

PETER'S PENCE

The Saint Peter's Conway Newsletter

Food Pantry Update

Peter's Food Pantry served 66 families in September with our drive through pickup. Claire Losardo continues to be a stellar leader and our volunteer list has increased.

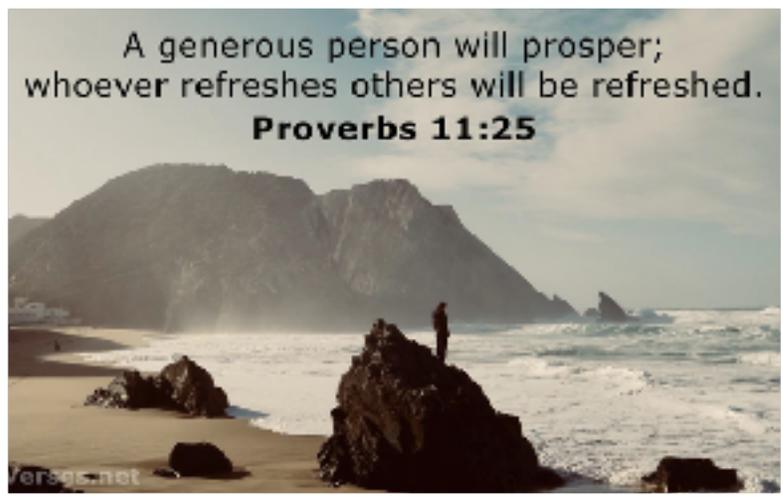
Thanks to our September volunteers. Sandra Hamilton, Nancy Thompson, Dinah Reed, Sandra Espy, Austin Losardo and Dalton Losardo.

We are approaching Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving basket sign up in Saturday Oct 17th and Saturday Nov 7th. We are planning for 150 Thanksgiving baskets.

If you would like to donate for Thanksgiving baskets, you can send a check to Saint Peter's marked for Food Pantry or you can donate through Realm.

For more information on the Food Pantry you can email

foodpantry@stpetersconway.com



From the Rector:

We Need Your Help

Dear Saint Peter's Family:

One of the hallmarks of my tenure with you has been the enormity of your generosity—in time, talent, and treasure. As recently as July, I applauded you on your generosity. Your consistent giving through the normal summer 'lag' gave me the confidence we could navigate the 'storms' of the ongoing pandemic, economic instability, and our inability to meet together regularly. However, that doesn't seem to be the case.

Giving has been consistent, but below our normal operating needs

Kathryn Schmeltz, our Finance Manager, shared some data with me this week. Our giving has held flat at \$25,000 per month

Peace During Chaos Through Better Communication

New Servant Leadership School class starting September 24, 2020

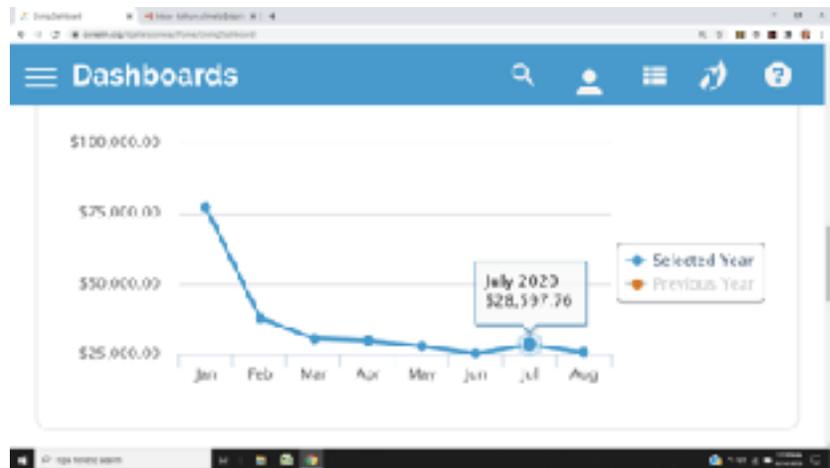
(Six weeks til The Election!) (Nine months(?) til an effective vaccine!)

(Years til the economy recovers!) (? Til systemic inequalities are eliminated!)

The SLS will meet, via Zoom on Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. No books to buy. Just come with a journal to write in. Class organizer Judy Helm will email handouts prior to each class. You will need a computer, Ipad, or smart phone connected to the internet.

There will be guided meditations, small group work, and lots of interactions. This is an anxious time for many of us, and we at Servant Leadership School want to offer a safe, supportive environment in which your privacy will be respected. Please email judyhelm77@gmail.com if you want to participate. Hope to see you then!

since March (when all the changes happened). Since we started the year very strongly, received a Payroll Protection Grant, and didn't have the typical summer slump in giving, we found ourselves ahead in July, but without the usual Back to School bump in giving, we find ourselves falling behind. I confirmed this in my very first commentary in the rebooted Peter's Pence last July. It appears I spoke too soon.



2020 Giving has stayed flat since the Pandemic Struck

You may wonder how we're struggling when we just had new about the generous Endowment gifts, and the ongoing work on the Petrucelli Pavilion. We appear to be thriving, right?. Those gifts are constrained in such a way that they cannot help us pay staff and keep the proverbial lights on. They do, however, help ensure the long-term beauty and stability of Saint Peter's.

Aren't we saving tons by having the church closed?

We are carefully managing expenses, but there's only so much we can eliminate. Staffing costs typically represent two-thirds of our expense base. We've already been forced to furlough some staff, unfortunately. This is not something we prefer pursuing.

We've cut utilities, furloughed staff, and eliminated non-essential spending. In any 'normal' year, the uptick in giving that comes during Fall would erase the difference. This year, we're concerned we won't see that uptick, since we can't meet in large groups.

Even with cutbacks, our expenses exceed giving by \$15,000 a month

If this steady pattern of giving continues, we're looking at as much as a \$60,000 shortfall by the end of 2020. Our expense management is strong and will continue to be. I believe we can close the giving gap (we always do) but we need your help.

This happens right as we're launching our Stewardship Efforts for 2021

As I noted in my sermon on September 20, we're kicking off our Stewardship efforts around the theme: "What does Saint Peter's mean to you when we can't all meet?" Vestry and other members will be sharing their thoughts on this question in the coming weeks. And, because unprecedented times require unprecedented measures, we will be modifying our Stewardship Efforts for the near future as we, like you, adjust to this new normal. We won't be running the regular campaign with clever flyers, repeated asks for pledges, and fun gifts in return. This attempt to recreate what worked in the past just rings hollow in a time when we know that you may be anxious or struggling financially as well. That said, if you find yourself in a more stable economic situation, consider giving. We'll offer reasons and ways to pledge in the coming weeks. While a pledge helps ensure future success, giving now helps us close the giving gap we're experiencing as I write this. Both are important.

Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope. As your resources allow, consider making an incremental gift to help us meet our financial obligations through October. I can't promise we won't ask again before the year end. Thank you!

Rev. Greg.

We are regathering in-person. Come join us.



This past Sunday was the fourth week we gathered in the courtyard at 9:00 am for in-person services. We've shared the word and communion with around 40 congregants each week. Socially distanced and masked, we enjoy the time together, standing in unison, reciting the responses together. We use our beloved Norm Moyer's

“throwing a hug” for passing the peace. And the celebrant distributes the consecrated bread to everyone. It's not quite back to normal, but it's a step in the right direction. Please join us! We have room for more. As the weather turns cooler, we are working on plans for re-gathering in either the Parish Hall or Nave.

Tuneful Tuesdays have begun.

From our music director: Our pandemic has seen us enjoying the creativity and desperation of artists who are still determined to make music any way they can. Music at St. Peter's has always been important and we want to keep it that way. In that spirit, I am starting “Tuneful Tuesdays”. We will upload a piece of music performed by a local musician that we know to our Facebook page. The musical offerings will be varied; some serious, some fun, some instrumental, some vocal. We need this in our lives as we have been forced to look at our musical world (indeed, our entire world) in a new and different way.



Not only is music a basic need, it is a basic human right. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives. Think of the Greeks. Yes, music puts the hidden pieces of our soul into an order that we can understand. Music helps us express feelings when we have no words. Music helps us find a way to understand things with our hearts when we cannot with our minds.

The great Maya Angelou once said, “Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness”.

We must continue in our extraordinary journey of understanding the invisible pieces of our souls – the things we can't see but that we feel deeply. We must find a way to keep music alive here at St. Peter's because I truly believe it is the artists of the world who will lead us to peace, harmony, beauty, and love.

I hope you enjoy our “Tuneful Tuesdays” and that it puts a smile on your face and warmth in your heart.

Much love. Patty Oeste, Music Director

Update on the Petrucelli Pavilion

This past week, the demolition company came and took down the Parish House, which we knew as the “Middle Building.” A short decommissioning service took place



Demolition of the Middle Building: September 23

on Sunday the 20th, and the demo started bright and early the next morning.

We've submitted plans to the city for approval and to two local contractors for the construction of the Pavilion. We hope to be able to award the job early October, with a completion date of sometime in late November. This work is made possible by a generous donation from the estate of Lillian and Fred Petrucelli. We've been in touch with their family, and they are thrilled to have such a fitting reminder of how much the Petrucelli's loved Saint Peter's.

Oh, and for those of you wondering, the fireplace will remain intact and usable.



Calling all (virtual) tutors

Among the many disruptions to the norm we face during this endless pandemic, schools across the state have had to quickly move into virtual learning. One of our regular congregants, Candice McPherson, works with the Arkansas state virtual learning program: Virtual Arkansas, which serves public schools across the state in partnership with ADE's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the educational service cooperatives.

Recognizing how many current and former educators we have at Saint Peter's, we'd love to put together a team of virtual tutors who can work from the safety of home to help students across the state with their questions about math, science, language, etc.

We believe education is everybody's business during this time of uncertainty. We'll be reaching out you to arrange an information session with Candice. Please prayerfully consider helping Arkansas Schools in this important way.

If you need to contact the church or come into the office

Please call the church office and leave a message: 501 329 8174 or email greg.warren@stpetersconway.com or peggy.cromwell@stpetersconway.com, Greg or Peggy will return your call. If you come to the church office physically (for church business or an appointment), please sanitize your hands as you enter the office and have your mask on as you enter the lobby. Please log in your visit for contact tracing (a book is at the entrance). Let us know you are outside so that we can have our masks on and open the door to receive you. Otherwise, we request that people not come into the building unless absolutely necessary.

Wisdom House: Save the Date

Resilient Hope Virtual Event

Celebrating 4 years of the Wisdom House

Please join us for a virtual event benefitting the Wisdom House Kindergarten. We will hear directly from our beloved principal and English teacher, Mounera, in Idlib, Syria.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday

October 17, 2020

11 am est, 10 am cst



WISDOM HOUSE





thewisdomhouseproject.com

contact@syriantask-force.org

October Announcements

(VCH) Virtual Coffee Hour (virtualcoffeeshour@stpetersconway.com). Join us for 15-20 minutes of connection following Sunday services, email greg.warren@stpetersconway.com. Starts at Noon.

Prayer List. Add a name to the prayer list, email peggy.cromwell@stpetersconway.com.

Servant Leadership School (SLS). Peace During Chaos Through Better Communication. Meets via Zoom, Thursdays 6:00-7:30pm. Contact Judy Helm (see announcement page 2)

Anti-Racism Book Club (greg.warren@stpetersconway.com)—Meets virtually Tuesday nights 6-7 pm. We are reading *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins.

Bible Study. Meets virtually Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm. We're working our way through Ecclesiasticus (the Wisdom of Ben Sirach). Contact Greg or Peggy to join.

EP: Evening Prayer (page 115 BCP)

HE II: Holy Eucharist (page 355 BCP);

C-line: Compline (page 127 BCP)

October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 HE II 9am; 11 am . VCH: Noon Vestry 1pm	28 EP 6 pm	29 Book Club 6pm C-line 8pm	30 Bible Study: 4:30 EP 6 pm	1 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	2 EP 6 pm	3 Food Pantry 9-12 pm
4 HE II 9 am, 11 am VCH: Noon	5 EP 6 pm	6 Book Club 6pm C-line 8pm	7 Bible Study: 4:30 EP 6 pm	8 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	9 EP 6 pm	10
11 HE II 9 am 11 am VCH: Noon	12 EP 6 pm	13 Book Club 6pm C-line 8pm	14 Bible Study: 4:30 EP 6 pm	15 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	16 EP 6 pm	17 Food Pantry 9-12 pm SETF Fundraiser
18 HE II 9 am 11 am VCH: Noon	19 EP 6 pm	20 Book Club 6pm C-line 8pm	21 Bible Study: 4:30 EP 6 pm	22 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	23 EP 6 pm	24
25 HE II 9 am 11 am VCH: Noon Vestry 1 pm	26 EP 6 pm	27 Book Club 6pm C-line 8pm	28 Bible Study: 4:30 EP 6 pm	29 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	30 EP 6 pm	31 Halloween

A Message from Madelyn

We asked you to vote for who is funnier: Madelyn or Jerry Adams. Madelyn won in a landslide. Ever gracious, she shared this kind message:

"Dear friends (all 37 of you),

Thank you for choosing ME in the Peter's Pence "Who's the Funniest" Contest.



I'm thinking of it as my "Church Academy Award". Therefore, I'd like to thank "ALL The LITTLE PEOPLE": Claire, Peggy, all those in Sunday School grades Pre-K to 3rd grade, Marianne, Ann, and of course, ME!

It has been an honour to serve you. You have exquisite taste.

I remain,

The Peoples' Choice, Madelyn"

Remembering our beloved Deacon, the Reverend Doctor Linda Brown

April 12, 1947 – September 5, 2020



O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Linda, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP, 493)