



Ring in the **Good News**

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

February 2018

Purcellville, Virginia

Epiphany-Lent

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Teach me Your way



I will walk in Your truth



Two Moves in Lent

By Fr. Tom Simmons

This Lent, let's move together as a congregation to adopt two Lenten disciplines in February and March: 1) Let's move God-ward and 2) let's move Word-ward.

Moving God-ward.

There are many things in our world and hearts that draw us away from God. Our desires drive us to seek satisfaction in things other than God and our world eagerly supplies such distractions. Without conscious effort these can easily drown out our connection with God.

To help you (re)connect with our Lord this Spring, I'm offering a course on Wednesday nights designed to kindle your hearts in devotion and conversation with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It's called Closer to God in "The Shack," based on the New York Times best-selling novel and recent movie. *[See Box below on our Lenten Lesson Supper Series 2018]*

Moving Word-ward.

Part of the power of our world's distractions is their persuasive messages. God's people have struggled to discern the truth since the Garden. God offered the truth, which the Serpent subverted with cleverly packaged alternatives. The only difference now is the packaging has improved...dramatically. So has the delivery method... the pervasive glass screens of our phone, tablet, desktop and TV.

How are you and your kids going to tell the difference between God's way and the world's? There's really only one way...the old-fashioned way. You've got to study the Truth as God offered it in Holy Scripture. This year I offer a handy one-year reading plan. *[See facing page with Bible reading plan. See also "The Good Book Club" article on page 5.]*

BASED ON THE WORLDWIDE BEST SELLER

SAM WORTHINGTON OCTAVIA SPENCER TIM MCGRAW

THE SHACK

YOU'RE NEVER AS ALONE AS YOU THINK.

**Join us Friday, February 16, at 7pm
in McCray Hall, to watch The Shack.**

Lenten Lesson Supper Series 2018 *Closer to God in "The Shack"*

Based on a best selling novel, *The Shack* takes us on a father's spiritual journey. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips (played by Sam Worthington) spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his inmost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness.

Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers – all three members of the Trinity - led by Papa (played by Octavia Spencer). With them Mack finds truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

***The Shack* is a modern-day parable** that brings to life deep truths and illuminates the path for healing even in the face of loss. If you've wondered where God is in your pain, or even if God is there at all, *The Shack* presents an unforgettable encounter with a loving God who promises to never leave us.

Whether you are looking for faith, have lost faith along the way, or are strong in your faith but desire to trust God more deeply, this study is a place to start a conversation, wrestle with your questions, and explore life-changing answers.

In five sessions on Wednesday nights in Lent, we will view a clip of the film, study Scripture, and explore what it means for our life. This book and movie has a deep impact on me. I think you'll walk away changed people, too. **Join us, starting Feb. 21, for a Potluck Soup & Salad dinner at 6:30,** followed at 7 by a screening and discussion for teens and adults. Bring your kids for special program led by Kathleen Voss.

Wednesdays, Feb. 21—Mar. 21, Trillium Gathering Building—18915 Lincoln Rd., Purcellville

52 Week Bible Reading Plan

Week	Epistles (Sunday)	The Law (Monday)	History (Tuesday)	Psalms (Wednesday)	Poetry (Thursday)	Prophecy (Friday)	Gospels (Saturday)
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 1-2
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 4-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 3-4
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 6-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 12-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 5-7
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 12-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 18-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 8-10
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 16-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 23-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 11-13
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 20-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 29-33	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 14-16
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 24-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 18-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 34-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 17-19
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 28-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge 12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 21-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 40-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 20-22
9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 32-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 24-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 45-50	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 23-25
10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 36-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 27-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 51-55	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 26-28
11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 40-43	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 30-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 56-61	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1-2
12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 44-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 33-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 62-66	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 3-4
13	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 48-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 36-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5-6
14	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 39-41	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7-8
15	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 42-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 29-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9-10
16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 26-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 45-47	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 31-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11-12
17	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 48-50	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 33-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 22-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13-14
18	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 17-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 51-53	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 35-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 27-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 15-16
19	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 6-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 54-56	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 37-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 32-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1-2
20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 25-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 15-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 57-59	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 39-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 37-41	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 3-4
21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 29-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 20-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 60-62	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 41-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 42-46	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 5-6
22	<input type="checkbox"/> Gal 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 33-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 63-65	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 47-52	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7-8
23	<input type="checkbox"/> Gal 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 37-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 66-68	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 2-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 9-10
24	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 69-71	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 11-12
25	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 14-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 72-74	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 7-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13-14
26	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 19-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 75-77	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 13-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15-16
27	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 78-80	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 19-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17-18
28	<input type="checkbox"/> Col 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 81-83	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 25-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19-20
29	<input type="checkbox"/> Col 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 84-86	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 31-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21-22
30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 87-89	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 37-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23-24
31	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 90-92	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 43-48	<input type="checkbox"/> John 1-2
32	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Thes	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 25-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 93-95	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> John 3-4
33	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Tim 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 96-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan 7-12	<input type="checkbox"/> John 5-6
34	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Tim 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 99-101	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> John 7-9
35	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Tim 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 15-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 102-104	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 8-14	<input type="checkbox"/> John 10-12
36	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Tim 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 20-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 105-107	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel	<input type="checkbox"/> John 13-15
37	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 17-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 25-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 108-110	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Amos 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> John 16-18
38	<input type="checkbox"/> Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 111-113	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Amos 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> John 19-21
39	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 25-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 114-116	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 26-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1-2
40	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 29-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 117-118	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 3-4
41	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 33-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 119	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 29-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Micah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 5-6
42	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 120-121	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Nahum	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7-8
43	<input type="checkbox"/> James 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 25-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 122-124	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9-10
44	<input type="checkbox"/> James 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 29-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 125-127	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11-12
45	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Pet 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 33-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 128-130	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Haggai	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13-14
46	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Pet 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 131-133	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 15-16
47	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Pet	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 16-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 134-136	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah 8-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 17-18
48	<input type="checkbox"/> 1John 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 137-139	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Malachi	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 19-20
49	<input type="checkbox"/> 1John 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 140-142	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 21-22
50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2John	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 26-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 143-145	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 23-24
51	<input type="checkbox"/> 3John	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 29-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Esther 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 146-148	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 12-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 25-26
52	<input type="checkbox"/> Jude	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 32-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Esther 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 149-150	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 18-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 27-28

Lectio Divina

By Jon Coate

Four years ago I boldly struck out on a Lenten discipline of daily prayer. It didn't go well. If you're feeling poetic, you can picture it as the flight of Icarus, but this time his wings are made out of Doric columns. If sports analogies are more your speed, only the Cleveland Browns would suffice.

I made it to day two (if that) before I confronted an all-too-familiar anxiety: I'm pretty sure I'm listening, but I can't hear God. At the time I was sort of hoping for trumpets and thunder and pyrotechnics – once I hear those things, I'll know I'm hearing God and not just the gurgles from my own stomach. But no matter how much I tried to shut out the world and see myself before God's throne, I still heard nothing. I couldn't even imagine what He would say to me. And so, feeling frustrated, I gave up.

A few months later, I felt a little guilty about my lack of discipline, and I brought the matter up with my college chaplain. He suggested I try something called *Lectio Divina*, or "Divine Reading". If we're seeking the voice of God, where better to turn than His Word? Sometimes we're too quick to dismiss scripture as merely the written record of the stuff God has said in the past. St. Paul suggests a different view – he says that it is "alive and active". Jesus himself, the "Word made flesh" testifies to the notion that these are not just words on a page, but the very alive God, yearning to speak directly, *to you*.

This technique, *Lectio Divina*, has ancient roots going back all the way to the early church, and would eventually become an official discipline used by Benedictine monks. It is a four-step process, but one that slowly guides you from the written narrative towards the "Living Word" that God is trying to speak directly to you. I found this technique helped me, not only in developing a discipline of prayer, but in learning to recognize God's voice as well.

If you are seeking a discipline this Lent, and perhaps you want to hear God better, I hope this technique may be as helpful for you as it has been for me.

Lectio Divina

- **Prepare** – Find a quiet, comfortable space. Choose a short passage to read. I recommend working through a larger passage (such as one of the epistles, or Gospels), but breaking it down into "bite size" chunks for every session. Before you begin, spend a moment in prayer just to clear all the background noise and invite the Holy Spirit.

- **Step 1: Read** – Slowly read the passage through once, either silently or aloud. As you read, pay attention for a word, phrase, or concept within that stands out to you. Maybe something that convicts you, or inspires you, or maybe surprises you. Try not to get bogged down with intellectual understanding – if something confuses or bothers you, record the verse and look into it later. Focus on what God is trying to tell you now. Now slowly re-read the passage, keeping that phrase, word, or concept in mind. You may have a new or deeper understanding the second time through.

- **Step 2: Meditate** – Ponder what you read. Are there any truths that speak directly to you in your life? Maybe some truths you don't want to dwell on or have been avoiding? Consider the phrase, word, or concept that stood out to you – can you think of why it stood out? Don't worry about how long or short this takes – however long feels natural to you for what you feel you need to consider.
- **Step 3: Relate** – Once you have contemplated sufficiently, bring your thoughts to God. Tell God your thoughts, desires, concerns, what stood out to you. Ask for clarity, comfort, or confidence if needed.
- **Step 4: Contemplate** – God has heard you, and now be still in His presence. Relax in silence. Listen for Him. He is using His word to guide you. In this silence, seek His grace, His peace, His gentle guidance. Spend as long as you like in contemplation. Relax in the warmth of His loving care. Allow the Word you pondered earlier to sink in and shape you into the person God wants you to be. When you have sufficiently dwelled in God's goodness, you are finished. Praise God and thank Him for His Living Word!



God is a Gardener

By Michael Whitnah

God is a gardener.

Wait. What?!?

“Now the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east...The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.” Genesis 2.8-9.



When I picture God, I don't often picture Him kneeling the dirt, sleeves rolled up, dirt under His fingernails and smudged on His forehead where He wiped sweat out of His eyes. Carefully planting a garden...and an orchard.

I can't tell you how many times I read through the opening chapters of Genesis before I actually paid attention to that description of God. I think we often miss what's going on in the Bible because our vision is too narrow. We read Scripture like it's all about us. We like being the center of attention, the focal point of God's story. But when we do that, we run the risk of losing sight of the big picture. God is not part of our story; we are part of God's story. And His story is literally cosmic in scale. It's a story about the entire Creation. Of course, humans are a part of this Creation, and like the Gardener, we have responsibility to care for it.

We're going to be looking at how we care for Creation in a **new Adult Formation class starting on February 18th**. This class is not about climate change or “going green.” Instead, it's about telling God's story from a perspective that includes all of Creation. As we tell that story, we'll consider just how it is that we humans fit into that Creation. What's our job? How have we done at that job? What's God's ultimate plan? The answers may surprise you.

Join The Good Book Club

We love sequels, and Luke-Acts provides a wonderful two-part narrative. The Gospel of Luke tells the wondrous story of Jesus' birth, ministry, teaching, death, and resurrection. Acts picks up where Luke leaves off and tells the story of the earliest disciples through the lens of Peter and Paul and the real star of the show — the Holy Spirit. Written by the same author, the books are accessible, and the story is a page-turner!



The Good Book Club is an invitation from Forward Movement to all Episcopalians to join in reading the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts during **Lent-Easter 2018**. Episcopalians will start reading Luke on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, February 11, and read a section of Luke's Gospel every day through the season of Lent. The entire season of Easter will be devoted to daily readings from the Book of Acts.

The Good Book Club is free. You can download the reading list and read Luke and Acts at www.goodbookclub.org/readings/ or pick up a copy in St. Pete's entryway. Readers of *Forward Day by Day* (quarterly meditation booklet containing daily Bible readings which is also available in the entryway) can easily follow along, with Luke and Acts guiding the reflections during Lent-Easter 2018.

Since 1651 The Bible has often been referred to as “The Good Book”, since it contains the Good News. As Tim Keller explains, “the Bible is not just a diverse assortment of stories and materials, it altogether comprises a master narrative. ...God, the author of every part of the Bible, is also telling one overarching story about the real world he created. There is a basic plotline to which all the parts relate and which makes sense of all the pieces.” (Read more of his excellent article at: www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-story-of-the-bible-how-the-good-news-about-jesus-is-essential-tim-keller/)

Join the Good Book Club and discover (or re-discover) for yourself just how good the Good Book is!

From Forest to Floors

By Fr. Tom Simmons

It has been a delight to see the gradual transformation of our interiors at St. Peter's. In the summer of 2016 we remodeled the walls of McCray Hall, adding a touch of class, craft and color to what was a bare-bones cinderblock room. In summer 2017 the Incarnation Chapel got the same treatment, with walls wrapped in walnut and an icon of Christ in Glory. Beautiful!

Preparations are underway to advance that work in 2018. Gary Smith of Berryville, a friend of the church, has donated a giant white oak tree, which will, by the grace of God and "a little help from my friends," become flooring in the chapel, and up-front behind the altar rail. The work has already begun, as the pictures below proclaim. We have sawn the trunk into sections, transported and prepared them.



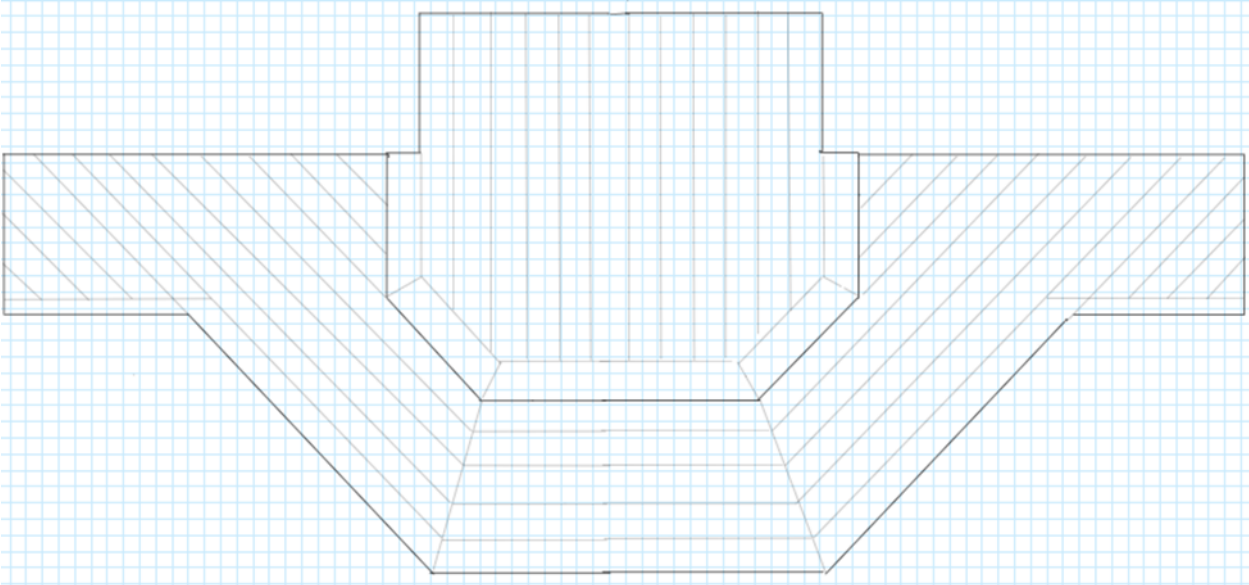
Jon Coate, Dan LaPre, & Woody Johnson giving the heave-ho to a ton-of-a-log.

Below: Prepping logs for the saw mill. The first three of our four trunk sections. The trailer container in the background is the drying kiln.



Continued from page 6

When the trunks are good and thawed, we will saw them into boards, kiln dry them till the spring, then plane and mill them into flooring. Then comes installation and finishing in the summer months. The results will be GLORIOUS! The sawing technique we will use is called quarter-sawing, which brings out the unique, natural beauty of white oak. Up front we will use the shape of the dais to create something beautiful, like what you see in the picture from the Virginia Theological Seminary Chapel.



A rough layout of the flooring behind the altar-rail. Quarter-sawn white oak boards with walnut edging.

We currently have \$3500 pledged to bring this vision to reality. We'd like to raise another \$5000+ to finish the job. Can you help beautify our space this year with either labor or funding?

Focus on Worship Assistants

"The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and His Church; to bear witness to Him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church." (*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 855)

During Epiphany we've been exploring some of the ways parishioners assist with the worship services at St. Peter's. We would love to have you join us. Contact Fr. Tom or one of those identified below.

Linda Stoutenburgh on assisting as a Lay Eucharistic Minister:

Let me tell you about the job of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers, or LEMs as we call them. LEMs are the people who serve the cup of Christ's blood to the congregation during communion. To serve as a LEM you need to be all least 16 years old, a baptized and confirmed member of the parish (or on track to be confirmed soon), and you need to be trained for the job. Training is a one-time session with me that takes under an hour.

You also need to be able to keep up with the monthly schedule, and when you are scheduled, to show up about 10 minutes before worship begins to get dressed for the job. Currently, LEMs are serving about two Sundays a month. But ideally, when we have a full roster each LEM will serve about once a month.

But more important than these nuts and bolts matters, is the question of why. Why consider taking up this service, beyond the fact that somebody has got to do it? Well, if we're to be the "City on a Hill" of our vision statement, to be the light of Christ to one another and to the community around us, then we need to ensure that we are keeping our own little lights, our own sparks of Holy Spirit fire, kindled and fed. Since our Sunday worship is an integral part of that feeding, then everything that contributes to making worship happen, is, in a way, part of our reaching out to the world.

And serving as a LEM is also a rather intimate way of reaching in and ministering to one another. It's Jesus' sacrifice, it's the blood of Christ, that's on offer during communion, but as a LEM, it's my hands that are an integral part of the transaction. It's I who get to look into each face of my fellows as we share Jesus' gift.

Serving as a LEM helps me to feel connected to a much broader part of this body – about half of those present on any given Sunday – rather than just the handful of my friends and closer acquaintances.

You don't need to be extra holy, or a super saint to serve as a LEM. Besides meeting the basic requirements, all you need is a desire to serve.



Dan LaPre on assisting as an Acolyte

"I will go unto the altar of God, even the God of my joy and gladness." If you have a desire to "go unto the altar of God" and serve Him there as an acolyte, please contact Dan LaPre. Children should be Middle or High school-ers. We also have an adult acolyte team, so those 18 and older are encouraged to consider joining us, as well.

Randy Stoutenburgh on assisting as a Lector or an Intercessor

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1). Speaking this Word to the people is the role of Lector.

If you enjoy reading scripture and feel compelled to speak the Word, being a **Lector** may be your calling. It requires very little training. You need to be familiar and comfortable with the assigned scripture before you step up to the lectern to read. The scripture will be sent to you several days ahead so you can get plenty of practice for the readings; old testament, psalm, and new testament. You can expect to be scheduled once every few weeks.

God has given us the incredible gift of scripture to share with the world. I've been a lector for many years, and I consider it an honor to give voice to the Word of the Lord.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

The **Intercessor** leads the Prayers of the People. The prayers are presented to the Lord on behalf of the congregation, and the congregation is invited to add prayers for their own special needs, concerns and blessings.

Prayer is the way we connect and talk with the Lord. We all pray individually for our own needs and the needs of our friends and loved ones, and we know the power of prayer. I believe that power is strengthened by leading the whole congregation in prayer together.

The role of Intercessor requires very little training other than learning the prayer format and perhaps some pronunciation of names. As with the lector reading, a copy of the prayers will be sent to you several days ahead of time so you can become familiar with them. Again, you can expect to be scheduled once every few weeks.

Serving as Intercessor has helped me grow in my own prayer life. I feel more comfortable speaking to the Lord one on one, as well as offering prayers on the behalf of others.

YOUTH SNOW TUBING

We'll be driving up to Whitetail Resort for an afternoon of snow tubing for about 2 hours, and then getting pizza on our way back to St. Pete's. [We will need some chaperones for this one - if you are available and able to drive, please let Jon know ASAP.]

When:

Saturday, Feb. 10. 1-7:30pm

Where:

Leaving from St. Pete's to Whitetail Resort

Cost: \$30 per person + money for dinner (\$10-15)

Contact: Jon Coate



*Dads—It's time for a
Date Night with your Daughter!
And what better opportunity is
there than Valentine's?!*

*This year, since the feast of St.
Valentine's coincides with Ash
Wednesday... which isn't the best
day for a dance party...*

*St. Peter's is hosting a
Dad & Daughter Dance
in partnership with
Good Shepherd School on
Saturday, February 3
6:30-9:00 PM, in McCray Hall
Come, be part of the fun!*

*Suggested attire for girls is party
wear with comfortable shoes.
For men, shirt and tie.
All fathers and daughters
Kindergarten age and up are
invited.*

Contact:
Tait
Simmons



Guatemala Missions

By Bob Loker

During our stay in Guatemala in June, the St. Peter's Mission Team will be donating and assembling a 12 foot x 16 foot, corrugated metal house on a concrete slab for an impoverished rural Guatemalan family presently living in a house with cane or cornstalk walls and a dirt floor. Iglesia del Camino, the church we are supporting, has a vision to build 1,000 homes in the Department of Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, targeting families that are stuck in life due to circumstances and situations beyond their control.



We may consider the house we build as simply four walls and a roof over a concrete slab, but for the recipient family in Guatemala, it is much more. Having these four walls means having someplace they are proud to call home. Someplace where the rivers from the rain runoff do not run through their homes and under their beds. Someplace where they can function and not be hindered by the elements or be fearful for security. The house will come equipped with a bunk bed, an efficient wood burning stove, a water filter, solar lighting kit, two windows and a door. It will also come with a housewarming gift of \$100 in food.

It will give the family the means to sleep off the floor. It will give them the means to cook their food without smoke inside their home. And they will not have to boil their water first to drink it. It will also give them the means to function in their home after the sun goes down. The metal house design doesn't sweat in climate change and has proven to be comfortable inside in either hot or cold climates outside. Four walls and a roof over a concrete slab that can make all the difference in the world.

The cost of this home will be approximately \$2700. If we add a roof extension to cover a small outside sheltered area, it will be a bit more. In past years we have invited St. Peter's to support our mission by providing personal, medical and clothing supplies. We are glad to receive these items to carry down with us but this year we are inviting you to donate to our housing fund to provide a dry and secure dwelling for a needy family. Checks may be made out to St. Peter's Church with the notation "Guatemala Discretionary Fund".

Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

The 2018 Guatemala Mission Team is also collecting hard (not gummy) chewable children's vitamins. Look for the collection box in McCray Hall or contact Charlene Lane

Update from Bob Loker currently serving with HOPE FOR HOME in Guatemala

I have just finished my second week in Guatemala and I am beginning to feel more comfortable fitting into the routine at Hope for Home. Also, I have been surprised by how much time I have been spending on the road. Last week I was asked by another ministry to spend a couple of days in Chichicastenango, a rural highlands town, doing some interpreting at Hospital Buen Samaritano. Also, this week I spent two days on the road with the Hope for Home "four wheels ministry" serving very poor families in rural areas with health related needs. Hope for Home visits over 150 families monthly providing wheelchairs, medicines, formula and other supplies. They distribute hundreds of custom wheelchairs. Long, hard days but fruitful. Many tears and hugs from grateful recipients, also heartfelt prayers thanking God for his provision. How great it is to be a small part of this!



To Look After Orphans

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. – James 1:27

After steadily declining between 2005 and 2012, the number of children in foster care jumped 8% nationally, to 428,000 between 2012 and 2015. The opioid epidemic accounts for much of that increase. Did you know that there are over 800 children in the state of Virginia alone that are available for adoption? 800 children without a father or mother. 800 children without a place they can call home—their home. 800 children wondering, “Does anybody love me?” Surely, this breaks God the Father’s heart. “*For in You the fatherless find compassion.*” (Hosea 14:3b)

For the approximately 20,000 children who every year “age out” of the foster system, which means that states fail to reunite them with their families or place them in permanent homes, the outlook is bleak. They are far less likely to finish high school or go to college. Around 60% of the boys and half the girls end up in jail. Perhaps your family is able to adopt one or more of these children, but even if you are not in that position, consider lifting at least a couple of them up in prayer each day. A few minutes of your day can make a powerful impact on a child's day and life.

There is a website where you can see pictures and profiles of the children:

www.adoptuskids.org/states/va/browse.aspx. Each case has a recent picture of the child(ren) and a profile describing them a little. During your daily devotions, you could read a profile and pray for the next one or two children on the list.

After reading the profile, you can be very specific in your prayers for each one. Some simple prayers to consider:

- Pray for the child's day and that they would be encouraged.
- Pray for strength and peace as they wait for their forever family.
- Pray that any sibling sets would be able to stay together in their permanent home.
- Pray for the child's current foster family that they would have wisdom in guiding them in the short term.
- Pray that a family would be willing to open up their hearts and homes soon to bring them in permanently.
- Most importantly, pray that each child would be introduced to the God who made them and that they would feel His love each day.

Whether you adopt, provide foster care, pray, or contribute financially to St. Peter's outreach and missions to orphans globally, your loving actions reveal God's heart to the world.

***“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families ...”*** (Psalm 68:5-6)



heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	O	J	F
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H

" _____ "

E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T

A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O

_____ "

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



St. Peter's February Serving Schedule

		Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
		5 Epiphany	Last Epiphany	1 Lent	2 Lent
SUB DEACON	Early	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah
	Late	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah	Michael Whitnah
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Sophiann Nunaley, Jaq Whalen	Buddy Andrews, Terry Duhring	Tim & Judy Hall	Tanya Matthews, Jaq Whalen
	Late	Dave Hunt, Lauren Hunt	Randy & Linda Stoutenburgh	Tom Coate, Dan LaPre	Dave Hunt, Jonathan LaPre
LECTOR	Early	Dell Nunaley	Kelly Cockrill	Mark Baker	Paul Donohue
	Late	Mark McKinley	Liz Tuohy	Jon Corbett	Traci Eddinger
INTERCESSOR	Early	Paul Donohue	Terry Duhring	Dell Nunaley	NA
	Late	Traci Eddinger	Marty Thompson	Jon Coate	NA
ACOLYTES	Early	Aubrey & Addie Winger, James Nunaley, Colin Donohue	Adam & Eric Gibson, Mark Matthews	Josh, Megan, & Olivia Smith, John Matthews	Aubrey & Addie Winger, James Nunaley, Colin Donohue
	Late	George & Henry Simmons, Lexi Eddinger, Claire Falatko	Jonathan LaPre, Grace Falatko, Scarlett Daly	Dan LaPre, Jon Coate, Lauren Hunt	George & Henry Simmons, Lexi Eddinger, Claire Falatko
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Paul Miller & Laurraine Landolt POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Drew Lavan & Nancy Wise POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Joe & Tanya Matthews POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Tony & Melissa Miske POTLUCK FINGER FOOD
	Late	Tom & Mary Coate POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Ron Clark & Theresa Beeton POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Jen Casey & Jane Navarro POTLUCK FINGER FOOD	Tucker & Rachael Holmes POTLUCK FINGER FOOD
USHERS	Early	Todd & Pam Johnston	Paul Miller & Laurraine Landolt	Zan Shah, Dick Wilhelm	Mark & Nancy Baker
	Late	Steve & Anne Schultz	Keith & Regina Brzozowsky	Billy Dillon & Bob Ryan	Jim Heim & Jimmy Eddinger
GREETERS	Early	Ron Clark	Rebecca Smoot	Bill Gibson	John & Debby Caulfield
	Late	Traci Eddinger	Jim Heim	Debi Parry	Steve Schultz
TELLERS		Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Howard & Linda Evans	Jim & Maggie Heim	Steve & Sally Falatko
ALTAR GUILD		Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Chris Lafferty, Patty Costantino, Rebecca Smoot, Sharon Purnell	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill, Theresa Beeton	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill, Theresa Beeton	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Laurraine Landolt, Jane Mitchell-Baugh, Kelly Cockrill, Theresa Beeton

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!

February Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

2-25 Tom & Tait Simmons

BIRTHDAYS

2-1 Scarlett Daly
John Matthews
Megan Smith
2-2 Bobbie Wilhelm
2-6 Chris Lafferty
Dell Nunaley
2-8 Gail Donohue
2-11 Rick Tyler
2-13 Mary Barratt
Sally Falatko
Ann Neely
Marsha Price
2-14 Deana Czaban
2-18 Catherine Cockrill
Dylan Ramey
2-20 Mark McKinley
2-21 Miki Casey
John Sleeter
2-23 Sarah O'Neil
2-24 Randy Stoutenburgh
2-26 Kelly Cockrill
2/27 Kristin Coate

Mark Your Calendar!

Feb. 3 Men's Breakfast 7am
Father-Daughter Valentine Dance 6:30pm
Feb. 6 Vestry Ministry Mtg. 7pm
Feb. 10 Youth Tubing Trip 1pm
Feb. 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:00pm
Vestry Exec Mtg 8pm
Feb. 14 **Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist 7am**
Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist 12pm
Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist 7pm
Feb. 16 Movie: *The Shack* 7pm
Feb. 17 Men's Leadership Mtg. 7am
Feb. 18 *Newsletter Deadline*
Youth Group 7pm
Feb. 20 Vestry Mtg. 7pm
Feb. 21 Lenten Lesson Supper Series 6:30pm
Feb. 23 Youth Movie Night 7pm
Feb. 25 Healing Liturgy
Feb. 28 Pastoral Care Team Mtg. 4pm
Lenten Lesson Supper Series 6:30pm

Mardi Gras—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

St. Peter's Acolytes invite you to join them for a pancake dinner with all the fixings on

Tuesday, February 13
6:00 PM in McCray Hall

Also—Games, music, dancing, a parade, the crowning of the King and Queen of the day, and the **Burning of the Palms** in preparation for **Ash Wednesday**.

This is a free will offering fundraiser for the Acolytes








Masquerade costumes welcome and encouraged!



Revised Common Lectionary Readings for FEBRUARY

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
4	5 Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
11	Last Epiphany	2 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
18	1 Lent	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
25	2 Lent	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	22:22-30	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Next Step Community	2	3 Men's Breakfast HOLY EUCHARIST Father-Daughter Valentine Dance
4 HOLY EUCHARIST SS & CF Classes Bible Study Youth Group	5 Bible Study	6 Vestry Ministry Mtg.	7 HOLY EUCHARIST	8 Next Step Community	9	10 Youth Snow Tubing Trip HOLY EUCHARIST
11 HOLY EUCHARIST SS & CF Classes Bible Study	12 Bible Study	13 <i>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner</i>  Vestry Exec Mtg	14  ASH WEDNESDAY HOLY EUCHARIST & Imposition of Ashes	15 Next Step Community	16 Movie Night 	17 Men's Leadership Mtg. HOLY EUCHARIST
18 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> HOLY EUCHARIST Bible Study Youth Group	19 Bible Study	20 Vestry Mtg	21 HOLY EUCHARIST  Wednesdays Lenten Lesson Supper Series	22 Next Step Community	23  YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT	24 HOLY EUCHARIST
25 HOLY EUCHARIST & Healing Liturgy SS & CF Classes Bible Study	26 Bible Study	27	28 HOLY EUCHARIST PC Team Mtg  Wednesdays Lenten Lesson Supper Series			

KEY: PC=Pastoral Care; SF=Spiritual Formation Classes; SS=Sunday School



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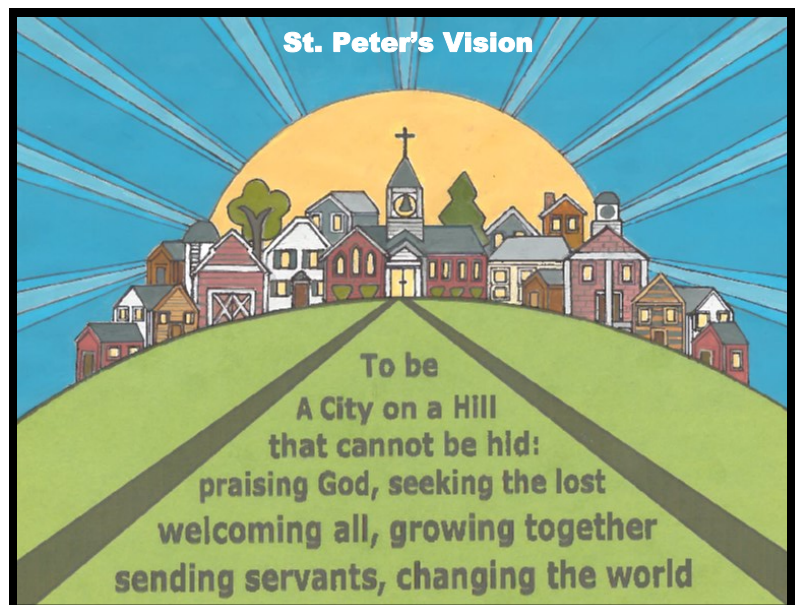
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