

# Family Life



St.  
Peter's  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH

APRIL 2019

## Pastor Kevin's Transition

As most of you know by now, I will be transitioning out of my role as Assistant Pastor of Family Life at St. Peter's at the end of June. This certainly came as a surprise to me and my family as much as it has to you. If this is news to you, I refer you to the letter that was sent out on Friday, March 22 by Pastor Bryan and myself (copies of this letter are available at St. Peter's in the Ark).

We trust and agree with Pastor Bryan's discernment that our youth ministry needs a more consistent and sustainable model. At the same time, we are confident that the need for a more permanent minister to St. Peter's youth doesn't align well with my gifts and calling. Therefore, rather than trying to fit this square peg into a round hole, the best thing for us and for the church is to each find a better fit so that we may both thrive and produce lasting fruit for the kingdom of God.

The Cooks absolutely love St. Peter's Anglican Church! I cannot emphasize this enough. Many tears have been shed during this discernment process. We have enjoyed rich friendships with all of you and your families. We love the children and youth of this church and seeing them grow and play and fellowship together in a loving environment. We are going to miss Birmingham dearly.

We don't know where God is leading us to next. We are stepping out in faith, following the leading of the Holy Spirit and our best discernment and wisdom. Please pray for God to open the door to the right

ministry that He has for the Cook family. And in the midst of all of the uncertainty about the future, the final weeks of Nicole's pregnancy, and the need to connect with potential ministries searching for pastors in a relatively short period of time, we pray for God to cover us with his peace that passes all understanding in the knowledge of his love and grace.

Thank you all for your love, your hospitality, your encouragement and support, your generosity and your blessings. Our lives are more complete having been part of this community, and we can only hope that each of you will continue to feel as loved as we have in this community during our time here. Blessings.



*Pastor Kevin Cook*

# Vacation Bible School



Our team is so excited to be offering VBS to our church and community this June 24-27! Through songs, bible lessons, crafts, game time, and group celebrations, children will have the privilege of learning what it means that God is good even when life is unfair, scary, sad, or full of change. No matter what, God is good!

During our epic African adventure, some wild animal memory buddies will walk alongside us to encourage us with scriptural truth. This is one of our children's ministry's most fun discipleship opportunities, and we look forward to getting to know your children and their friends even more during this week together.

Please pray for our leadership and VBS team in the coming months. As we continue to make preparations, we pray that all the planning will be done to the glory of God. Also be praying for the children who will spend their week with us. Pray with us that God opens doors to bring the children who need to hear and experience His love and

goodness. Our hope and prayer is that every child who joins us for VBS will come away from the week knowing that God is good, that God loves them more than they can imagine, and that this church family loves and values them.

Registration is currently open exclusively to our St. Peter's family (children and grandchildren) until April 15. Register online at <http://www.stpetersbhm.org/vbs2019>. Please be sure to register early before we open registration to the public. After April 15, please invite neighbors and friends to join us. We will have a cap on registration, so please plan to extend invitations early.

Of course, VBS cannot happen without a wonderful team! If you and/or your youth are available to serve on the VBS Team during the week of June 24, please join our team by clicking the "Join the VBS Team" button at <http://www.stpetersbhm.org/vbs2019>. If you have any questions about the opportunities available to the VBS Team, reach out to a member of the Family Life Team and we would love to talk to you more.

Last year, we had an incredible VBS week on the Rolling River Rampage, and we are so excited to adventure together again as we let the good times Roar!

## VBS INFORMATION

**WHAT:** Roar VBS is St. Peter's 4-day Vacation Bible School for 2019.

**WHO:** Children in PK3 through entering 5th grade are welcomed to participate. Older children can serve!

**WHEN:** VBS will be June 24-27 from 9am-12pm each day. We will celebrate together in church on June 30.

**HOW MUCH:** VBS is absolutely free! But spaces are limited, so register early!

**WHERE TO REGISTER:** Register online at <http://www.stpetersbhm.org/vbs2019>.

# Celebrate Resurrection Sunday

What images come to mind when you think of Easter? What images come to you kids' minds?

When I was younger, my favorite part of Easter was getting to buy a new dress and dress up extra nicely for church. Waking up to Easter baskets filled with treats (sometimes even more than our Christmas stockings) was another big plus. Then of course the Easter egg hunts we had at church and with family were always fun, especially when my grandma put money inside the eggs.

My family always had a big get together with my aunt, uncle, cousins, and grandparents. We would celebrate with a huge feast and enjoy the spring weather together. Sometimes we even ate outside if it was nice enough! Even as a teenager I still enjoyed my sunny, candy-filled Easter Sunday with my family every year.

But take a second and notice what my favorite memories of Easter do not include... what image did not come to mind when I thought of Easter as a child?

The resurrection of Jesus. The celebration of the greatest miracle in the history of the world, the defeat of death and the grave, the reason for my salvation.

I loved Easter alright, even the parts at church, but the holiday had almost entirely ceased to mean anything spiritual to me. Much like we often do with Christmas when it becomes too much about the presents and the time off of school and work, before I was even a teenager I had lost almost all associations of Easter with Christ's resurrection from the grave.

Don't let your family do the same! There are so many fun, rich ways to celebrate Easter (or should I say, Resurrection Sunday) with you family that put Christ front and center.

This doesn't mean you have to stop dressing up or having Easter egg hunts! Dressing up shows reverence for our holiest day of the year, and a lot of these traditions have Christian origins or can be used to teach about the resurrection. Look for ways to do that more in your family's traditions!

Resurrection Eggs are a fun and creative ways to teach the story of Jesus's resurrection to young children and to bring Christ back to the forefront in Easter Egg hunts. If your family does Easter baskets, try filling them with gifts that will remind them of the Gospel or help them in their discipleship!

Read the Passion story together as a family (from the full Bible or a children's Bible), not just at church during the service. For older teens, maybe watch a movie like the Jesus Film or the Passion together and talk about it. Find ways to remember and celebrate Lent as a family! Resurrection Sunday means so much more when you've spent 40 days intentionally waiting for it.

Every family is different, but every Christian family is called to put Christ first and foremost in all things, and especially when we celebrate his resurrection



**EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 21**  
**9AM - KIDS LESSON & EGG HUNT**  
**10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE**

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The Family Life Team is always wanting to know how we can better serve our church families. If there's anything we can do to serve you parents, your children, or your families, please e-mail me at [FamilyLife@stpetersbhm.org](mailto:FamilyLife@stpetersbhm.org).

## APRIL 2019

April 5-7	Youth Spring Retreat @ Lake Martin
April 7	No Youth Group due to Spring Retreat
April 14	5:45 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group: Lumberjack Night!
April 21	No Youth Group: Easter Sunday
April 28	5:45 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group: The Gospel & Leadership

### **SAVE THE DATES**

May 5	Youth Group: Roaming Gnomes
May 16	Abigail Grace Cook's Due Date
May 19	Youth End of Semester Party
Jun 24-27	Vacation Bible School