

Peter's Pence

The Saint Peter's Conway Newsletter



2021 Pledge Drive

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another
with whatever gift each of you has received. - 1 Peter 4:10

Dear Saint Peter's Family:

We did what might be called a 'soft launch' of our 2021 Pledge Drive a few weeks ago. Recognizing the uncertainty that surrounds so much of our lives these days, it didn't seem appropriate to come to you with the usual weekly reminder to commit to a pledge for 2021.

We are so thankful for the generosity of the Saint Peter's community. While things have been a bit tight lately—a victim of the uncertainty noted above—I am confident that you'll continue to come through as we look ahead to the new year.

As a child, I attended a nondenominational church in small town Southern Indiana. While I enjoyed the church family very much, I grew tired of the weekly call to give, give, give. Even as a youth, the message seemed to be more that money was an end in itself, instead of a means to an end.

Pledging helps us plan for the coming year. This is now more important than ever.

What I love about our tradition in the Episcopal Church is that we ask everyone to prayerfully consider making a pledge before the year begins, allowing us (with a few exceptions) to avoid the weekly call for donations. Money very clearly becomes a means to an end—to our worship, our church building, our staff, our missions in the world—and not the end in itself.

Who knows what the coming year will bring? As Christ-followers, we remain optimistic. Kathy Schmeltz, our Finance Manager, has put together a realistic budget for the coming year. We look forward to being able to continue meeting (safely) in person in the Nave.

- We currently have two services each Sunday, safely gathering twenty five or so congregants at each one.
- We're broadcasting into people's homes six days a week. We have state of the art broadcast and sound technology, and are reaching hundreds each week.
- We're also renewing and rebuilding to welcome everyone back to our beautiful facilities. Tammy Heffington and Kay Henry are working tirelessly to deep clean the whole campus. It shines like never before.



Please prayerfully consider making a 2021 pledge so we can continue moving forward in 2021. Enclosed is a Pledge Card and, if you choose, a form for Automatic Withdrawal from your checking account. You can mail the completed form to the office at 925 Mitchell Street, Conway AR 72034. We've installed a lock box outside to the left of the lobby doors if you want to safely drop your pledge card at the church. And, of course, we're collecting cards every Sunday as part of the offertory.

Other ways to give include: Give online through our website at <https://saintpetersconway.org/about-us/giving/>. Text giving is enabled, simply text STPETERSCONWAY DONATE \$XX to 73256 (where XX is the amount you'd like to donate). You'll be sent a link to complete your donation. Finally, you can give via Paypal, just search for office@stpetersconway.com.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Saint Peter's is a remarkable place, even when we can't all be together (especially when we can't all be together).

In peace, Greg, Rector

From The Rev. Peggy



For many weeks, I had felt a sense of foreboding which was directly related to the 2020 election. Would the new voting process go smoothly? Would protesters disrupt the process? Would the people stand in long lines in the uncertainty of Arkansas weather? Would social distancing protocols be got these answers when I worked at the Early Voting Center #7 in Maumelle from October 19 through November 3. The lines were long - 60 to 90 minute waits - and unending the first week. After starting on Monday, October 19, we finally had no one in line on Friday, October 23, at 5:53 pm. The weather that week was unseasonably warm. The next six days, the weather was cold and rainy. Still the lines were long and

steady. However, I heard no complaints. There were only a couple of overtly impatient people. People came and took part in what is, in my opinion, our most important citizen obligation.

In all, we processed over 11,000 voters. The process itself was virtually flawless - new machines and all. No protesters showed up. Everyone played by the social distancing rules - with only a couple of grudging remarks. The people of Arkansas stood their ground against time and the weather to cast their ballots and make their voice heard.

On the night of the election, I reflected on my experience. I found my faith in my fellow Arkansans bolstered. We saw countless older folks, even in their nineties. We saw countless people of color. We saw countless first time voters. We saw countless people just like us...all standing together in long lines to vote their conscience. Did they all agree? No. Will they ever? No. But they DID respect the rights of ALL to participate in the process. That tiny bit of "common ground" gave me hope. I hope for the day when we can return to a willingness to seek common ground with those with whom we disagree. I hope for the day when respect for the rights of all is the automatic order of the day. I hope that we, as Christians, can lead the way. I hope...Peggy +

Senior Warden Report

"Things will never be the same."

This simple refrain is one most of us have applied to multiple aspects of daily living: school, family, work, recreation, and our journey of faith at St. Peter's. If you have ever had a chance to read Spencer Johnson's short book "Who Moved My Cheese," you remember two mice, Hem and Haw, who must deal with the loss of their cheese. It was moved. Hem refused to change course, hoping the cheese would come back to him. On the other hand, Haw moved in a new direction in search of new cheese. The global pandemic moved our collective St. Peter's cheese.



For me, in my journey of faith during a global pandemic, I've had to learn to seek and find new cheese at St. Peter's to fulfill my spiritual needs and my walk of faith. What have I found? First, we are blessed to have clergy, staff, and parishioners who continue to strive to fulfill us in Christ during a

time of change and disruption. For me, the St. Peter's family continues to offer many fountains from which I can drink; I only need to choose the fountain for me. I've accepted our environment is what it is at the moment for us to remain safe and to protect one another. I seek to take advantage of the opportunities for fulfillment in front of me. While they may not be what I want, each offers what I need. As we move forward in uncertain times, look for the good in humanity and beautiful creation in which we find ourselves. I do believe that if we choose to seek we will find.

Blessings!-Jeff

Junior Warden Report



Petrucelli Project Update

Let's talk about the elephant in the room or more accurately "the hole in the ground". Covid-19 has impacted all of our lives and this project is no exception.

Your planning committee is actively working through contractor bidding and scheduling. Please bear with us as we move forward through this process.

Brett

Conway Locally Grown



Many of you know that Saint Peter's is blessed to be able to host Conway's only year-round Community Farmer's Market, Conway Locally Grown (CLG). Each Friday, dozens of shoppers from across the county come to enjoy the best that our local growers provide.

We had the chance to catch up with Steve Lunk, the market's director. He's been involved in CLG since 2009, barely a year after it was

started. He retired from the Army in 2008 and had some free time, so felt called to get involved. The group's founder, Cody Hopkins, saw a need to distribute local food, but there was no market for it. They started with a few growers and customers, then the market grew. Now it boasts 20 different growers and up to 75 customers each week. Steve feels good about its size—they sell what they grow.



And he's not content with just selling, he encourages everyone, even novices, to try to grow something. Anything. "Gardening is a metaphor for living in community," claims Steve. "It adds a lot to people's lives when they can produce something. It's about the people...if we can help them feel good in some way, we're helping. We're doing that through food," he says.

Like everything else in our lives, Covid-19 has had a big effect on his business. Meat production has seen some disruption. They've also seen a big uptick in customers. For safety, he's also added a curbside delivery service.

Steve also makes garden art. Bone, glass, metal. He relies on instinct. "Sometimes the flowers arrange themselves into something that's beautiful, if you just let them go. I don't know if it's a metaphor for how people interact together (naturally), if you just let things be."

Saint Peter's is blessed by Conway Locally Grown's mission and the part we play in their success. They contribute a portion of every sale to our own Food Pantry. Consider helping further their mission by shopping with them at <https://conway.locallygrown.net/>.

Saint Peter's Artist leaves his Print(s) on the new City Hall



You may know our very own Steve Hurd for the fantastic woodwork he's done for Saint Peter's. The railing for the choir loft at the back of the church, the stately Advent Wreath, the Prayer Book stand that we use during Lent are all part of Steve's gifts to the church. We are blessed by Steve's creativity and generosity. Soon, Steve's photographic skills will be permanently on display at the new City Hall.



It all began after Steve's wife, Denise, began her job in the Conway City Clerk's office. They wandered around downtown taking photographs for her to hang on her office walls. A couple of years later as the City was nearing completion of their new offices in the old Post Office building, one of the photos was taken to a meeting for a discussion of items and artwork to be included throughout the City Hall. They liked the work so much they originally requested fifty 24x36 photographs to be framed and hung. More photos were requested and the final count of photos is seventy!



The new City Hall is not (yet) open to the public, but here's a sneak peak at some of Steve's work that will adorn the walls of our Conway's center of government. We are proud of Steve and his work.

Do you have a special skill or talent to share with our community? Let us know!

Start Close In
by David Whyte

Start close in,
don't take the second
step or the third,
start with the first
thing close in,
the step you don't want
to take.

Start with the ground
you know,
the pale ground
beneath your feet,
your own way to begin
the conversation.

Start with your own
question,
give up on other
people's questions,
don't let them
smother something
simple.

To hear another's voice,
follow your own voice,
wait until that voice
becomes an intimate
private ear that can
really listen to another.

Start right now
take a small step
you can call your own
don't follow someone
else's heroics,
be humble and focused,
start close in,
don't mistake that other
for your own.

Start close in,
don't take the second
step or the third,
start with the first
thing close in,
the step you don't want
to take.



Footsteps in the Sand by
Leona Lewis

Sacred Ground Training



Saint Peter's is starting a Sacred Ground Training program. We'll begin the first week in December (coinciding with the start of Advent). Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people.

Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the

present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love. Contact Rev. Greg or Rev. Peggy for more information or to sign up.

Food Pantry Update

Over the summer our families served was averaging around 60. Fall and Winter tends to be busier and in October our numbers reflected this increase with 80 families served. Claire Losardo continues to be an inspiration as she leads the Food Pantry Team. We have wonderful volunteers and I'd like to thank Melissa Courtway, Sandra Hamilton, Steve McGarrigle, Rita Toal, Nick Toal, Austin Losardo, Dalton Losardo, Dinah Reed, Nancy Thompson and Sandra Espy for their hard work.

Over the next two weeks we will be packing Thanksgiving Basket dry goods in preparation for a November 24th pick up date. We will be preparing 90 baskets this year.

Christmas Day Meals On Wheels Outreach

Saint Peter's has traditionally cooked, packed and delivered for Meals On Wheels on Christmas day. Debra Robinson with the Conway Senior Center will be gathering the list for deliveries and have a final number to Saint Peter's the second week of December. Watch for more details on volunteer opportunities in the December *Peter's Pence* and in the weekly *Wake Up with Saint Peter* emails.

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.

November Announcements

Since we've started re-gathering in person, we're discontinuing our Virtual Coffee Hour (VCH) on Sundays. Thank you for joining us these past months. Please come see us in person.

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, Thursday November 19 and December 10 6:00-7:30pm. Contact Judy Helm for information.

Sacred Ground Training starts the first week of December. Reach out to Rev. Greg for details. greg.warren@stpetersconway.com. Details are at <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>.

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

Upcoming Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 HE II 9am; 11 am. Sign up online	16 EP 6 pm	17 Compline 8pm	18 Bible Study: 4:30-5:30pm EP 6 pm	19 Compline 8pm	20 EP 6 pm	21 Food Pantry 9-12 pm
22 HE II 9 am, 11 am. Sign up online	23 EP 6 pm	24 Compline 8pm	25 Bible Study: 4:30-5:30 pm EP 6 pm	26 Thanksgiving Day Compine 8pm	27 EP 6 pm	28
29 HE II 9 am 11 am Sign up online	30 EP 6 pm	December 1 Compline 8pm	2 Bible Study: 4:30-5:30 pm EP 6 pm	3 C-line 8pm	4 EP 6 pm	5 Food Pantry 9-12 pm
6 HE II 9 am 11 am Sign up online	7 EP 6 pm	8 Compline 8pm	9 Bible Study: 4:30-5:30pm EP 6 pm	10 Compline 8pm	11 EP 6 pm	12
13 HE II 9 am 11 am Sign up online	14 EP 6 pm	15 Blue Christmas- Sign up online 7pm	16 Bible Study: 4:30-5:30 pm EP 6 pm	17 Compline 8pm	18 EP 6 pm	19 Food Pantry 9-12 pm



