



# *Ring in the* **Good News**

## **ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**Purcellville, Virginia**

**Pentecost Season**

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## **Thanksgiving Day 2015**

**Community KITCHEN**

**JOIN US**

at St. Peter's Episcopal Church for  
**Thanksgiving Together**

**NOVEMBER 26TH, THURSDAY**  
Come and enjoy a **FREE** Dinner

**Time:** 12:00pm - 2:00pm  
Followed by a Thanksgiving Service from 2:00pm - 2:30pm

**Location:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
37018 Glendale St, Purcellville, VA 20132

**EVENT HOSTED BY:** TREE OF LIFE Community Kitchen  
For more information contact 703-554-3595

**TREE OF LIFE**  
MINISTRIES - JOHN 10:10

This year St. Peter's, in partnership with Tree of Life, is taking up the torch of the Community Thanksgiving Together dinner. This turkey-day tradition has been a fixture of Purcellville civic for many, many years. Formerly hosted by Bethany Methodist the torch has been passed to us and our friends at Tree of Life to host the people of our town for Thanksgiving Dinner at St Peter's from noon to 2pm on Thanksgiving Day.

It's a chance for those who have lost family; or whose family and friends are in faraway parts; or who aren't in a position to prepare dinner, or who just want to celebrate the holiday with friends and neighbors, to gather with others to share a delicious Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings.

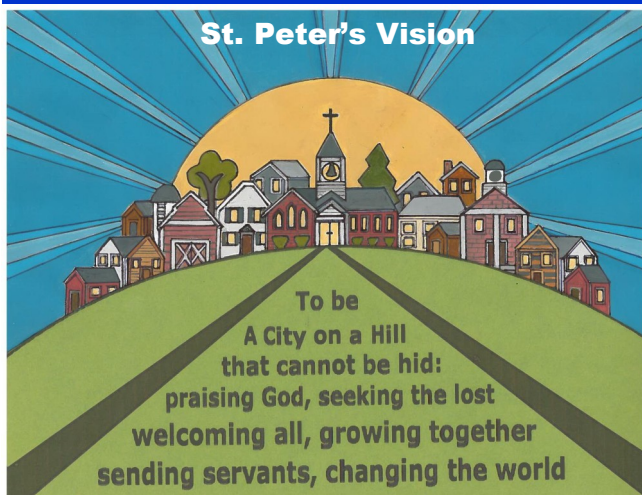
We will take the opportunity to revive another small-town tradition:

### **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service.**

After the meal we will gather together, like the Pilgrims of old, for our favorite prayers and songs of thanks to God. You might be wondering whether this service is "just one more thing to do" on a day dedicated to resting, eating and watching football.

Here's why I will be there. Thanksgiving has become, as most other holidays in America, a celebration of consumption. We stuff ourselves with food, drink, and football. So what about "giving thanks?" We need to make sure we do that too, right? This year we'll get our chance to do that at **2 pm at St. Peter's**. Join us!

**Sign up to help** with Thanksgiving Together at  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444aba82fa46-thanksgiving](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444aba82fa46-thanksgiving)



When Jesus looked at the crowd he felt compassion for them. They were like sheep without a shepherd. He called us to notice their needs, too, and be moved to action to serve them. That's why in our vision we aspire to be a church that is "sending servants, changing the world."

But how can we do that – I mean REALLY! – when the world has such overwhelming needs?

To be effective I believe we must focus ...like a hedgehog... on **one** need and then "dig in" to make a real impact. Our goal in the "Hedgehog" process has been to figure out, with God's guidance, how St. Peter's might do that.

### What's a "Hedgehog Concept?"

The Hedgehog Concept is based on Isaiah Berlin's famous essay "The Hedgehog and the Fox" in which he divides the world into either hedgehogs or foxes, based on an ancient

Greek parable by Archilochus: "The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing."

According to Berlin, foxes pursue many ends at the same time and see the world in all its complexity. They are 'scattered or diffused, moving on many levels' never integrating their thinking into one overall concept or unifying vision. Hedgehogs, on the other hand, simplify a complex world into a single organizing idea, a basic principle or concept that unifies and guides everything. Hedgehogs see what is essential and ignore the rest.



We started by taking three careful steps, building from the ground up.

## Hedgehog Update

By Fr. Tom Simmons

In step one, we identified unmet needs in our community. We did over 70 man-on-the-street interviews and talked to nearly a dozen leaders in our community.

In step two, we focused on the things we are passionate about as a congregation with a survey of the congregation. This helped narrow the list of needs.

In step three, we identified the competencies we can harness at St. Peter's to make a real difference in our community. We are refining that in our strategic planning process.

Here's a summary of what we found.

### A Crying Need for "Interpersonal Relationships" in our Community

We conducted 71 "man on the street" interviews, which asked people to rank order what they like best about the community. A large majority (63%) liked the "small town/rural feel/environment." However, over half of those said that "Feeling part of the community" was a challenge, and two thirds felt it was difficult "building friendships with local families."

Though most aspire to a sense of being settled and connected in a small town community, more than half of them don't feel like it is working for them. They came here looking for community, but haven't found it yet. Against that civic backdrop, a large number of people also expressed concern about "adolescent social issues" (50%) and related challenges of "spending time as a family" (39%), "spouse/significant other" challenges (25%), and parent-child relationships (21%).

We also asked an open-ended question which gave people the chance to name an area of relationships where they most need support. Answers were all over the map, but nearly half of these people (35) volunteered issues within the reach of our ministry, like: not knowing neighbors/building friendships (13%), teen substance abuse/better parent relations/activities for youth (15%), childcare/afterschool care (7%), and marriage/couples counseling (4%).

The Stakeholders in our community seem very concerned about these issues, as well. They spoke most often of their concern for children and teens, referring often to the need for "Things for kids to do in Western Loudoun," specifically "child care," "after school care," and "mentoring." These issues seem related to the lack of a "teen center for youth." Clustered with these needs are other related issues such as "teens disconnected from their parents," "teen

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mental health issues, especially anxiety and drug use" and "at-risk kids in affluent families."

A story emerges from these stats. People like the promise of community inherent in small-town Purcellville. But because western Loudoun is very expensive, many families are dual-income. And because the Loudoun Valley is farther away from jobs, many workers spend multiple hours a week commuting. Spousal and parental relationships suffer, as do neighborhood friendships. The negative effects of this are most visible in children during the teen years, especially when they are unsupervised after school, with little to do and many opportunities to act out in destructive ways.

Here's the "crying need" as we see it. In a transient area with a fragmented lifestyle, many people feel a need to "connect," be "settled," or "rooted" in their local community, and within their own families. This need seems especially acute for teens. One stakeholder, who has had a family therapy practice in Leesburg for four decades, observed, "there is no focal point for families in the Loudoun Valley."

### **The Congregation's Passion to Address the Need**

For us to effectively address it, this need must tap into the passion of a significant number of people at St. Peter's to excite urgency to mobilize their time, talent and treasure to make a difference for others. This passion will have to drive us to shape our individual efforts, our ministries, facilities and communications to reach out to these people and invite them into a relationship and attract them to what we are offering.

Our congregation survey sought to gauge our people's passion for these needs. Results show that parent-child relationships would be the best primary focus. The congregation further identified "youth-youth interaction" as a secondary focus. This seems to align with the community's sense of need to address adolescent social issues.

### **The Congregation's Competence to Address the Need**

St Peter's is here to make a difference, in a hands-on, relational sort of way. In the final portion of the congregational survey people had the chance to name the skills they might bring to our effort to serve the community. The largest number of people named "listening" as their competence for serving. That skill would serve us very well in addressing the relational needs identified by the community. Second behind listening was "cooking," another big asset for building friendships with people in the community. Clustered closely along with these were "teaching," "presenting," and "writing," skills that could be well-utilized in integrating the gospel with the needs people in the community identified. Also prominent on the list were skills for "organizing events," and "hospitality" which could be useful in combining all the above in an effective and appealing way.

The composite picture that emerges is a lot of talent for creating events where we eat, build friendships, discuss and learn. We can serve our neighbors in a way that is relevant to them by offering genuine relationships, fun events, and real resources that address the crying needs they have identified. We can share the journey with them, creating a sense of community where families can relax and begin to feel safe to talk about things that really matter, and explore how Jesus can touch and heal them. It has to be compelling enough that they will invest time and perhaps money to have what we offer. And then they'll need to tell their friends. Our ultimate goal is to introduce them to Christ in a way that charges their life.

### **Our "Hedgehog Concept" to Address the Need**

Combining the need, passion and competence we've deduced a hedgehog concept to focus our efforts in the future. We will:

**"Build** a Christ-centered community at St. Peter's and **invite** our neighbors to deepen their relationships as they experience Jesus through our friendship."

We have distilled some principles to put that into action.

To Build we will need to:

- 1) Deepen St. Peter's as a welcoming, safe, authentic community where our neighbors can find friends and "settle" in and become "rooted" in community.
- 2) Build educational resources to offer the tools to help people thrive in the midst of relational challenges they face with their parents and peers, children and spouses.
- 3) Develop our heart, mindset and skills as a congregation to effectively love and serve our non-Christian and semi-Christian neighbors.

To Invite we will need to:

- 1) Create a "focal point for families" in the Loudoun Valley, where they can make deeper connections with their neighbors and within their families.
- 2) Design events that will attract the kinds of people who have expressed these needs and allow us to serve them and build relationships with them.
- 3) Develop a reputation in the community that gives us credibility so people will seriously consider our invitations to participate in our events, and extend the invite to others.

Going forward we will refine these objectives to be more specific, clear, coherent, concrete, and compelling, and to experiment and find what works and what doesn't. Please let me know if you would like to join the work.

## Count Your Blessings

By Kathleen Voss

Count your blessings...

Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!

*Johnson Oatman*

Have you ever counted all of your blessings? I have seen and heard this saying many times throughout my life, but I never actually counted them. The other day while searching for a few ideas to share with the Sunday School children, I came across this exercise which asks us to actually count them. Try it... I came up with 50 pretty fast; my faithful, hardworking husband, my healthy daughters, my four amazing sisters, my loving mother and late father, a beautiful home in a warm and safe town, a welcoming Church.

The list went on like this for a while....and the blessings kept adding up and I kept counting; the ability to read, the availability of excellent medical care, the company of friends, a fellow member of the congregation offering a kind word of support. The sun in the sky! A beautiful moon to gaze upon! The trees on the Blue Ridge in all of their glorious color!

So many blessings, too many to count! How many blessings in a lifetime? Have I been grateful enough for all of them? Have I thanked God enough for them? I will try to do better.

During this month of thanksgiving we remember to give thanks for all that we have. We thank God for our blessings. Perhaps you could take a few minutes with your children and actually count those blessings! Write down as many as you can... until your hand hurts! I guarantee, you will run out of room on the paper and ink in the printer, before all of them can be recorded.

A car that runs, my Sunday School team, Wanda, a job that excites me, pumpkins, the support of my in-laws, the way Madigan gets up for school every morning, Shea's sense of humor, democracy, being raised in New England, the ocean ...Also, "SHOUT OUT" to Madigan Voss for being one of only 4 6th graders at Harmony to be cast in the play Peter Pan Jr.



Grant said he is thankful for his family, people who are nice, God and Jesus.

James Nunaley states that he is thankful for his brothers William and Robert and his dog Rex, his three favorite movies, Lion King, Rocky, and The Lord of the Rings, and \_any\_ day that he is \_off\_ from school!

Mason Field is thankful for God helping him achieve some soccer related goals.

Reagan Field is thankful for her friend Clay whom she always has fun with.

The Simmons children are grateful to God for their parents and food, for weekends and for monkeys (Henry).

Sophie said, "Puppies! And my pet dog, Matilda."

Jordan says, "He is thankful for his Sunday School Teacher, Mrs. Winger and his Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Lynch. They are the best teachers ever!"

Matthew said he is thankful for his family.

John said he's thankful to know Jesus.

Mark said he's thankful to call America home.

Madigan Voss is thankful for her family.

Shea Voss is thankful for her family and our dog Scout.

## What's Your "IT" Thing? - New Class Led by Fr. Tom Simmons

The Boss, Bruce Springsteen, once declared a deep truth: "Everybody's got a hungry heart." We are all hungry for "IT." If we just had "IT" our worries and difficulties would go away. So we seek IT with all our heart and invest IT with our hope and passion, our identity and purpose, sacrificing our precious time and treasure to get IT. What is IT for you? What is your "IT" thing?

Would you like to find out? Discovering it is the surest path to peace, focus and effectiveness in life.

Would you like to change things in your life so that God is "IT" in your day-to-day life?

I'll lead a group to find out HOW between now and Christmas, using Tim Keller's book Counterfeit Gods as a guide. **We'll meet in McCray Hall, on Sunday mornings.** We have a lot of excellent material to cover and discussion to share so we'll start promptly at 9:30.

Here's our schedule:

Session 1: What is "idolatry?" November 8

Session 2: Is Romance "IT" for you? November 15

Session 3: Is Money "IT" for you? November 22

Session 4: Is Success "IT" for you? December 6

Session 5: Is Power "IT" for you? December 13



## Thank You, St. Peter's

By Bob Loker

Families from St. Peter's Church have "adopted" at least nine children from the poor and isolated Mayan village of Patzatzun in the Guatemalan highlands!

Redeemer's House International, which is regularly supported by St. Peter's, has initiated an orphan prevention program to keep the very poorest of children from becoming orphaned. They call it an orphan prevention program because the vast majority of children in orphanages in Guatemala have been voluntarily

placed there by the court system because their parents cannot afford to care for them. According to UNICEF, almost half of Guatemala's children are chronically malnourished - the sixth worst performance in the world. In parts of rural Guatemala, where the population is overwhelmingly of Mayan descent, the incidence of child malnutrition reaches 80%, resulting in children who are stunted, physically and mentally, for life.

Redeemer's House works in the areas of education, health, nutrition, safe (and dry) housing, and spiritual formation. The goal is to keep families intact. The \$35 monthly contribution by St. Peter's families in most cases will support children's education or health. In other cases, it will support programs in which they participate in their small village of 1400 residents.

If you have an interest in "adopting" a poor Guatemalan child, please contact Bob Loker.



## Veterans Day 2015: For Whom the Bell Tolls

There are some 25 million veterans in America today. Their service and sacrifices are many, and are too often overlooked in our busy world.

They took an oath to protect our nation and unique way of life. They stood their post, far away from family and friends, enduring great hardship in some of the most hostile places on earth. They trained and fought to preserve the freedoms that we easily take for granted. Sometimes they came home from combat physically or mentally injured with no expectation of recognition, though we owe them that and more.

Veterans Day is the one day each year we gather to recognize their sacrifices. **St. Peter's Church invites the community to join us for a special service of remembrance.** It will feature readings and prayers, and a profile of the Rev John B. Schinberger, Colonel, US Army (ret) a highly decorated WWII veteran, plank-owner of the Army Airborne Corps and Special Forces, and 17th Rector of St. Peter's. We will also read the roll of Loudoun service members who paid the ultimate price in WWI, tolling the Loudoun Bell cast in their honor.

One of Loudoun County's little-known historic treasures resides in the bell tower of St. Peter's.

The Loudoun Bell was cast in honor of the thirty doughboys who left their homes in Loudoun to sail to France where they helped bring the Great War to a close. In the spring of 1921, ladies of St. Peter's, led by Louisa Kilgour Nichols, raised the money to cast in bronze a bell that would ring in their memory. A local newspaper clipping recounted the day of its dedication in July 1922:

"At the appointed time, half past two o'clock, a group of former servicemen in uniform, headed by Mayor S.K. Tyler of Purcellville, carrying the flag, and by five clergymen in academic and ecclesiastical robes, marched to the church singing, 'How Firm a Foundation,' ...The Rev. Harari read the roll of the county's dead. After each name there was a pause and the bell, which has a remarkably sweet and resonant tone, was tolled once."

**Please join us for a similar observance 11:30 till noon on Wednesday, November 11, at St. Peter's.**





# Finished with Ephesians

By Fr. Tom Simmons

How many of you have slaves? No? Ok, how many of you are owned by another? Anyone have a master? Anyone? Anyone? No? Why not?

When Paul wrote his letter to the Christians in and around Ephesus, he assumed there were slaves and masters in the congregations he was addressing. That's because in the first century, slavery was a universal institution. No matter where you might travel in that bygone world, the human reliance on slavery was as common as our reliance on electricity. Slavery powered the world.

So what changed?

The Gospel did. Paul expounded the revolutionary ideas that the Gospel brings God's future into the present. If Jesus will make the world right THEN, we might as well start living like it NOW. We've seen that as we have worked our way through Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In the first half of the letter Paul showcases the world-changing reality of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension. In the second half Paul details how the day-to-day realities of life change as a result.



*A mosaic of slaves who were serving their masters at a banquet. On the far right you can see a slave carrying a basket of wheat, this slave most likely was a field worker. The slaves that are pouring their master a drink are most likely house slaves.*

So who abolished slavery? Was it the Chinese? Was it native Americans? Was it Muslims? Was it the Hindus of India? Did the Germanic tribes beyond the Rhine blot out the institution? No. It was Christians. Following Paul.

Christians began to move the world from slave power to other forms of energy.

That might come as a surprise because it has been deleted by today's "grievance industry" narrative, which focuses exclusively on the shame of white racism and slavery in the American south, in which Christians were often complicit. It might also come as

a surprise that abolition didn't start in the early 1800s, as part of the inevitable march of modern enlightenment and progress.

No, abolition of slavery actually began in the so-called "Dark Ages" following the fall of Rome, which institutionalized slavery at all levels of society. As Christian kingdoms took shape out of the ruins of the Empire, slavery was one of many things left in the rubble.

In contrast to Mohammad, who personally bought, sold, captured and owned slaves, the followers of Jesus were the first to come to the conclusion that slavery was sinful. The church was stoutly opposed to slavery. The influential bishop of Lyon thundered, "All men are brothers, all invoke one and same Father, God: the slave and the master, the poor man and the rich man, the ignorant and the learned, the weak and the strong...none has been raised above the other...there is no...slave or free, but in all things and always there is only Christ." (*The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*, by Rodney Stark, pg. 30.)

Charlemagne, at the end of the 700s, was able to consolidate institutions of governance and law, leading to the outright banning of slavery in the Holy Roman Empire. Without reliance on slaves, Christian Europe learned to be powered by innovation. There was an unprecedented surge of learning and invention, discovery and technological advancement, which often grew out of monasteries. In a matter of centuries this social dynamism resulted in the global dominance of the West.

The practice of slavery returned with a vengeance, however, when European settlers in the Caribbean began enslaving native peoples to power their plantations and mines. The institution spread to other shores in the 1500s. As demand for slaves exceeded supply, Europeans tapped into the long-established Muslim trade in African slaves. And so the curse of slavery returned to the West, from which it had been banished for 800 years.

These changes were ferociously opposed by the church with a series of Papal bulls in the 1500s. By this time, however, the Popes had been stripped of much of their temporal power within European nation states. Their opposition was to no avail. It took the efforts of Anglicans and Methodists, like John Newton and William Wilberforce, who founded the modern abolition movement in the 1700s. They made the theological and moral case to rouse the waning Christian conscience of England and the United

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States, which led to the re-abolition of slavery, culminating with the American Civil War.

And it all started with what Paul said to the Ephesians! Let's see what he said in chapter 6 verses 5-9.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free. And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

First, note how Paul addresses slaves as members of the congregation in v 5. Paul knew that, when his letter was being read aloud, his hearers would include slaves. Christian congregations gave place to slaves as brothers and sisters in Christ. Slaves partook of the sacraments and were welcomed into leadership. In fact, 150 years after Paul, the Bishop of Rome had himself been a slave!

Second, Paul recognizes their status as disciples of Jesus. He doesn't impose on them coerced compliance, which was the norm. Rather he inspires them to heart-felt enthusiasm in their service to Jesus in v 5, 6. He appeals to their heart volition and a conscience as they serve Jesus first, and THEN their master.

Third, he promises equal justice for all, whether slave or free. Even though their lot may be severely un-fair and un-fun, Paul helps them see how all will be put right. Jesus is risen to rule. He is the judge and he will judge impartially, based not on their status, but on their actions. To drive the point home to masters, Paul uses the exact same motivation to persuade them too!

So Paul recognized slaves as fully human beings, and rooted their status theologically for the first time in history. This was the seed of their liberation that would grow to full flower in the coming centuries. We take these things for granted today, as though "Progress" is inevitable.

It's only inevitable because, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!" It inspires Christians to work every day to make that future a reality NOW. Perhaps the prevalence of our presumption of progress in the West is a mark of the astonishing impact the Apostle Paul has had in shaping our world. ♦

## God's Help is on the Way

By Fr. Tom Simmons

Every time we rise to renew the Baptismal Covenant we make a weighty pledge. Asked, "Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?" we reply resoundingly, "We will, with God's help!"

But then we might wonder, "How am I supposed to 'proclaim'?" My guess is most don't often follow through with that promise. Why? Many of us doubt our ability to do it well, so silence is simpler...even if it means we're unfaithful to this vital vow!

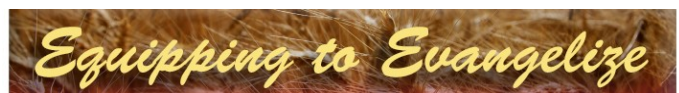
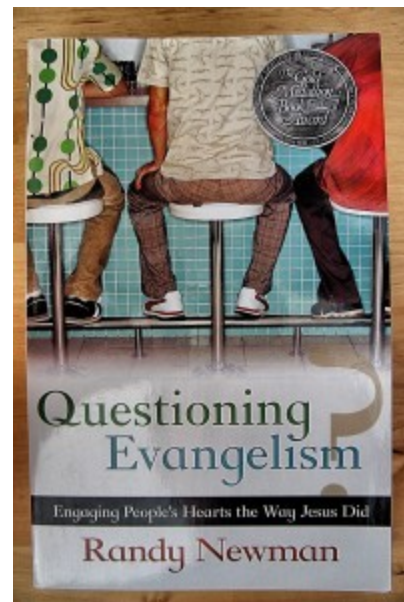
Well friends, "God's help" is on the way.

Let's take 90 minutes on Wednesday, November 4, to increase our ability to winsomely share our faith, and empower ourselves to be more faithful to the vow we made. We have an exciting speaker lined up who literally "wrote the book" on bearing witness in a quietly effective way in today's world.

**The C.S. Lewis Institute is sponsoring a FREE seminar entitled Questioning Evangelism, featuring Randy Newman** (author of a book by the same title), **at St Peter's on Wednesday, November 4th from 7:30pm till 9:00pm.**

Randy Newman is a Senior Teaching Fellow for Apologetics and Evangelism at the Institute. He is also an adjunct faculty member for Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Patrick Henry College. After serving for over 30 years with Campus Crusade for Christ, he established Connection Points, a ministry to help Christians engage people's hearts the way Jesus did. He has written three books, *Questioning Evangelism*, *Corner Conversations*, and *Bringing the Gospel Home*, and numerous articles about evangelism and other ways our lives intertwine with God's creation. This event is a C.S. Lewis Institute Fellows Program seminar open to the public.

Now we can say "I will, with **Randy's** help!"





## Signs of Hope

By Jim and Wynell Schatz



Wynell and I spent a wonderful three weeks in France this summer climbing and trekking in the Alps and biking along the Normandy coast visiting the D-Day landing beaches, cemeteries, monuments and scenic countryside that surrounds it. If you are looking for a place to travel in Europe where Americans are still welcomed, Normandy is that place. The flags of the American, British and Canadian WWII "liberators" fly everywhere even some seven decades after D-Day. While it was obvious to us that scenes like Mont Blanc,

the Matterhorn, Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc would leave lasting impressions in our memories, we were utterly unprepared to discover that religion, the love of Christ and the freedom to express publically one's Christian beliefs appears to be alive and well in France today. Like many of our friends we had read and heard that the open practice of Christianity in Europe, and particularly in France, was something seldom witnessed. It has been said that the French had become secular socialists and walked away from GOD a long time ago. We also fell prey to the misinformation about the French people being unfriendly. In all cases we found France, its people and the presence of the open worship of GOD, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to be anything but absent. We are here to report that it is alive and well in both France in in the Swiss Alps.

Our first indication of the presence of Christianity in France was Saint Peter's Church in Argentiere, a small town in the Chamonix Valley, the home to Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in the Alps. We attended mass there at Saint Peter's and the church was packed solid. While the service was in French and our command of the French language is well, shall we say hardly commanding, we felt welcome there and could follow along in the familiar portions of a liturgy. It felt a bit like St. Pete's in Purcellville but surrounded by glaciers and mountain peaks! Where things really got interesting and surprising frankly was when we began our 45 mile 6-day high-altitude trek along the famous Haute Route from Chamonix France to Zermatt Switzerland. This is far away from much of civilization. Along the way one stays in huts at altitudes above 8000 and even 10000 feet. At many of the huts we bunked at in Switzerland there was a cross permanently located on a nearby peak above the

hut. At one point along the route passing glacier-fed aqua blue Lac de Mauvoisin we spied from afar what looked to be a statue of Mary high above overseeing the lake and the passersby. As we drew closer to our pleasant surprise it was in fact Mary and she was in fine form, perfectly maintained and cared for in an area known for its harsh winter weather. We were somewhat shocked to see her there but even more surprised when our French mountain guide told us the whole history of her presence and how it gave him comfort each time he passed by. I thought "Is this guy really French?"



A brief layover in Paris had us visiting all the common tourist attractions but the visit and tour of Notre Dame de Paris, built in 1163, was eye opening. The exterior of the church over the entrance tells a tale of our journey in life and battles with the devil. We were treated to a tour by an American student who was working in Paris as an intern. Inside one is treated to a wonderful, historic house of worship with amazing artwork throughout. It was engrossing, but quickly became amazing. Our tour guide pointed out



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Jesus' original crown of thorns behind a red colored framed film that was brought to the Notre Dame Cathedral by King Louis IX around 1238 A.D. Sadly this photo did not turn out well. It was incredible seeing it in person, even though we learned later that the actual crown is in a vault below the church but boy were we thrilled to be so close to something so important in history and to our salvation.

The religious surprises continued as we rode along the many scenic back roads around the Normandy coast. One might expect to see crosses and crucifixes at the wonderful old historic churches in the small country towns, and we



did, but the regular appearance along the roads of large crosses at rural road junctions and along fields and orchards was inspiring. I probably lost count at about a dozen. They were all well maintained and there was no sign of damage even though the French urban areas are well known for their extensive graffiti. They were a beautiful sight that kept smiles on our faces during long days in the bike saddle.

We visited the WWII American, British and German cemeteries near Omaha Beach and found each overwhelming in their subtle beauty and striking significance. Many of the bright white marble crosses in the American cemetery were marked with "Here Rests in Honored Glory, A Comrade in Arms, Known Only to God". This is significant when one reads the memorials around Omaha Beach where so many young men died fighting for the liberty of those they did not know. An earlier ride by Utah Beach brought Jim



close to Saint-Mere-Eglise, a well-known paratrooper's place of honor and the first place allied troops touched down on D-Day. One beautiful stained glass window there is adorned with images of paratroopers descending to earth with Mary and the infant Jesus looking on.

In the medieval city of Bayeux we were amazed at the large crowds visiting the "Liberty Tree" there in the courtyard of the Bayeux Cathedral. Talk



about outreach! It is hard to describe this massive sycamore tree and the "Lights of Liberty" light show that the French project on the tree each night. It describes with lights and music the six "phases" of French liberty and liberation right up to present day. More info on the Tree of Liberty at <http://www.demotix.com/news/5245448/lights-liberty-show-bayeux-attracts-thousands#media-5245291>. The video and audio can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWihqh8Uusw>

We visited the Bayeux Cathedral hoping to participate in mass (Jim misread the posted times!) but found instead organ music playing to a packed house. Hundreds of French citizens and visitors sitting quietly in the great hall intently listening to the main organ playing great French pieces. What was interesting was how no one there, to include the small children were on Smartphones, Game Boys or iPads and instead sat quietly listening and enjoying the moment. It is rare these days in America anyway where you can find that many people in one place who are not engrossed in places far away via a WI-FI signal. They were there, living in the moment. Refreshing indeed.

Some photos accompany this piece. If you have interest in such things, France may be your place. We were pleasantly surprised and plan to return.

# Boaz, Butterflies, & Blessings

By Wanda Munsey Juraschek

**Blessings** - The last of my five children got married in September, so among the many blessings I'll be counting this Thanksgiving is my new son-in-law, Mark, or as I like to call him - "Boaz". Like Hannah in days of old, I can proclaim with her, "For this son I prayed, and the Lord has granted my petition." (1 Samuel 1:27)

I think we all can identify with the story Jesus told of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-32. We can empathize with the wayward son as we ourselves have been received back "home" by our loving heavenly Father, when we repented of our sins and received God's grace. But for many of us, we can also identify with the heartbroken father in the story who watches one of his beloved children turn his back on his family and faith to wander and squander his life in the world. How many parents throughout history have spent countless hours on their knees praying for their "prodigal child" to come to their senses and return home? If you are one those parents, let me encourage you not to despair and to continue fighting for that child on your knees.

They say there's always one in every family. In my family it was my youngest daughter, Bethany. Smart, pretty, creative and headstrong, she has always marched to the beat of a different drummer and always had to do things HER way. Sometimes that turned out great and other times - not so great. After completing high school she struck out on her own. "Little Miss Independent" - I joked, but her dad and I worried and prayed - A LOT - for several years. So, it did not come as a huge surprise when she announced one Christmas that she was pregnant. Our family was very proud of her for rejecting all her "friends" advice to abort the child, and I was so pleased to see her siblings rally to support her decision to raise the child as a single mom by forming "Team Bethany". I had the privilege to be her birth coach and see her sweet, innocent son born.

God clearly had a plan and a purpose for this little person and it was wonderful to see right away how He used baby Simon in Bethany's life to turn her around. We witnessed her slowly return to the Lord, and watched her blossom and mature with the new responsibility of raising a child. First prayer answered.

**Boaz** - During this time, I was attending St. Pete's Wednesday Bible Study led by Bob Loker and Maggie Snyder using Paul Miller's superb study *Ruth: Love Redefined*. We learned that the *hesed* (covenant love) displayed by Naomi, Ruth and Boaz throughout their story is the kind of love God extends to His people and wants His people to extend to each other.

One of the ways Boaz exhibited *hesed* was willingly taking on the task of the *goel* or "kinsman redeemer" by



marrying Ruth, the childless widow of a deceased relative, to provide for her (& her mother-in-law) AND produce a child from that marriage to be raised as the heir of the deceased relative. That takes a *very* special kind of man.

...Just the kind of man I knew Bethany and Simon needed. The statistics of child abuse by step-fathers alarmed me, so I began praying for God to bring a *Boaz* into their lives - a man who would truly love BOTH Bethany and Simon. A man willing to raise another man's child as his own. Mark is just such a man...in fact, at one point I was a little concerned that he might love Simon more than he loved Bethany - that's how much he loves that little guy! Second prayer answered.

**Butterfly** - Since Bethany's father's death two years ago, she knew her wedding day would be bittersweet with his absence. It was sad to think all those special dad & daughter moments would not occur, like him walking her down the aisle and the special dad & daughter dance. Nevertheless, Bethany planned to incorporate her Dad into the day as much as possible: wearing a hollow cross that contained a lock of his hair, having his picture and a rose on his chair, playing a music video containing photos of her with her Dad while other family members danced with her in his honor.

But God had a sweet surprise planned for Bethany. Just as Bethany and Mark began exchanging their vows to each other a beautiful butterfly landed on Bethany's veil, just below her right shoulder. It stayed there through the vows and the entire scripture reading. And just as the reader said, "May God be with you," it flew away.





# Changing Your Mind Means Changing Your Brain Maps

By Dan Towery

Colossians 3:2 "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."

The processing areas where our brains do their mental work is called a "brain map." So what we pay attention to becomes important. If we pay attention to something new long enough we make a lasting impact on our brain map. Literally – our brains are physiologically changed and our brain maps are altered. That's because of a brain quality known as plasticity according to psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Norman Doidge in his book *The Brain That Changes Itself*.

Plasticity means the brain is

"...selectively refining its processing capacities to fit each task at hand...it doesn't simply learn; it is always learning how to learn...it is not an inanimate vessel that we fill; rather it is more like a living creature with an appetite, one that can grow and change itself with proper nourishment and exercise." P. 47

Due to "plasticity" our brains are dynamic

"...an endless war of nerves going on inside our brains ...in competition for cortical real estate...allocated according to the principle of use it or lose it..." p.59

Whether we call them bad habits, anger issues, "a drinking problem," inappropriate behaviors, or whatever, the result is that when we think or act in certain ways we hurt ourselves and others. Changing those bad habits or behaviors requires that we pay attention to something *different* or *act differently* long enough to establish a new brain map.

Unfortunately our emotions often block us from consistently making better choices. Emotions are the currency of the brain and drive all behaviors. So to change from one behavior to another we need enough reward or incentive to do something that may not necessarily "feel" good.

Ironically the brain supplies that reward or incentive by giving us a squirt of a neurochemical called dopamine whenever we achieve a goal. That neurochemical reward ensures that the new thought or behavior ...is repeated...hence a changed brain map...followed by a changed life.

Using theological terms we would say, "If one thinks differently or acts differently by faith over enough time, the neuroplastic brain God gave us cooperates and physiologically changes or brain!" Isn't it about time we started changing our minds by setting them on things above and watch and see how God rewards us with changed brain maps and changed lives?

***Struggle with anxiety, stress, anger or depression?*** Dan Towery will be offering a 4 hour **Seminar on Basic and Intermediate Mindfulness** on **Wednesday, November 4, 2015**, from **6-10pm**, at the Comfort Suites Leesburg. For more information and to register contact River-side Counseling Center 703-724-0200. Cost of registration after Oct.28 is \$115.

## TREE OF LIFE BENEFIT CONCERT



All proceeds will go to provide a Christmas meal and gifts for the children of needy families in our community.

*Featuring*

### THE FRANKLIN PARK BIG BAND

*Jazz Classics FROM THE SWING ERA*

**NOVEMBER 15TH ★ 3:00 p.m.**  
 Doors open at 2pm  
**Loudoun Valley High School**  
 40 N. Maple Ave. Purcellville, VA 20132  
 \$10/person, \$30 for family of 3 or more  
 Tickets sold at the door only

# Thankful Hearts

Make table decorations that serve as Thanksgiving conversation-starters.

## What you need:

- Paper and pencil
- Scissors
- Cloth or felt
- Needle and thread
- Sewing machine (optional)
- Fiber fill, cotton balls or rice
- Adult help

## What you do:

1. Cut out a heart pattern (any size) on paper. Allow 1/4" for a seam if you'll be using a sewing machine.
2. Cut out material hearts, placing pieces right sides out if sewing by hand and right sides together if using a machine.
3. For hand-sewing, use a running stitch or an overcast stitch. Leave an opening for stuffing.
4. With a machine, sew along a 1/4" seam, allowing a 1" opening so you can turn the heart inside out and insert stuffing. Trim close to seam but don't cut stitching.
5. Fill with stuffing. Sew the opening shut by hand.
6. Put a heart at each place setting. Before dinner, have guests pick theirs up and say why they have a thankful heart.



# With all my heart

This Thanksgiving — and every day — let's thank our heavenly Father for all he has done.

Directions: Write the capital letters in order on the lines below to complete Psalm 9:1, NIV.

I	a	W	I	d	L	d	L	G	e
I	f	V	g	h	E	c	T	H	y
A	a	g	N	K	c	m	S	n	T
h	O	q	Y	O	b	U	c	L	O
p	R	e	D	W	a	I	T	H	A
h	L	L	t	M	b	Y	d	H	E
A	R	b	T	d	I	W	I	f	L
g	L	T	E	b	L	c	L	O	J
F	z	A	L	y	L	Y	O	g	U
R	W	d	O	N	t	D	E	f	R
F	U	s	L	D	f	E	E	D	S

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ”

**PSALM 9:1, NIV**

Answer: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1, NIV

## Christmas Pageant 2015

The annual St Peter's Christmas Pageant is right around the corner! This special event is held every Christmas Eve at the 5:00 PM Service. We welcome all St. Pete's children to participate in the Pageant! **A meeting for interested kids and their parents will be held on Saturday morning, November 7th at 9:30 AM.** Please let Kathleen Voss know if you are able to attend. The meeting should last no more than one hour. We will discuss the various roles that are available, rehearsal schedules, etc. If you are interested in your child participating, but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Kathleen.







# St. Peter's NOVEMBER ROSTER 2015

		Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
LECTORS	Early	Kelly Wyatt	Muriel Truax	Drew Lavan	William Lawrence	Mark Baker
	Late	Kyle Voss	Eamon Coy	Shane Ayers	Traci Eddinger	Jon Corbett
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Sophiann Nunaley, Tanya Matthews	Terry Duhring, Tanya Matthews	Judy Hall, Sophiann Nunaley	Peter Schellhase, Terry Duhring	Judy Hall, Tanya Matthews
	Late	Dan LaPre, Randy Stoutenburgh	Dave Hunt, Dave Tocki	Tom Coate, Dan LaPre	Dan LaPre, Dave Tocki	Randy Stoutenburgh, Linda Stoutenburgh
SUB DEACON	Early	Buddy Andrews	Paul Donohue	Tim Hall	Buddy Andrews	Tim Hall
	Late	Linda Stoutenburgh	Lauren Hunt	Linda Stoutenburgh	Tom Coate	Dave Hunt
INTERCESSOR	Early	Dell Nunaley	Dell Nunaley	Terry Duhring	HL	NA
	Late	Parents	Shane Ayers	Traci Eddinger	HL	NA
ACOLYTES	Early	Joshua, Megan & Olivia Smith, James Nunaley	Kimberly & Colin Donohue, John Matthews	Adam & Eric Gibson, Mark Matthews, Hayes Baker	Aubrey & Addie Winger, Isabella Tucker	Joshua, Megan & Olivia Smith, James Nunaley
	Late	Dan LaPre, Lauren Hunt, Peter Forbes	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Henry Psaltos	Chris Hunt, George & Henry Simmons	Dan LaPre, Lauren Hunt, Peter Forbes	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Henry Psaltos
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Zan Shah, Alexis Didoha, Judy Didoha	Sonny & Mary Hoeltzel, Drew Lavan & Nancy Wise	Buddy & Sally Andrews, Mike & Maggie Snyder	Gary Simpson & Paula Reardon, Rick & Kelly Cockrill	Jim & Wynell Schatz, Bill & Beth Gibson
	Late	Bill & Renee Geiger, Marty & Erica Thompson	Jim & Maggie Heim, Paul & Sherri Kakol	Keith & Regina Brzozowsky, Ben & Anna Curtis	Sven Johnson & Pat Long, Billy & Nancy Dillon	Tom & Mary Coate, Jimmy & Traci Eddinger
USHERS	Early	Zan Shah, Dick Wilhelm	Bill & Beth Gibson	Rick & Kelly Cockrill	Paul Miller & Lauraine Landolt	Mark & Nancy Baker
	Late	Nick Psaltos, Tred Parry, Billy Dillon, Jimmy Eddinger	Eamon & Jenn Coy, Ben & Anna Curtis	The Clavelli Family	Mark & Katie McKinley, Marty & Erica Thompson	Susan Collins, Sandy Wehr, Steve & Anne Schultz
GREETERS	Early	Bill Gibson	Rebecca Smoot	Dell Nunaley	Bill Gibson	Mark Baker
	Late	Jae & Andrea Lee	Tom Coate	Traci Eddinger	Steve Schultz	Dave Tocki
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, Kelly Cockrill	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Una LaPre, Linda Turner, Justine Phelan, Mary Paul Jones	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Una LaPre, Linda Turner, Justine Phelan, Mary Paul Jones	Nancy Dillon, Judy Hall, Una LaPre, Linda Turner, Justine Phelan, Mary Paul Jones	Bobbie Wilhelm, Jean Kuhns, Ruth Ensor, Anna Curtis, Kat Clavelli Wynell Schatz

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!

## NOVEMBER Anniversaries and Birthdays

## ANNIVERSARIES:

11-1 Jimmy & Traci Eddinger  
 11-10 Howard & Linda Evans  
 11-17 Kent & Annie Bailey  
 11-18 Eckard & Keri Holdorf  
 11-21 Tanya & Joe Matthews  
 11-27 Jim & Jaqueline Whalen

## BIRTHDAYS:

11-2 Wynnell Schatz  
 11-4 Avery Coffey  
 11-5 Buckley Moore  
 11-6 Jane Mitchell-Baugh  
 11-7 Maggie Snyder  
 11-8 John Caulfield  
 11-9 Kathleen Voss  
 11-10 Esme Field  
 Marty Riddle

11-11 Pam Pierce-Johnston  
 11-12 Jean Kuhns  
 11-13 Daniel Ehrich  
 11-14 Peter Forbes  
 Katlyn Frichl  
 11-19 Ginny Jenkins  
 Jae Lee  
 11-21 Mark Baker  
 11-22 Katie Marsh  
 11-23 Joan Baldi

### Mark Your Calendar!

Nov. 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends  
 HOLY BAPTISM 10:30am  
 Nov. 3 Mission Team Mtg. 1:30pm  
 Planning Mtg. 7:15pm  
 Nov. 4 Questioning Evangelism Seminar 7pm  
 Nov. 7 Men's Breakfast 7am  
 Parish Work Day 8:30am  
 Christmas Pageant Mtg. 9:30am  
**Evensong** 5pm  
 Nov. 8 Pledge Ingathering  
 Altar Guild Mtg. 9:15am  
 Youth Group 4:30pm  
 Nov. 10 Vestry Exec Mtg. 6pm  
 Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Service 11:30am  
 Nov. 16 Mt. Calvary Guild 10am  
 Nov. 17 Vestry Mtg. 7:15pm  
 Nov. 19 TOL Dinner (*hosted by Women's Fellowship*)  
 Nov. 21 Men's Leadership Mtg. 7am  
 Literary Guild 5pm  
 Nov. 22 Newsletter Deadline  
 Healing Liturgy  
 Nov. 24 Pastoral Care Team Mtg 5pm  
 Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Together 12pm  
**Thanksgiving Prayer Service** 2pm  
 Nov. 28 Greening of the Church

join us for  
**CHORAL EVENSONG**  
 an evening of music, peace, and beauty  
**5:00 PM**  
**Saturday, November 7**

### Thank you for your contributions toward The United Thank Offering!



A check from St. Peter's for \$326.06 was presented at The Episcopal Church Women's 125 Anniversary & UTO Ingathering.

—Tamara Tyler,  
Mt Calvary Guild

## Revised Common Lectionary Readings for NOVEMBER

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
1	All Saints'	Isaiah 25:6-9	24	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
8	24 Pentecost	1 Kings 17:8-16	146	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
15	25 Pentecost	Daniel 12:1-3	16	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8
22	Last Pentecost	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	93	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
29	1 Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16	25:1-9	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36





# November

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 DST Ends <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> & HOLY BAPTISM Choristers & CS Bible Study	2	3 Mission Mtg  Planning Mtg.	4 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> MSSG Bible Study 1 Bible Study 2  Questioning Evangelism Seminar	5 Next Step Community  Choir	6	7 Men's Breakfast Parish Work Day Xmas Pageant Mtg  <b>EVENSONG</b>
8 Pledge Ingathering <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> Altar Guild Mtg SS & SF Classes Choristers & CS Youth Group Bible Study	9	10 Vestry Exec Mtg	11 Veterans Day <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> MSSG Bible Study 1 Bible Study 2	12 Next Step Community  Choir	13	14 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b>
15 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> SS & SF Classes Choristers & CS Bible Study	16 Mt. Calvary Guild	17 Vestry Mtg	18 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> MSSG Bible Study 1 Bible Study 2	19 TOL Dinner  Next Step Community  Choir	20	21 Men's Leadership Mtg  Literary Guild  <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b>
22 Newsletter Deadline <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> & Healing Liturgy SS & SF Classes Choristers & CS Bible Study	23	24 PC Team Mtg.	25 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> MSSG Bible Study 2	26 Thanksgiving Together Dinner  <b>Thanksgiving Worship Service</b>	27	28 Greening of the Church  <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b>
29 1 Advent <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> Choristers & CS Bible Study	30					

**KEY:** CS=Choral Scholars; MSSG=Men's Spiritual Support Group; PC=Pastoral Care; SF=Spiritual Formation Classes; SS=Sunday School; TOL=Tree of Life



MAILING ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 546  
Purcellville, VA 20134-0546

*Address Correction Requested*



## **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**37018 Glendale St., Purcellville, VA, 20132**

**540-338-7307      [www.stpetes.net](http://www.stpetes.net)**

Rector: The Rev. Thomas W. Simmons IV  
— [frtom@stpetes.net](mailto:frtom@stpetes.net)

Director of Music & Organist:  
Barbara Bulger Verdile — [musicd@stpetes.net](mailto:musicd@stpetes.net)

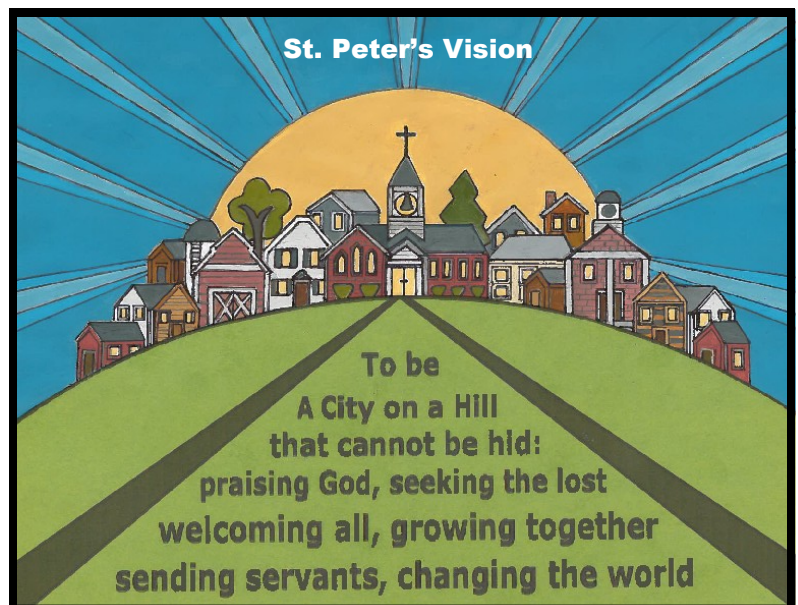
Director of Children's Ministries:  
Kathleen Voss — [dcm@stpetes.net](mailto:dcm@stpetes.net)

Youth Minister:  
Andrea Lee — [youth@stpetes.net](mailto:youth@stpetes.net)

Parish Administrator: Wanda Munsey Juraschek  
— [office@stpetes.net](mailto:office@stpetes.net)

Financial Administrator: Diane Adams  
— [bookkeeper@stpetes.net](mailto:bookkeeper@stpetes.net)

Sexton: Chris Daniels — [sexton@stpetes.net](mailto:sexton@stpetes.net)



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Editor: Wanda Munsey Juraschek      Newsletter email: [GoodNews@stpetes.net](mailto:GoodNews@stpetes.net)

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