



Ring in the **Good News**

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AUGUST 2015

Purcellville, Virginia

Pentecost Season

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St. Peter's Episcopal Church Float was awarded First Place in the Town of Purcellville's annual Independence Day Parade!

In addition to being awarded the First Place Ribbon and banner, St. Peter's received "The Liberty Cup" - a perpetual trophy which we display for a year. Since this is the first year awarded, St. Peter's will be the first name to be engraved on the cup!

St. Peter's was also featured on the front page of the *Purcellville Gazette* for "keeping the meaning of our holiday in sharp focus" with our Prayer Service and the party beforehand.

See more on page 12



The Bible on Sex in the 21st Century

By Fr. Tom Simmons

The differences over sex in our society reflect a clash of visions that are worlds-apart. Each vision offers different answers to the questions: What are human beings and how do we know what is true?

On one hand is “expressive individualism,” (see box) in which “truth” is individually constructed, and discovered most authentically in “What I Feel.” Justice Anthony Kennedy summarized it neatly in 1992. “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life...” In this vision, human beings are self-created and the outer world must conform to my inner world. “Call me Caitlyn.”

In contrast is the view distilled in the Declaration of Independence. “We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...” Humans are created by God - not self-created - with certain unchangeable (“unalienable”) qualities and characteristics, to which my inner world must conform. “We hold these truths,” together in civilized society,

through reasoned discourse rooted in philosophical and scientific study of natural law and the revelation of Holy Scripture.

Since we are currently awash in advocacy for expressive individualism, I'd like to take some time to review with you a bit of the revelation we find in Holy Scripture. The best place to begin is “In the beginning...”

The Foundation

God made us in his image. And **God is a community of Beings.** He said, “Let US create...” There is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all at work together. These Three distinct Persons share a relationship together that is so intimate, so entirely self-giving that the Three are One. That's why the Bible says, “God is love.”

The image of this divine community is expressed in human community, particularly the community of a husband and wife in a relationship so intimate, so entirely self-giving that the two, distinct, equal,

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What is “Expressive Individualism”?

From <http://www.mydigitalfc.com/2012/what-expressive-individualism>

Expressive individualism holds that the person's purpose is to fulfill oneself, to express oneself creatively, and lead others to their own self-fulfillment. The supreme ethical value, to which other obligations must be subordinated, is the creative self within, which becomes the only source of value. The realization and evolution of the genius within oneself may be admired by others and may also benefit others. When everyone practices expressive individualism society will, for the first time, be complete.

This change in western culture, made possible by greater affluence and security, represents a trickle-down phenomenon and democratization of the awe once reserved for the artist. Artists were revered for their genius during the nineteenth century, but today such reverence is spread to the entire population. Sociologist Robert Bellah was the first to coin the term ‘expressive individualism’ in his book entitled *The Good Society* (1990). This term has recently been taken up and expanded in contemporary critique by Charles Taylor, in his major work *A Secular Age* (2007). Taylor traces the romantic revolt against the neo-classical constraints, the subservience to external norms and formal rules, which form an integral part of “expressive individualism.” According to professor Patrick Madigan, of Heythrop College, London, expressive individualism holds that “anything that constrains this expansion, which interrupts or limits this transfer, is to be rejected as parental abuse, psychological repression, or cultural imperialism.”

Taylor explores in detail the life style of ‘expressive individualism,’ that has invaded the contemporary consumer culture. He relates it to issues like the sexual revolution, the call to openness and a toleration of divergent life-styles, the concentration on self-fulfillment, pick-and-choose approach to religion, fashion, politics, education, marriage, and leisure activities, among others. Madigan shows this culture was fostered primarily by celebrities. It is the set of priorities that comes to us through the media, through television, movies, advertising, and also today through the newer technologies of internet, Facebook, blogging, Twitter, among others. Its popularization can be traced to the 60s and the celebrities who served as models or heroes for many youth of the “baby boom” generation.

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complementary beings become ONE together. "And the two shall become one flesh."

It's the transcendent connection deep within our nature that makes sex so fantastic and compelling and desirable and powerful. It goes beyond the pleasurable sensations. It connects us to our true identity in God's image. I think that's ultimately what we are all after.

Sex creates that union, which expresses the image of God, the unity within the divine community. Through this union men and women participate in God's work of creation. God blessed the man and woman and told them, "Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth"... making babies... one person at a time. In God's good intention sex makes babies. "The bond and covenant of marriage" is for raising them in the care of a dad and mom. Both are necessary. God made a masterpiece here, and EVERY other way of doing sex falls short of and disorders God's fabulous gift.

That's the foundation, a simple story that shows us what is true and good, beautiful and right. To follow Jesus means to build our life upon that foundation.

Building on the Foundation

That's what Paul was helping the Corinthians to do in **I Corinthians 6:9-20**. He wants them to see sex through new eyes, because their experience of sex has been so deeply disordered. They live in *Corinth* after all, a city whose name itself became a verb synonymous with promiscuity, 'to corinthianize'.

The city worshipped Aphrodite, the goddess of love - from whom we get the term aphrodisiac. Hundreds of temple prostitutes came into the city to share the...ah... *sacraments* of Aphrodite.

American society is not quite that bad yet, but we're on our way. The public square is saturated with sexual images. It is thought normal and healthy to experiment with sex outside marriage. Kids are taught from an early age that to be a full person you need to express your sexual-self without restraint. Major institutions of our culture are dedicated to our children's 'corinthianization'. Major power is being deployed to impose the new norms of "expressive individualism" upon us.

So Paul was writing to these churches in Corinth struggling to live God's vision of sex in a world deeply hostile to it. These Christians were under enormous pressure and temptation to go with the flow and adopt the disordered sexual values of the culture. Paul is working hard and taking big risks to inspire and equip followers of Jesus to be faithful. Part of that means engaging the bad ideas that ruled their world...and their minds.

Bursting Bad Ideas

So Paul challenged the conventional wisdom, the prevalent BAD IDEAS about sex. People were saying in v 12, "All things are lawful for me." They had an expansive view of human freedom in which the variety of one's sexual expression was inconsequential. Sound familiar? But Paul says don't let your freedom become a vice that controls you and shapes your identity.

People were also saying, "Food is for the body and the body for food," as though sex is merely an appetite to be satisfied. "When felling hungry, eat. When feeling sexually aroused, hook up!" Yes, very familiar. But Paul says your body isn't your personal plaything for pursuit of lifestyle choices and appetites. Justice Kennedy notwithstanding, you don't make the rules.

In fact, our human bodies serve a much grander, more fulfilling purpose. Paul says in v 13, "The body is meant for the Lord and the Lord for the body." Our bodies are members of Christ. We are "one flesh" with him. Think about that! Sex between a husband and wife is a picture of the ecstasy of our intimate union with Jesus.

The life-that-lasts-forever is likened to a wedding feast, a marriage in which Jesus is the groom and we are the bride. Jesus doesn't just "love" us in some wan, abstract sort of way. He's *ravished* by us. The most rapturous love between a husband and wife is just a glimpse of the eternal ecstasy of our union with Christ.

This is why sex is so good and desirable.

It's like a river, coursing current running through our lives as human beings. My former professor, Dr. Tim Keller of Redeemer Church in Manhattan, likens sex to a powerful river flowing through our lives. It's good when it flows, but dangerous when it floods. We want it to stay within the riverbanks.

River Bank One: No Sex Without COMMITMENT

Paul asks in v 15, "Shall I take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!" Paul is talking about fornication and adultery here, which are sex outside of marriage. He names them along with idolatry, homosexuality, theft and drunkenness, as behaviors that ensnare people in a lifestyle that draws us from the love of God. Ultimately, lives invested single-mindedly in these behaviors aren't heir to God's kingdom.

God made sex as the way to give yourself completely to your spouse. "The two shall become one flesh."

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It's a physical union binding two people, body and soul, into a whole new life. But if you have sex promiscuously, without whole-life marital commitment, you separate body from soul. You say "I want your body but I don't want YOU." If you give your body but not your life, **you are tearing soul from body.**

Tim Keller compares it to the people you see in horror movies with an arm torn off or a skull split open. That's how God sees us when we have sex without marital commitment: with body split from soul. That person's not whole. You turn away. It's a monstrosity, or in Biblical language, "an abomination." It distorts and disorders and debases the dignity we have as creatures made in God's image.

I remember years ago when Britney Spears was everybody's innocent sweet-heart ...till she lost her virginity. US magazine said, "Though she vowed to remain a virgin until marriage, she finally admitted to having sex with Justin Timberlake. 'I thought Justin was the one, but I was wrong.'" She said their split was "the most painful thing I ever experienced".

She wanted sex as God intended it, but settled for something far less and experienced the dis-integration of body and soul in a very deep and painful way. Unfortunately many of us have lived this story, too, and have become jaded and insensitive as though it's just a normal part of life.

But it's not. God gave sex as an ecstatic union between a man and woman committed to each other in marriage.

River Bank Two: No Sex Without COMPLEMENT

Sex is like a powerful river flowing through our lives and God intends that it be shared within a life-long commitment between **two people with complementary natures**, two people of the *opposite* sex. That's why Paul includes homosexuality with fornication and adultery among the examples of disordered behaviors.

God designed sex to create an interlocking fit between the two very different and yet complementary natures of a man and a woman. It's like Yin and Yang, opposites fitting together. Their male and female bodies form a perfect *physical* interlock and that mirrors a deeper interlocking of male and female *hearts*, which are deeply and mysteriously different, yet profoundly complementary.

Sex between men, or between women - however lovingly shared - loses that.

God's purpose in sex and marriage is for a man and a woman to COMPLETE each other. And to find that completion we need someone who is distinctly *other*

than ourselves, rather than one who is fundamentally the same. In God's inalienable ordering we can only be complemented and completed by the OPPOSITE gender, in the paired polarity, in the deep physical and psychological interlock, in the mysterious union of a husband and wife.

Sex between same genders falls short of God's created design and "falling short" is the definition of the word "sin."

The River Running Thru Your Life

Maybe the river is running smoothly on its course giving life and joy to you and your spouse. Well, God bless you. It's a true gift, isn't it? But don't forget to tend those riverbanks because complacency is a real threat to great sexual intimacy. It's surprisingly easy to end up in trouble.

Or maybe for you the river is overflowing its bounds. Maybe your sex life has become disordered, out of control, unfaithful to God's intention. Maybe your heart is drawing you to places you know you shouldn't go. Maybe sex has even come to define your identity. Well, God bless you, too. We all fall short of God's design and way of life.

And there is hope for change.

Paul listed some different ways people get trapped in disordered behavior and says in v 11, "And is what some of you used to be, but you were washed, you were sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Their experience of Jesus Christ empowered these Corinthian Christians to be healed and cleansed, to repent and change.

Jesus showed how that starts, when a woman caught in adultery was brought before him for judgment (John 8:1-11). Jesus accepted and forgave her, but he didn't leave it at that. He also aimed to CHANGE her...and us. He said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go *and sin no more.*"

He helps us see what life can be like liberated from disordered sexual behavior ...centered in his loving gaze. That's what you, and everyone you know, is looking for in life. Intimacy with God is our deepest need, which often goes unmet in our restless searching for love and approval. We are looking for love in all the wrong places. People's problems with sexual self-control or disordered affections are ultimately driven by this gnawing hunger at the center of our being.

But it can be satisfied. Jesus showed the woman in adultery, and Paul taught the Corinthians, that the deeper you experience Jesus' affection for you, the more control you gain over sexual impulse. I pray we are each learning it, too.

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That's the Bible's picture of human sexuality, painted with broad strokes. May God empower us to bear witness to that life-changing fact, from a position of courageous humility and healing, here in the 21st century, with its extraordinary challenges.

Our Challenge in the 21st Century

I offer you excerpts from a piece posted by George Weigel on July 18, 2015, at National Review Online.

No small part of the extraordinary success of the pro-“gay marriage” movement has been its ability to sell the idea that this really is No Big Deal. Same-sex-attracted men and women, the claim goes, simply want what other people want — stable, loving relationships, in which responsibility is assumed for those for whom we care. When the state recognizes that, all will be well, calm will prevail, and we can all get on with our lives.

It's a culturally powerful argument, especially when wrapped in the mantle of the classic civil-rights movement, and the polling numbers suggest that a lot of people who couldn't have imagined “same-sex marriage” even five years ago have been persuaded. Yet the notion that agitations would stop when “gay marriage” was legalized from sea to shining sea never made a lot of sense, not least because that assurance abstracted the “gay marriage” argument from its deeper context, which was, is, and always will be the sexual revolution and its fierce, Jacobin determination to bend, break, and then grind into the dust the proponents of a biblically based sexual ethics, a natural-law-based sexual ethics, or both...

The more measured proponents of “same-sex marriage” assured the rest of us that, once their just cause was vindicated, the culture wars would abate. Here the civil-rights analogy was abused again. Just as Americans had built the most racially tolerant and inclusive society in history after *Brown v. Board of Education* and the 1964 Civil Rights Act, so would we, post-“gay marriage,” proceed without much further ado to the enjoyment of a non-judgmental society in which difference was celebrated and sexual “bigotry” was tossed into the same trashcan of history as the nonsensical racial theory that shaped the *Dred Scott* decision. Everyone would get along with everyone else, and harsh rhetoric (like the oceans, in the imagination of presidential candidate Barack Obama) would begin to recede.

Tell that to Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, the archbishop of Philadelphia.

In early July, a private Catholic school located in the archdiocese, Waldron Mercy Academy, decided

not to renew a teacher's contract: a not-abnormal occurrence. The teacher was the school's director of religious education and had been living in a “same-sex marriage” for some time, a fact that was, it seems, widely known. After one family complained about this manifestly incongruous situation, the school's principal and board of directors decided not to renew the teacher's contract; they were supported in that judgment by the religious community that sponsors the school. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia was not involved in the decision, but Archbishop Chaput, as chief custodian of Catholic orthodoxy in the diocese given to his care, offered a brief statement of support for the school's decision.

Then came the deluge.

It consisted in part of vile e-mail. One “correspondent” advised the mild-mannered Capuchin archbishop (whom he described as a “CHILD MOLESTING SACK OF SH*T”) to “GO F**K YOURSELF,” adding the eschatological note that he hoped Chaput would “ROT IN HELL.” This is the peace that was supposed to follow a live-and-let-live adjudication of the “same-sex marriage” question?...

But now this good, decent, compassionate, and holy man — a bishop who truly knows “the smell of the sheep,” in Pope Francis's formula — is the target of vicious attacks privately and wicked canards publicly. Why? Because he believes that the Catholic Church has a better answer to the human longing for happiness than the false promises of the sexual revolution in a society-without-aberrant-behavior — the New Normal. Because he thinks that Catholic institutions and those who work in them should embody the truths about life and love that the Catholic Church professes on the basis of both revelation and reason. Because he understands that, when the state demands that we believe something that we know is not true, all sorts of bad consequences for democracy follow.

We get to follow Jesus “in such a time as this.” We face the obvious challenges of increased incomprehension and hostility to our witness and lifestyle. But we also face real, though perhaps less-obvious, opportunities to share the soul-satisfying news of Jesus. As the emptiness and incoherence of expressive individualism becomes obvious to those who embrace it, we can anticipate mass migration to a more solid and satisfying vision of humanity. We'll be ready to share it.

Guatemala Mission 2015, Field Trip with Daryl Fulp

By Bob Loker

Below is an excerpt from a blog written by Daryl Fulp, Director of Hope for Home (Casa de la Esperanza) located in San Antonio Aguas Calientes, Guatemala. Daryl and his wife, Wanda, are parents of ten children and work with orphans. They are supported by the Wednesday Night Bible Study group. In this blog Daryl describes a typical day "on the road" visiting homes where he ministers. On this trip he was accompanied by Maggie Snyder and Katharine Loker Battleson, two members of the 2015 Guatemala mission team. The account gives a good insight into the Fulp's ministry and also an insight into one segment of our mission trip. The photos were taken by Katharine.

Scratching the Surface

It has been far too long since my last post, and far too much has happened to catch you up on all the details. So permit me to give you a whirlwind tour of the last several weeks...

Back on June 24 I took a trip down to Nueva Concepción to repair Jorge's wheelchair. I was traveling with two friends and supporters who were visiting from the States, Maggie and Katharine, and I expected it to be a quick and simple trip with a brief visit to see Rosario. But as often happens, God had other plans.



Things went smoothly at first as we repaired Jorge's chair. The parts I brought with me fit nicely and we had him up and running quickly. I was also able to debride a pressure sore on his right foot, which is healing up nicely. The temperature was high, as was the humidity, so we were sweating a lot, but we had a nice visit. Jorge's family continues to grieve the loss of his six month old nephew in May who died of pneumonia after the national hospital gave him the wrong medicine, but they are otherwise doing well.



From there we headed around the corner to Rosario's house. If you will recall, she nearly died in January from a respiratory illness because the family had lost our number and could not afford the Q.10 (\$1.30) price to get her to the national hospital. We found her near death and rushed her to a private hospital where she was admitted for six days. This was a check-up to make sure she was doing well.

We found her outside in a hammock recovering from Chikingunya. This is a mosquito-borne illness that makes its way through the lower, hotter regions of Guatemala every rainy season. It causes flu-like symptoms, including aching joints, a cough and high fever. At this point, Rosario was on the mend and was only running a slight fever. We gave her mom Tylenol to use for the fever and told her to call us if she worsened.

As we were preparing to pack up and leave, her mom mentioned that her niece was inside with a high fever. I asked if we could see her, so they escorted us into a sweltering hot room where we found a six-year old girl on the bed with a glassy and unfocused stare. I checked her fever and nearly choked when it read 106.3 degrees. We immediately moved her outside to a shady spot and began wiping her body down with cold, wet rags and administered Tylenol. Within 10 minutes her fever had dropped considerably and her alertness was improving.



This was nearly catastrophic. I believe she was close to experiencing seizures and brain damage from her fever when we arrived. This is ironic because Rosario's brain damage was the result of improperly treated fever when she was four years old. We spent time with the adults in the family explaining, once again, how to treat a fever when it comes. There is so much ignorance here in that area of child care, and it does so much damage.

As we were leaving, Rosario's mom started crying and said to me, "You are like an angel! You always show up just when we need you!" And I had to smile at that, because anyone who truly knows me would not describe me as an angel. Cantankerous, yes. Angel, no. But I did give thanks to God who so perfectly orchestrates our trips and ministry. He loves these families so much and arranges their care for His glory.

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We returned home to some more chaos that evening as we welcomed child number 13 into our home. Little Alison Abigail joined us at age 5 weeks. She has Down Syndrome and her single mother has decided that she cannot care for her or her five year old sister. We had received the call that morning, and we probably should have said no. Our home was full, as always, and we are stretched thin. But we have a very soft spot in our hearts for children with Downs, so we agreed to receive her.

Little Alison is a beautiful little bundle of joy. Within a week she was sleeping through the night, and she has become another little stress-reliever in a ministry that is often filled with stress. She had her first hearing today, and it appears that she will be with us long-term and will likely be placed up for adoption. So our home and our hearts are fuller today.

The very next morning I was working on all the paperwork involved in receiving a child when I receive a call from Gerardo. He had found a family who was seeking help with a five month old child who had a fever. But as Gerardo was speaking with them he noticed that something seemed wrong with the child and asked if I could see them. So a few minutes later they were at our door.



As they entered my office I realized immediately that the little guy, Diego, had cerebral palsy. As I spoke with the family they explained that they had suspected that something was wrong and had taken him to a doctor, but the doctor told them he was fine and sent them away happy.

This is one of the parts of this work that I hate. I had to explain to the family that their son had cerebral palsy, an incurable disability. They wept, and so did I as I explained the long-term prognosis and treatment options. We arranged for an appointment with our neurologist to confirm that diagnosis (he did) and told them that we would arrange for him to start receiving therapy in our home each week.

Their great concern is that they are poor and they cannot afford the doctors, equipment and medicines that Diego will need, but we were able to set their minds at ease as we explained that was our ministry and we would walk with them and help them every step of the way. So, we are seeking a sponsor for little Diego for \$40 a month. This will cover the cost of therapy for him and the medicines prescribed by the neurologist. If you are willing, please e-mail me at daryl@hopeforhome.org.

At they left that day I felt a mixture of emotions. On the one hand, it felt good that we could be there for this little guy and his family. Even though breaking the news to them was hard, that is a part of the responsibility and privilege God has given us as we walk with them through the diagnosis and the day, weeks, months and years ahead. On the other hand, I felt a deep sense of sadness at the awareness that this was one family out of thousands. We are working as hard as we can for long days and weeks, and we aren't even scratching the surface of the need.

By days end, I found myself falling into discouragement at the enormity of the needs. Then God reminded me that I am not the Savior, He is. I can't save the world, He can. But I can love and help the person in front of me. If all believers would simple do that, the need would be met. And so, I went to bed that night determined to love and make a difference in the life of the person in front of me and let that be enough.

Note: The following day Maggie and I accompanied Daryl on a visit to Diego's house. We arranged to give Daryl \$600 to cover Diego's initial medical assessment for treatment options and prognosis so that he would be in a position to receive sponsorship. The funds for this and other medical needs were provided by generous gifts from members of St. Peter's Church. Thank you, St. Peter's!

A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words—Guatemala 2015

Thank you St. Pete's for supporting our small group as we went to Guatemala to be encourage and be encouraged by those God put in our paths. Your gifts and support can make eternal differences in lives touched by God's love. A picture is worth a thousand words, so here goes:



Family picture taking in the village of Santiago Zamora, a Mayan village where Redeemer's House ministers. (Redeemer's House is a "whole-life ministry" whose goal is to restore health and dignity among the "least of these" while partnering with the local church to grow disciples of Jesus Christ.)



Painting the building used for the After School Program (APS) run by Redeemer's House in Santiago



The APS-VBS run by the St. Pete's team. (3 days)



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Trip to a Mayan village high above one of the world's most beautiful lakes (Atitlan) for a feeding program for undernourished children. (currently two times a week, hopefully expanding to three times a week)



*Visit to **Hope for Home Ministry** in neighboring village. This ministry provides a family-based care system for special needs children – a beautiful ministry taking in those no one else wants.*

Katherine (Bob Loker's daughter) and Maggie Snyder spent a day with Daryl Fulp – head of the ministry – as he ministered outside of his village: repairing a wheel chair that had formerly provided; ministering to the sick and lonely. (See article by Bob Loker on page 7.)



Visit to a family in Santiago. This is Cheyli. She is four and has cerebral palsy. Last year gifts from people at St. Pete's bought her a custom fitted wheelchair. When we saw her, we found she had not been eating well and had been told by the doctor that they might have to insert a feeding tube. In an effort to avoid that, through your gifts we were able to provide her with a year's supply of Ensure.



Maggie Snyder & Bob Loker with Cheyli

Portraits of St. Pete's—Mark Koenig

Editor's Note: We are delighted to feature parishioner, Mark Koenig this month! Mark lives in the neighborhood and has been attending St. Peter's since 2005. Over this 10 year period, Mark has utilized his outgoing personality to serve with the Ushers & Greeters, Outreach & Evangelism teams, and Stewardship committee. Behind-the-scenes, Mark has quietly contributed to the maintenance and beautification of the church by **voluntarily:** mowing the lawn (when funds were not available for mowing—or as needed in between mows); shoveling snow; painting the stairway railings & trim; and most recently, repairing, sealing, and repainting the lines on the front parking lot. Be sure and thank Mark, the next time you see him, for his generous servant's heart! It is inspiring! Who knew he also had artistic talent hidden away? (See below.)

Thank you, Mark, for your sharing your gifts with St. Pete's!



The Spiritual Awakening

By Mark Koenig

The photo above is of an abstract acrylic painting I call *The Spiritual Awakening!* The sand dunes in the painting consist of real sand from Lake Michigan, which is indigenous to the Indiana National Lake Shore where I was born and raised. The water symbolizes our Baptism and the by the GRACE of GOD the Gifts of Eternal Life and His Love. The Sunlight captured in the picture portrays His light and all that is good in the world. The heart embodies all of these gifts from God, such as, love, His Grace, the greatest gift—His Son Jesus Christ, and the hope of eternal life!!



"I have never seen a more powerful, on-screen depiction of the power of personal transforming prayer. The wake of WAR ROOM's impact will be immeasurable. In fact, it may be a source or even a catalyst for the next great awakening in America (God willing)!"

John Bornschein, Vice Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

From the award-winning creators of **Fireproof** and **Courageous** comes **WAR ROOM**, a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives.

Tony and Elizabeth Jordan have it all—great jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream house. But appearances can be deceiving. Tony and Elizabeth Jordan's world is actually crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. While Tony basks in his professional success and flirts with temptation, Elizabeth resigns herself to increasing bitterness. But their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara, and is challenged to establish a "war room" and a battle plan of prayer for her family. As Elizabeth tries to fight for her family, Tony's hidden struggles come to light. Tony must decide if he will make amends to his family and prove Miss Clara's wisdom that victories don't come by accident.

**Opening nationwide in theaters August 28,
WAR ROOM is a vivid reminder that prayer is a powerful weapon.**

WAR ROOM will be showing locally at these theatres—check <http://warroomthemovie.com/theaters> for times and/or to reserve tickets:

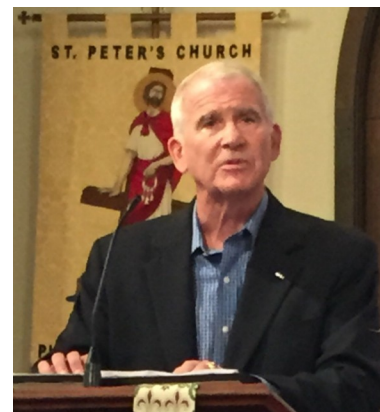
- **Dulles Town Center 10—Dulles, VA**
- **Apple Blossom 12—Winchester, VA**
- **Regal Westview Stadium 16—Frederick, MD**
- **Regal Fairfax Town Center—Fairfax, VA**
- **Tysons Corner 16—Tysons Corner, VA**



Thank You for our Wonderful Independence Day Celebration!

For our Prize Winning Float: (1st Place-2015)

- **Jim Schatz** (float coordinator)
- **Travis Ehich** (float prep)
- **Randy Wyatt** and his grandson **Joseph** (balloons and float prep)
- **Wynell Schatz, Regina Brzozowsky** and **McKenzie Clark** (walkers)
- Float Riders
- MotorCycle Rider Escort
- **Jerry Keller** (trailer loan)



Lt. Col. Oliver North

For our Fabulous 4th Party! (Over 250 meals were served!)

- **Monks BBQ**—Donated their fabulous BBQ! Stop by 251 N. 21st Street to thank them and get some more of their delicious food! Visit www.monksq.com to learn more about this generous family run business.
- **Our Food Crew**—Led by **Sophiann Nunaley**, and supported by:
The Donohue Family, Peter Forbes, Tim Hall, The Hunt Family, The Nikosey Family, Steve & Anne Schultz, Mike & Maggie Snyder, Tamara Tyler, Nancy Wise, Dell Nunaley.

Also, a special thank you to all who volunteered to help set up and tear down the tents, chairs and tables. We are grateful to the **Purcellville Fire and Rescue Squad** for the loan of tables and chairs. We deeply appreciate **Eamon Coy** for concert set up and **Jenn Coy** for getting us signs for advertising. Big thanks go to **Mark Koenig** for the hard work in sealing the front parking lot. He was even squeegeeing the water off the lot before the BBQ!

The games were a great hit thanks to: **Briana Tyler, Tamara Tyler, Tim & Judy Hall, Renee Geiger, Mark Koenig, The Donohue Family.**

For our Prayer Service: (Over 200 attended the service!)

- **The McGinley Family Singers** for leading us in song.
- **Lt. Col. Oliver North** for his stirring reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Fall Plant Sale Coming September 26

By Jean Kuhns

We need your help to contribute plants from your garden for our annual Fall Plant Sale. August is the time to start thinning out those crowded areas and pot them.

Bulbs are always welcome, i.e., Iris, tulip, daylily, etc. Perennials from your garden will make room for new growth next year. Those houseplants - Spider plants, ferns, Christmas cacti, etc., all welcome.

Grasses and hosta are needed. Start collecting your pots now. The proceeds will be donated equally to two of our Outreach Ministries in Liberia: St. Peter's School and Canterbury School Library.

There will be baked goods and food for sale and perhaps craft tables. Happy digging!



She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain

By Sarah Hemmingway

Our family had traveled from California to Colorado to enjoy a week of vacation at our favorite Christian family camp. The week had been glorious, filled with activities, classes, crafts, music . . . all the things great memories are made of. Skit night was approaching, and each family was to call on its cumulative "talents" to contribute to an evening of fun and frolic. Our gang of five was no exception. Tom got out his guitar, I found a tambourine, and we outfitted the young children with impromptu instruments. Our six year old had a cool whip bowl "drum" with a stick for percussion; the four year old had two long wooden spoons to click, and the two year old had a plastic bottle filled with hairpins to shake! We rehearsed "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain" in perfect style. Why even the Trapp family singers would have been envious!

Alas, our dreams were not to be. As our turn approached, we gathered in fine form at the front of the room. Tom strummed the opening chord, and we commenced the performance of a lifetime, sure to impress all campers that we were indeed the happy loving Christian family! Unfortunately, our second daughter immediately became overly enthusiastic with her wooden spoons and inadvertently whacked our two year old in the head. He was positive that she had maliciously planned the attack, so he retaliated by whacking her back with his bottle while bursting into tears. The six year old was mortified, and tried her first-born best to settle the fight. Naturally, she became the enemy for intruding. Needless to say, after trying to out-sing the chaos for only a couple of measures, this family, a shining example of Christian love and charity, decided to postpone their stardom until a later date. The audience just howled, and in the graciousness and love of God's people, we regrouped and the whole room joined us in our song.

I look back on the episode as a graphic picture of how the Body of Christ enables us to be forgiven when we fall, and then picks us up, encourages us, and joins us in our pursuits. We try so hard to be the finest parents we can. We have goals, dreams, and standards for our children, and often we get tired, we fall short, and frankly, our kids turn the finest of intentions into disastrous predicaments.

The church is here to help us raise our children in the best way possible. God provides a wonderful support system for us as we're learning to parent. He equips us with directions and principles that are eternally true—and they work! He gives us friends to laugh and cry with. He provides experienced parents and grandparents to cheer us on and to correct us when they see us parenting in a harmful way. We're able to ask for help, to pray with each other, to accept correction, and to share our fun with those in our fellowship. AS we give cuddles, wipe away tears, change diapers, teach manners, and discipline young spirits, let's remember we're not alone. Next time you're struggling with youngsters, imagine a great stand of fans cheering for you. It's made up of the Body of Christ—and they may just be singing, "She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes."

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16.

Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Kathleen Voss, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

"This VBS isn't just fun it's MARVELOUS!" Said Maddie Babb age 6, during our opening assembly on Wednesday morning. What a wonderful compliment! Maddie's words and other positive remarks provided by the kids and parents, most from outside our St. Peter's family, reinforces the positive impact that our VBS provides to the Purcellville community.

This year we "recycled" a VBS from about 9 years ago. **Kingdom of the Son** is a Prayer Safari. Children love adventure! The fun of exploring new things and being surprised by the unexpected. During this VBS, the journey took us into the pages of God's Word and the children participated in the greatest adventure of all, getting to know GOD! We explored in the detail, the Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6:9-13 and through this prayer the children learned to talk to God and were encouraged to develop a personal relationship with Him.

Each day or session had its own theme which reinforced what Jesus taught us about God through the Lord's Prayer; GOD LISTENS, GOD PROVIDES, GOD FORGIVES, GOD PROTECTS, GOD RULES. Each day our Bible Center teachers, lovingly broke down the Lord's Prayer in a way for each age group to understand.

Our 4th and 5th grade class, taught by **Dan LaPre**, already had a pretty good grasp on reciting the prayer, so Dan taught it to them in LATIN! These amazing young people were able to recite the first half of the Lord's Prayer in Latin, at the closing ceremony.

Bible Center leaders Tamara Tyler, Briana Tyler, Cindy Coffey, Ciara Donohue, Kim Donohue and Chris Lafferty, together with Dan provided amazing, hands on instruction to these children. We are blessed to have these talented and caring individuals in our midst!

The VBS Skit is always one of the most anticipated parts of the week and this year **The VBS Players (Megan Czaban, Lexi Eddinger, Ethan Erickson and Madigan Voss)** directed by the incredible **Liz Tuohy** did

not disappoint! This talented group began rehearsing in early May, all of them, and their parents, juggling hectic sports and school schedules to make it to rehearsal once a week. Each day the kids and volunteers were treated to another exciting day at the Serengeti Animal Reserve! Our actors and director were successful at building excitement, making us laugh and helping to bring each day's lesson into focus.



Regina Brzozowsky and Keri Holdorf brought our craft center to life! Each day a new craft, also reflecting the day's theme, was created. At the closing ice cream social, I had at least 4 mothers approach me and comment on the crafts and how excited their children were to bring home each new days accomplishment! **Laura Stark, Megan Smith and Mary Schanzenbach** assisted Regina and Keri as youth volunteers. Each young lady provided hands on help to our campers.

Our **music center**, led by **Barbara Verdile** and accompanied by **Gail Hunt** and **Lauren Hunt** once again helped to bring the theme of the VBS together through song! By the end of the first day the kids were singing Jambo! It is always amazing to see how fast the children catch on and learn the VBS songs. By the closing program they know them all by heart! I am sure our talented teachers have something to do with that!

In addition to being our **Assistant VBS Director**, **Deana Czaban** also graciously accepted the position of Snack Leader. Each day, Deana and her team, **Jeb North** and **Kylie Budd**, prepared and served snacks

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14)

to over 40 children and breakfast to over 30 volunteers! Special thanks to those in the congregation, who purchased bananas, goldfish, juice boxes, watermelons, trail mix, yogurts and other snacks for the campers and those who took the time to prepare delicious breakfast items for the staff! I think I ate my way through VBS 2015!

I would also like to recognize **Deana Czaban** for the extraordinary effort that she puts into VBS each year. Since I came on board in 2012, Deana has been an amazing support to me in both the Children's and Youth Ministry. She is one of those people who just dives right into a project and knows what needs to get done! Deana is the first person to bake for a youth movie night, or run to Costco for paper plates! She has been a huge help to the Church in spearheading the search for a Director of Children's Ministry and for a Youth Minister. She is an active participant in the CMC and teaches Sunday School! When we needed a snack leader for VBS, Deana graciously assumed the role, in addition to manning the registration desk and car pool! If you see Deana on Sunday morning, please be sure to say "thank you!" She is a huge force behind the success of any VBS and our programs for kids and young people.

Special thanks also to **Wanda Juraschek** for her creative and cheerful program design, in addition to keeping the participant and volunteer lists in good order. Wanda always provides moral support and keeps us on task! Not always an easy thing to do!

I would also like to thank **Pat Pearson** and **Tait Simmons**. Pat offered tremendous assistance in getting the hall and kitchen ready for the children. She was there until late in the afternoon on Sunday, putting the finishing touches on our main hall. Tait is always willing to assist us with the very important job of overseeing Kiss and Ride at the end of each day! Believe me, no small task!

When all was said and done, over 40 members of the St. Peter's community, many of them young people, helped to provide snacks and meals, donated money or props, taught bible classes, directed the play, helped to move furniture, manned the registration desk, purchased and organized the craft area, led the musical program, printed marketing materials, served food, dished ice cream, vacuumed, cleaned and decorated.... And on and on and on!

Thank you, thank you to all mentioned above and below for your tireless dedication and support of this worthwhile event! I also encourage new faces to get involved next year... talk to the people listed in this article, I think that you will find contributing your talents to VBS is especially rewarding. More dads are welcome, too!!!

VBS Director	Kathleen Voss
Assistant Director	Deana Czaban
Registration Desk	Cindy Coffey
Drama Director	Liz Tuohy
VBS Players:	Megan Czaban Madigan Voss Ethan Erickson Lexi Eddinger
Sound Tech	Josh Smith & Dave Hunt
Snack Leader	Deana Czaban
Kitchen Aids:	Jeb North & Kylie Budd
Music Leaders	Barbara Verdile, Gail Hunt, & Lauren Hunt
Music Aide:	Lexi Eddinger
Craft Leaders	Regina Brzozowsky & Keri Holdorf
Aides:	Megan Smith, Laura Stark & Mary Schanzenbach
Bible Center Leaders	
Kindergarten:	Ciara & Kim Donohue
Guides:	Lauren Smith & Maddie Cotter
1st Grade	Tamara & Briana Tyler
Guides:	Noelle Haines & Logan Johnson
2nd and 3rd	Chris Lafferty & Layla Lafferty
Guides:	Joe Burden, Madigan Voss, Posey Simmons & Ethan Erickson
4th and 5th	Dan LaPre & Cindy Coffey
Guides:	Frances North & Megan Czaban
Kiss & Ride	Tait Simmons & Staff
Photography	Pat Pearson & Wanda Juraschek



GLOW- IN-THE- DARK BOWLING



Make this fun summer game to play at the beach, a park or in your yard.

What you need:

- 10 empty plastic bottles (same size)
- 10 or more glow sticks
- Water (optional)
- Star stickers (optional)
- Hamster ball (or regular ball)
- Tape

What you do:


1. Place one or two activated glow sticks in each bottle. Fill bottles with water and decorate with star stickers, if desired. Screw on lids.
2. Put some glow sticks inside the hamster ball. Screw the halves together, and secure sides and lid with tape.
3. Challenge someone to a game of bowling. For the best glowing effect, play after dark.



Summer's gifts

Summer brings longer days, warmer nights and — for many people — time spent near water. Complete this puzzle to find out who's behind all those summertime joys.



Directions: Read Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV) below. Draw a ☐ around words describing God's actions. Draw an ☐ around words that describe day. Underline words that describe evening. Draw  under words that describe the ocean.

He who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar ...



Directions: Circle the capital letters. Then write them from left to right on the lines below to reveal God's name in this Bible verse.

i t T W H s p j E k e m a b L f g O h b c R d

e D q r s t c e a t o n a h f z z v u A w y L

a v n M q z l s k y z G u w H h m o T k j k Y





Answer The LORD Almighty

SUNDAY SCHOOL Teachers are needed for the 2015-2016 school year.

Please contact Kathleen Voss at dcm@stpetes.net if you are able to assist.

We are very flexible with our schedule and you do not have to be a certified teacher or educator to help us! You do not have to have young children or teenagers at home! Quite frankly, we just ask that you love the Lord! Our calendar is broken up into trimesters, so if you are only available during certain points in the year, we can accommodate.

At a time when many in our congregation are talking about the importance of our children and youth's spiritual formation, I strongly encourage you to get on board with this worthwhile ministry.



St. Peter's AUGUST ROSTER 2015

		August 2 10 Pentecost	August 9 11 Pentecost	August 16 12 Pentecost	August 23 13 Pentecost	August 30 14 Pentecost
LECTOR	Early	Peter Schellhase	Dell Nunaley	Gail Donohue	Bryan Field	Drew Lavan
	Late	Kyle Voss	Jon Corbett	Jen Coate	Eamon Coy	Mark McKinley
LAY EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Sophiann Nunaley, Peter Schellhase	Judy Hall, Tim Hall	NA	Terry Duhring, Judy Hall	Peter Schellhase, Sophiann Nunaley
	Late	Dan LaPre, Shane Ayers	Randy Stoutenburgh, Dan LaPre	NA	Randy Stoutenburgh, Dan LaPre	Dave Tocki, Shane Ayers
SUB DEACON	Early	Tim Hall	John Burden	NA	Tim Hall	Buddy Andrews
	Late	Dave Hunt	Linda Stoutenburgh	NA	Linda Stoutenburgh	Dave Hunt
INTERCESSOR	Early	Sophiann Nunaley	Kelly Cockrill	Paul Donohue	HL	Peter Schellhase
	Late	Randy Stoutenburgh	Randy Stoutenburgh	Marty Thompson	HL	Traci Eddinger
ACOLYTES	Early	Aubrey & Addie Winger, Isabella Tucker	Joshua, Megan & Olivia Smith, James Nunaley	Kimberly & Colin Donohue, John Matthews	Adam & Eric Gibson, Mark Matthews, Hayes Baker	Aubrey & Addie Winger, Isabella Tucker
	Late	Chris Hunt, George & Henry Simmons	Shane Ayers, Lauren Hunt, Peter Forbes	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Henry Psaltos	Chris Hunt, George & Henry Simmons	Dan LaPre, Shane Ayers, Lauren Hunt, Peter Forbes
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Zan Shah, Alexis Didoha, Judy Didoha	Scott & Becky Harris, Mark & Nancy Baker	Linda Turner, Don & Krista Winger	John & Carrie Marie Burden, Mike & Maggie Snyder	David & Carla Ramsey, Chris & Terry Duhring
	Late	Susan Collins, Nora Young, Mary Barratt	Jae & Andrea Lee, Jim & Maggie Heim	Keith & Regina Brzozowsky, Paul & Sherri Kakol	Sven Johnson & Pat Long, Billy & Nancy Dillon	Randy & Linda Stoutenburgh, David & Amy Smith
USHERS	Early	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Zan Shah, Dick Wilhelm	Bill & Beth Gibson	Rick & Kelly Cockrill	Paul Miller & Lauraine Landolt
	Late	The Clavelli Family	Mark & Katie McKinley, Marty & Erica Thompson	Susan Collins, Sandy Wehr, Steve & Anne Schultz	Nick Psaltos, Tred Parry, Billy Dillon, Jimmy Eddinger	Eamon & Jenn Coy, Ben & Anna Curtis
GREETERS	Early	Dell Nunaley	Rebecca Smoot	Mark Baker	Corinne & Hank Hegener	Bill Gibson
	Late	Steve Schultz	Dave Tocki	Jae & Andrea Lee	Tom Coate	Jon Corbett
TELLERS		Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Howard & Linda Evans	Joe Clavelli, TBD	Pat Long & Sven Johnson	TBD
ALTAR GUILD		Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Lauraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Lauraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Sandy Wehr, Una LaPre, Linda Turner	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Sandy Wehr, Una LaPre, Linda Turner	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Sandy Wehr, Una LaPre, Linda Turner

If you are unable to fulfill your ministry on a day you are assigned, please (1) find your replacement and (2) notify the church office of the change in schedule. Thank you for serving!

AUGUST Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES:

8-3 Bill & Ruth Ensor
Rick & Tricia Smith
8-9 Tom & Michelle Adair
8-14 Tred & Debi Parry
8-16 Steve & Anne Schultz
8-17 Sonny & Mary Hoeltzel

BIRTHDAYS:

8-1 Ben Curtis
Sean Parry
Leigh Psaltos
Posey Simmons
8-3 Robert Heefner
Olivia Smith
Ayden Young
8-5 George Simmons
8-6 Steve Flowers
Ryan Walsh
8-8 Judi Novak
Michael Wagstaff
8-9 Katya Clavelli
8-10 Joe Matthews
8-11 Tim Hall
8-12 Erica Thompson
8-13 Colin Donohue
Sonny Hoeltzel
8-14 Marlin Cockrill
Nik Holdorf
Nolan Ramsey

8-15 Caitlin Donohue
8-18 Barbara Kuhler
Tamara Tyler
8-19 William Nunaley
8-21 Paul Donohue
8-22 Zan Shah
8-24 Buddy Andrews
8-25 Renee Geiger
Chandler Parry
Mandi Walsh
8-26 Chris Hunt
8-28 Adriana Erickson
Scott Harris
James Nunaley
Vijay Shah
Kelly Wyatt
8-29 Ciara Donohue
Stephanie Purnell
8-31 Sarah Jane Simmons



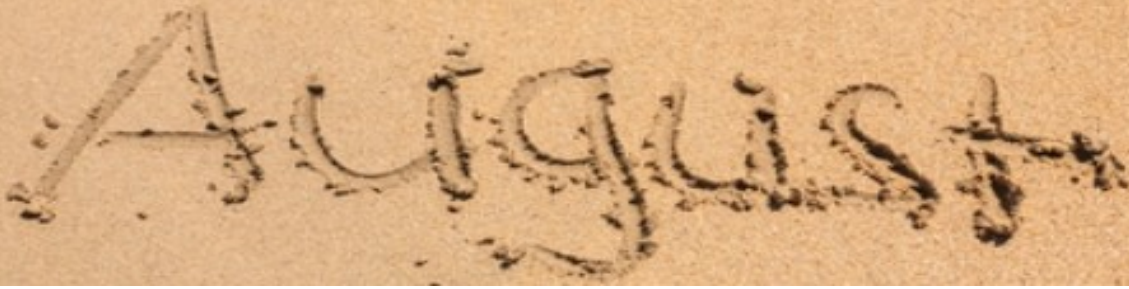
Mark Your Calendar!

Aug. 1 Men's Breakfast 7am
Aug. 4 Hedgehog Research Team Mtg 7pm
Planning Team Mtg. 7:15pm
Aug. 5 Mission Team Mtg. 5:30pm
Aug. 11 Vestry Exec Mtg. 6pm
Planning Team Mtg. 7:15pm
Aug. 12 Renovation Committee Mtg. 7pm
Aug. 15 Men's Leadership Mtg 7am
Literary Guild 5pm
Aug. 16 **MORNING PRAYER** 8 & 10:30am

Aug. 17 Mt. Calvary Guild 10am
Aug. 18 Vestry Mtg. 7:15pm
Aug. 19 **MORNING PRAYER** 11:30am
Aug. 20 TOL Dinner (by Women's Fellowship) 5pm
Aug. 23 Healing Liturgy
Newsletter Deadline
Aug. 25 Pastoral Care Team Mtg 5pm
Planning Team Mtg. 7:15pm
Aug. 28 Men's TGIF Reception 8pm

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for AUGUST

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
2	10 Pentecost	Exodus 16:2-4,9-15	78:23-29	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 6:24-35
9	11 Pentecost	1 Kings 19:4-8	34:1-8	Ephesians 2:11-22	John 6:35, 41-51
16	12 Pentecost	Proverbs 9:1-6	34:9-14	Ephesians 3:1-13	John 6:51-58
23	13 Pentecost	Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18	34:15-22	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:56-69
30	14 Pentecost	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	15	Ephesians 4:1-16	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's Breakfast
2 HOLY EUCHARIST Adult Formation Bible Study	3	4 Hedgehog Research Team Planning Team	5 HOLY EUCHARIST Mission Team MSSG	6 Next Step Community	7	8
9 HOLY EUCHARIST Adult Formation Bible Study	10	11 Vestry Exec Mtg Planning Team	12 HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG Renovation Comm.	13 Next Step Community	14	15 Men's Leadership Mtg. Literary Guild
16 MORNING PRAYER Adult Formation Bible Study	17 Mt. Calvary Guild	18 Vestry Mtg	19 MORNING PRAYER MSSG	20 TOL Dinner (WF) Next Step Community	21	22
23 Newsletter Deadline HOLY EUCHARIST & Healing Liturgy Adult Formation Bible Study	24	25 PC Team Mtg. Planning Team	26 HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG	27 Next Step Community	28 Men's TGIF Reception	29
30 HOLY EUCHARIST Adult Formation Bible Study	31		Coming in September Sunday—Sept. 6: Backpack Blessing Sunday—Sept. 13 MINISTRY FAIR—9:15am-12:30pm Sunday—Sept. 20 Program Year 2015-2016 Begins! Sunday School & Adult Formation			

KEY: CS=Choral Scholars; FBF=Friends Being Friends; MSSG=Men's Spiritual Support Group; PC=Pastoral Care; SF=Spiritual Formation Classes; SS=Sunday School; TOL=Tree of Life; WF=Women's Fellowship



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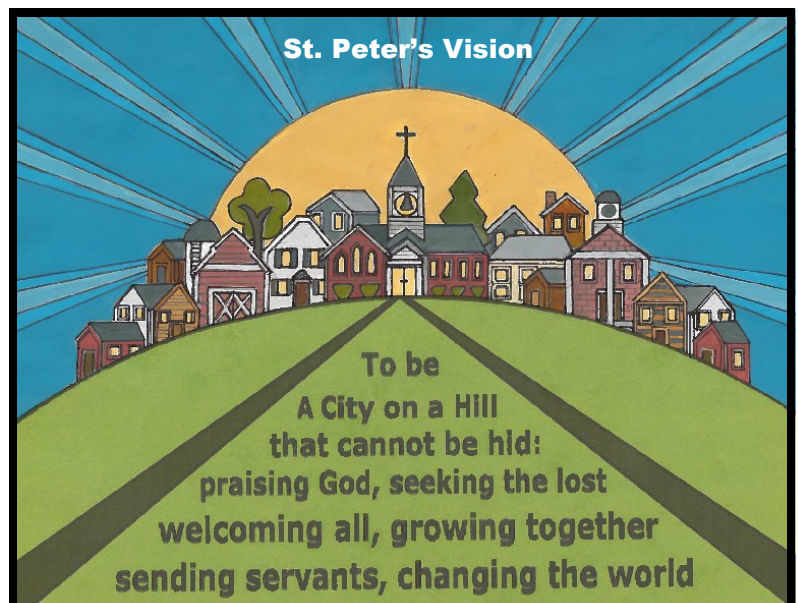
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