practical necessities and gift cards to be given to women served by Making Miracles.

*Partnered Evangelism*



TARMAC BASKETBALL  
Monetary donations for camp fees.

STREET EVANGELISM  
ESV Bibles and monetary donations for resources

*Evangelism*



*Under-Resourced*



E.C.H.O. & GOOD NEWS OUTREACH  
Provide the listed gift cards, bus cards, and laundry cards!

TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL  
Gift donations to provide uniform assistance, shoes, sweaters and fleece jackets for students. Checks payable to Tallahassee Classical School.



*Campus*

*Life*



PHI CENTER  
Purchase toys in a selected age range to be gifted to children served by the PHI Center.

CAPITAL CITY YOUTH SERVICES  
Various clothing items and gift cards



*Human Trafficking*

*International*



WINGS FOR CHANGE  
Provide a gift of \$60 to cover hygiene management and health education for children and young adults in Uganda. Checks payable to Wings for Change.

3lb Cans of Coffee (ground)



*Prison*



*Human Trafficking*

HOPE COMMUNITY  
Bed sheets and pillows. Monetary donations.

UGANDA  
Support 2023 Uganda Mission Trip.

*International*



*International*



TWELVE CHURCHES—NICARAGUA  
\$240 to feed a child for one year at a feeding center

# ways to **SERVE**



TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL  
Tutor a student.

Bring special treats to teachers and staff.



*Campus*

*Life* 

MAKING MIRACLES GROUP HOME  
Take a resident to church and lunch, dinner and a movie, get a pedicure, etc...

PHI CENTER

Provide snacks for clients at Joy of Giving Event (12.14-15)

Volunteer to clean up at Joy of Giving Event.

*Life* 

*Prison*



Write a letter or two addressed to 'Dear Brother in Christ' to provide encouragement to an inmate who has participated in Kairos or Celebrate Recovery.

GOOD NEWS OUTREACH  
Pressure washing 2hrs/week  
Deck repair 2hrs/week

*Under-Resourced*



*Under-Resourced*



E.C.H.O. & GOOD NEWS OUTREACH  
2hrs/week organizing closet  
2hrs/week offering childcare

*Partnered Evangelism*



NEW DESTINY CHURCH  
Participate in Christmas on the Court (12.10)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING  
Come caroling on 12.17!



*Disciplined Evangelism*

*Evangelism*



THE FELLOWSHIP  
Bring a friend on Tuesday evenings to E.C.H.O. (6-8pm)

# Advent Lessons & Carols

St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral  
Sunday | 4 December | 5pm  
**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW  
ON THE LAWN**

A photograph of four lit red candles in a holder, with a warm bokeh background of light spots. The candles are lit, and their flames are visible.

**TODAY!**

# WORSHIP

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## VISITING THE CATHEDRAL?

*Welcome—we're so glad you're worshipping with us today!* Our nursery is available during Sunday morning services for children newborn through Kindergarten. We hope you'll join us on the lawn for coffee & other refreshments between morning services! Whether today is your first time or you've been coming for awhile, we are so glad you're here!

## CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST & CARE MINISTRIES



If you have any pastoral needs or know of someone who needs pastoral care and prayer, please contact Care Ministries Coordinator, Alice Sanderson at [Alice@StPetersFL.com](mailto:Alice@StPetersFL.com)

Please call the Cathedral Office at 850.701.0664 or email [Alice@StPetersFL.com](mailto:Alice@StPetersFL.com) to be added to the Cathedral Prayer List. **YOU CAN ALSO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST OR CARE MINISTRY NEED AT [STPETERSFL.COM/PRAYER](https://StPetersFL.com/PRAYER)**

**Military:** Lucas Bell, Jose Betancourt, Lt. Col. David Chichetti, SSG Corey Daws, Lt. Col. Daniel Dean, Capt. James Dilworth, Capt. John Easterbrook Jr, Airman Drew Edwards, Sgt. Michael Gaskins, SSgt Corey Owen, Capt. Griffin Jax, Capt. Savannah B. Jax, 1st Lt. Parker Jax, Capt. Chandler B. Jax, 1st Lt. Carson Jax, 1st Lt. Rebecca Jax, Gabriel Melendez, Col. Burt Newman, Major Gen. John Richardson, Capt. Oliver Rushing, Spc. Andrew Sanderson, Lt. Cmdr. Chris Smith, SFC Dewey Spence, Lt. Patrick Swain, Capt. Parry Thomas, Lt. Cmdr. Blake Van Brunt Jr, Tommy VanLandingham MM3, Seaman Benjamin Waddill PFC John P. Warren

**Parishioners, Relatives, and Friends:** Chad Conrad, Quinn Toulan, Greg Dean, Brady Jax, Roberta & George Boyer, Courtney, Joan, Connie

## FORGOT TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE? THERE'S STILL TIME!

PLEASE VISIT [StPetersFL.com/GIVE](https://StPetersFL.com/GIVE) TO MAKE A PLEDGE, OR EMAIL [ACCOUNTING@STPETERSFL.COM](mailto:ACCOUNTING@STPETERSFL.COM) TO CONFIRM THAT YOU'D LIKE YOUR RECURRING GIFT TO CONTINUE AND/OR INCREASE.

OUR NEW BUDGET YEAR BEGAN NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AND WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED PLEDGES FROM ABOUT HALF OF OUR ACTIVE PARISHIONERS. ST. PETER'S ONLY EXISTS BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE GENEROSITY OF HIS PEOPLE!



FINANCIAL MINUTE—WE WILL HAVE AN UPDATE TOWARD THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR

*Total Operating Budget: TBA | % Collected YTD: TBA | Debt Retired in November: TBA*

*For more information about making a pledge, visit [StPetersFL.com/Give](https://StPetersFL.com/Give)*