



For Pete's Sake!

The newsletter of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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Thanks.....Giving
November/December 2015
Vicar Christopher Beasley



This week we will celebrate Thanksgiving and it occurs to me that it is uniquely a day of great faith. In fact, it makes no sense outside the context of our faith. In Deuteronomy 8, the people of Israel are about to enter into the Promised Land. It was a land flowing with milk and honey. It was a land on which they would experience many blessings from the Lord. Now there was a great danger in this prosperity. It was the danger of forgetfulness. They faced the danger of thinking they reached prosperity all on their own.

We, too, make much of being self-made people. Rugged individualism is the foundation of our country. It is part of what makes us great. There is much positive in being self-made. You are not a burden to anybody. What you have is the result of the labor of your hands and the creativity of your mind. But there is one danger. Pride. The thought that we made it all on our own.

Only in the power and strength that God gives do we have what we own or possess. A person of faith can not affirm him or her self as self-made. We know that it is God who made us what we are. It is God who provides us the power, strength, and wisdom to obtain a living for ourselves. It is God, ultimately, who gives us all we have.

As people of faith, our lives are a celebration of Thanksgiving for what God has done for us. Thanksgiving should show us that our lives are a constant affirmation that "the Lord has done great things for us and we're glad indeed." Thanksgiving should call us to something more.

"THE UNMOTIVATED ARE NOTORIOUSLY INVULNERABLE TO INSIGHT."

The above quotation is from Edwin Friedman, rabbi, author, and pioneer in the field of family therapy and a systems approach to counseling. His comment about the short-sightedness of those who live life in a static mode is part of the preface in a book called *Dancing with Dinosaurs* by William Easum.

The basic premise of Mr. Easum's book, as you might guess, is that before long many of our Christian congregations will be perceived as "cuddly, sentimental creatures who will be studied primarily as skeletons in the halls of a museum." Easum's premise, from the perspective of the statistical information on church growth, attendance and financial giving released by the Episcopal Church for the year 2014, deserves our attention. We, along with other mainline denominations, are in danger of becoming dinosaurs – disappearing from the landscape unless we address what many are calling out-dated programs and messages that no longer make sense in a 21st century world.

In his book, Easum argues that while the substance of the Gospel will not be changed as we make this shift, we must change the way that we package and proclaim that gospel.

There is much I agree with in his book, and for me, Easum's insight, coupled with my study of the "emerging church" is like a gauntlet thrown in my path. Which leads me to ask the following of you during this Advent season.

As you anticipate and embrace our annual celebration of the Incarnation, give yourself a gift. Ask yourself these critical questions: Is my journey with Christ on track? Has my faith continued to grow over the last year, five years, ten years, or more? If not, why not?

Secondly, how has the church supported my life in Christ? If it hasn't, where has it fallen short? Are St. Peter's worship, preaching, teaching, music, outreach, and evangelism efforts relevant to the community we live in? If not, why not?

The bottom line, my sisters and brothers, is not, do we need to change, but how do we need to change? The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a static one. It is as vibrant today as it was 2000 years ago. Our mission as servants of Christ is to constantly assess the assumptions of the past in light of the needs of today. There is no better time to do that than on the eve of Christ's birth.

So, how are we doing? How are you doing? Are we and you treading water, biding our time, on hold, waiting for something to happen? During 2016, we will release our St. Peter's 2020 Plan which will be our guide for the future and in doing so, we'd love to hear from you! So, how are we doing?

Merry Christmas, God bless you and remember you are loved!

Paz, Christopher+



Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive faithful pastors, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, p. 818)

Christopher's Schedule

It seems that each month there is a slight change to my schedule and December is no different. Basically the office will not be open on Thursdays in December. On 10 December, I will be attending the Clergy Ember Day. I will be attending Fresh Start on Thursday, 17 December (I will be in the office late that day). The office will be closed on 24 December in preparation for Christmas Eve Services that evening. The office will also be closed on 31 December.

Sunday School

During Advent, the children will start in the front row of the worship area nearest the Advent Wreath. There will be a couple minutes of talking about the meaning of the candle we light on that day, as well as the singing of the Advent song.

Sunday school teachers are encouraged to sit with the children to keep them focused and lead them to the classroom afterwards. As the children are being dismissed, the congregation will take a couple minutes in silence to prepare for our worship.

Bishop's Committee DATE CHANGE

The next meeting of the Bishop's Committee will be held on Tuesday, 15 December at 6:30pm in the library.

YAC Updates

The Yarn and Crafts (YAC) group meets once or twice each month, sharing fellowship time and usually working on a project for an upcoming event.

This month, the group will meet on 3 December for a light dinner at 5:45pm and then will work on preparing the items for St. Nicholas Day.

If you have an idea for something or would like to plan an activity, let our Social Chair, Sandra Dailey know!

Advent Resources

On 29 November, make sure you pick up one of the new Advent posters that will be available in the Gathering Area. These posters provide a daily reminder of what the Advent season is about and how we can prepare ourselves and our world for Christ's coming again.

In addition, we will have a limited number of Advent Calendars for families to take home and use in conjunction with their wreaths. One Advent Calendar per family, please.

Blessing of the Crèche Figures

Please bring your favorite piece from your home crèche to participate in this blessing service during the service on Advent 4 (20 December).

No need to bring all the pieces, just one or two will do!



Blue Christmas

As we did last year, St. Peter's will host the Blue Christmas service for the greater community on Sunday, 20 December at 3:30pm. This is a community wide event that is open to anyone.

The days approaching Christmas can be the darkest of all days. We yearn for a world of joy, yet our spirit is troubled and unresponsive. Those of us who are missing loved ones, mourning the end of relationships, or finding ourselves with seasonal depression, ask, "Where is God in all of this?"

God is here with your sorrow. God is here with your depression. God is here with your anger. God is here with your feeling out of sorts. Emmanuel – God with us. Join us for a quiet and reflective service Christmas service.

Invite friends who are having difficulty during this season of the year to attend the service with you.

→ *Offer to pick them up so they don't have to walk into the church as a stranger.*



Monthly Family Night

Due to Christmas Eve, *for this month* we will gather on **Thursday, 17 December** at 6pm for Evening Prayer followed by Holy Eucharist. The service will have no music and we will be using the readings from *Holy Women, Holy Men* to guide us. The service should last no more than thirty minutes.

After the service, please plan to join Shelbi Fortner and others making gingerbread houses for the holidays.

There will be pizza and movies. Everything has been preassembled for the houses, with a variety of decorating options. Invite – and bring - your friends and let them see the fun things we are doing here at St. Peter's!

It's Holiday Shopping Time!

Do you Goodsearch?

Most of us use our computers to do searches for things we want to look up. What if we could use that same curiosity AND raise money for St. Peter's? We have been accepted as an approved charity through the Goodsearch/Goodshop family of websites.

Register for a free account at www.goodsearch.com by selecting "St. Peter's Episcopal Church" as the cause

you want to support and then, instead of going to Bing or Google for your searches, do all your searching at www.goodsearch.com (the search engine is powered by Yahoo). Set Goodsearch up on your work computers, phones, and tablets and let the money start accumulating. We receive \$.01 per search. So 5 searches by 10 people a day equates to about an extra \$200 for St. Peter's.

After registering for Goodsearch, you can use the sister site, **Goodshop**. Connect through Goodshop to do your online shopping at [Amazon](http://Amazon.com), [Target](http://Target.com), [Staples](http://Staples.com), [online florist companies](http://online.florist.companies.com) and over 5000 retailers. A portion of the proceeds are donated to St. Peter's. With the holidays coming up, it is an easy way for the church to receive a little of the money that we will be spending anyway!

For questions, see Fr. Christopher.

Goodshop will be offering DOUBLE DONATIONS on all shopping done online on Sunday, 29 November. If you are planning to buy online, try to plan your shopping to this day, so that you get twice the amount of a donation for your purchases!

Seeking Bishop's Committee Members

Each year, as put forth in the bylaws, the Bishop's Committee is charged to receive those names of individuals who wish to be nominated for election to the Bishop's Committee. Individuals desiring to be nominated should make it known on or before 17 January 2016.

No experience is necessary to be a member of the Bishop's Committee, but to be eligible you must be a lay member in good standing, 18 or more years of age, not a member of the household of a current Bishop's Committee member, be a good representative of the mission of St. Peter's, faithfully attend parish functions, worship services, encourage and support parish members in mutual ministry, and be willing to work with other members of the Bishop's Committee.

We will elect two new members for a three year term at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, 24 January 2016.

When Need Arises

If you need to get a hold of Christopher+, you may call the parish phone at 482-2322. Messages are checked at least once per day (excluding Friday).

At any time, you may contact Christopher+ on his cell phone at 765.602.1129 or by email at crb0311@aol.com. He is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am to 5pm. His Sabbath day is Friday.



Outreach

During November, we put together two large baskets of food for families to enjoy a complete Thanksgiving Dinner.

We will be working with St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Zionsville on collecting shoeboxes of gifts for children (up to grade 3) at Hattie Stokes Elementary here in Lebanon. We will gather all items at the church by 6 December.

You can bring in items individually, or shoeboxes pre-filled, or donate cash to the event. St. Francis has requested the follow items for the shoeboxes:

School Supplies, Reading Books, Hygiene Items (toothbrushes, personal hand sanitizers), T-shirts, socks, hats, gloves/mittens, winter hats, scarves, hair clips, small toys (again that will fit in shoebox), candy, gum, key chains, carabiners (with something to hang on them), flashlights (with batteries and extra batteries).

We will continue to collect canned goods for donation to The Caring Center on the third Sunday of the month. Please bring a couple items with you to church on 20 December.

Thank you to your generosity during the "Time Change" Change Bucket on All Saints Day. We were able to send an extra \$60 to the diocese to be used for the Episcopal Fund for Human Need in this diocese.

Electronic Evangelism

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (Mark 16:13)

You know, when Jesus said to go out and spread the good news, he wasn't just talking about the apostles and those that would follow in ordained ministry. He was talking to all of us. He was saying, "Hey, folks, Christianity is not a spectator sport! Get out there and share the Good News about God's love."

Pretty intimidating concept! To say that getting out there and "stumping for Jesus" is a little out of our comfort zone would be a vast understatement! So we do our best within our little circles, whether it be welcoming a newcomer to St. Peter's or telling a friend about our wonderful church home, perhaps inviting a friend to join you one Sunday or maybe it's the complimentary tickets to one of our many events.

All great, but did you know there are a number of other easy ways you can help others along their journey of faith and reach many more people than you can ever imagine, people you have never met, and do so in a way that is well within your comfort zone, doing things many of you do every day...perhaps with one click of your mouse?

Welcome to the 21st Century and what is often called "Electronic Evangelism."

What do I mean by "Electronic Evangelism?" In the simplest terms, it is using the Internet and its communication and sharing tools to spread the Good News. Now there are lots of forms that this can take, but for purposes of this discussion, I will focus on simply pointing the folks that we know (and the folks that they know and the folks that those people know, etc.) to St. Peter's.

How do we do that? The key to that is to first become familiar with St. Peter's presence on the Internet. This is represented by our soon to be enhanced and expanded website: and our Facebook page (which can be reached from the website). Both the website and the Facebook page have been recently expanded to present to the visitor all the wonderful aspects of our warm and welcoming church home, including many pictures and even some (and soon to be more) video.

It's our hope that when someone, who is looking for a new place to worship and perhaps even return to church, visits these sites, they see in St. Peter's what they are looking for and consider visiting.

So what can you do to spread the Good News? Taking a page out of the David Letterman playbook (minus his sharp humor), here are ten ways you can easily "evangelize" right from your computer (or smartphone):

1. Send a link to our website in an email. Make it part of your signature line!
<http://www.weseegodinyou.org>
2. "Like" the St. Peter's Facebook page (a little electronic "thumbs up") This is also a good idea because once you do this, you will continue to get notifications of updates and posts on the St. Peter's Facebook page. Hopefully, everyone at St. Peter's with a Facebook account will "like" St. Peter's.
3. Post a link to the Newsletter on an update on your Facebook page. This is an amazing document and it should be shared with many!

4. "Like" or comment on a specific Facebook post, event, photo, video from our Facebook page.
5. "Tweet" a like to our website (for those of you with some Twitter followers).
6. Write a recommendation on our Facebook page.
7. Write a review of St. Peter's on Google reviews or Insider Pages. To see what I am talking about there, go to Google and put in "St. Peter's Lebanon". You will see that up on the right there is a reference to these reviews (there is only one there now).
8. Re(tweet) one of Fr. Christopher's tweets. Okay, I will work on that!
9. Here's an old fashioned way: Tell someone to check out our website (weseegodinyou.org or weseegodinyou.com or weseegodinyou.net). If you think they won't remember the address, just tell them to Google "St. Peter's Lebanon." (Remind them we are not in Wisconsin.)
10. Get your kids and grandkids, especially the ones away at college to do some of the steps above. After all, they are not only the most technical and actually understand all this, but they also have the biggest networks of connections. (But the best part is that it keeps them connected with St. Peter's.)

You know when you think about it, the teachings of Jesus were probably the first thing to go "viral" and that was all word of mouth. Perhaps with the help of a little technology we can make an impact with someone well beyond our own social circles.

Our Facebook page now has 117 "likes." The link is <https://www.facebook.com/Weseegodinyou>.

Updates on the Bees

Plans are underway for the Apiary in 2016 and its expansion. We will double the size of our corral in 2016 to accommodate two new hives, the Mary and Martha hives.

Grants are currently being explored that would allow us to have an "observational hive" in the middle section of Blackwell Hall. Using one of the existing window spots we would be able to see a live working hive without having to suit up. It was Queen Elizabeth

I who said "I have no desire to make windows into men's souls", but she didn't utter anything about beehives! Perhaps this will be the Elizabeth hive?

We also plan to do work next year on the middle section of Blackwell Hall to prepare it as a place to purchase our honey and other educational opportunities related to the bees. Stay tuned for more details.



Photo courtesy of FreeImages.com

Thank You...

♥ Thanks to everyone who generously donated food above and beyond the requested items for the two Thanksgiving baskets for families in need.

♥ Thanks to Sandy Dailey, who wonderfully organizes our family fellowship time each month after the service of Evening Prayer. She is also a great Bingo caller!

♥ Thank you to Matt Fortner, Elli Fortner, Kate Fortner, Lucy Fortner and Jacob South-Beasley for being the readers at our Children's Sunday Liturgy.

♥ Thanks to *you* for your generosity in supporting our mission and ministry at St. Peter's.

♥ Submit a "thank you" in the offering plate and we will list it in future editions of *For Pete's Sake*.

Guest Clergy at St. Peter's this Month

On 22 November, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne was our Guest Preacher. He also spoke at our Adult Forum, telling about the new congregation of Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Brownsburg, where he is the Church Planter.

Blessings

December Birthdays

2	Judith Gorham
5	Carol Gorham Nathaniel Gorham
6	Michele Gorham
11	Rick Gorham
13	Cherie Donaldson
18	Amy Gorham
20	Diana Halstead
29	Will Buchanan



Gratitude, like faith, is a muscle. The more you use it, the stronger it grows, and the more power you have to use it on your behalf. If you do not practice gratefulness, its benefaction will go unnoticed, and your capacity to draw on its gifts will be diminished. To be grateful is to find blessings in everything. This is the most powerful attitude to adopt, for there are blessings in everything. ~Alan Cohen

Ministry Team Schedule, 2015 - 2016

If you cannot serve on the Sunday assigned, please arrange for a substitute.

	12.06	12.13	12.20	12.24	12.27
Altar Server	Dorothy Kelley	Diana Halstead	Debra Hartsock	Dorothy Kelley	Diana Halstead
Thurifer	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jason Fortner	N/A
Reader	Norma Sanders	Jason Fortner	Carol Ann Webb	Chuck Dailey	Debra Hartsock
Intercessor	Lindsey Dickerson	Carol Ann Webb	Lindsey Dickerson	Carol Ann Webb	Lindsey Dickerson
Usher	Jason Fortner	Chuck Dailey	Andy Hartsock	Gary Sanders	Dorothy Kelley
Altar Guild	Carol Ann Webb	Dorothy Kelley	Jason Fortner	Carol Ann Webb	Jason Fortner
Sunday School	Shelbi Fortner	Sandy Dailey	Shelby Fortner	N/A	Children's Sunday
Coffee Hour	Kent South & Christopher+	Eric Mohringer & Bob & Cherie Donaldson	Jason and Shelbi Fortner	Coffee only after the service	Volunteer Needed

	01.03	01.10	01.17	01.24	01.31
Altar Server	Debra Hartsock	Dorothy Kelley	Diana Halstead	Debra Hartsock	Dorothy Kelley
Reader	Andy Hartsock	Norma Sanders	Jason Fortner	Carol Ann Webb	Chuck Dailey
Intercessor	Lindsey Dickerson	Lindsey Dickerson	Carol Ann Webb	Lindsey Dickerson	Carol Ann Webb
Usher	Jason Fortner	Chuck Dailey	Andy Hartsock	Dorothy Kelley	Gary Sanders
Altar Guild	Dorothy Kelley	Jason Fortner	Carol Ann Webb	Dorothy Kelley	Jason Fortner
Sunday School	Shelbi Fortner	Sandy Dailey	Shelby Fortner	Children's Sunday	Sandy Dailey
Coffee Hour	Kent South & Christopher+	Eric Mohringer & Bob & Cherie Donaldson	Volunteer Needed	Pitch-in – Annual Meeting	Carol Ann Webb

Please be praying for...

Kalpana Acharya
Adam & Lindsey
Eric Alexander
Patty Bathgate
Wesley Beasley
Becca
Brittany & Annette
Cammy
Cary, Alex, Kate, Troy & Gina
Charlie
David
Sandy (Chadd) Davis
Bonnie & Lew Dailey
Shirley & George Dehn
Debbie DeLeon
Denise
Emily Dickerson
Cherie & Bob Donaldson
Cindy
Vicky Franklin

Carol & Becky
Cassie
Paul Fauser
Cathy Gray
Gwendolyn
Sharon Harpold
Andy Hartsock
Deborah Heaton
Mimi Kuhn
Brian & Rebecca Johnson
Ciella Leach
Luke
Johanna Mohringer
John Mohringer
Vickie Montgomery
Susan Rice
Larry
Desiree Roth
Patsy Sanders
Betty Saunders

Mary K. Shelly
Donna South
Tasha, Gaby & Omar Strong
Steve
Kimberly Thomas
Deana Weems
Johnny Williams
Kevin Wilcox
Crystal Wilmot
The Bishop's Committee
Pathways to Vitality Team
Kimberly & the nursery children
The Sunday School children & teachers

The people God is inviting to St. Peter's whom we have yet to greet

Those who have no one to pray for them

Going forth into the world, we see God in our neighbor.