

### Esther Gilman Memorial Clothes Closet

Our annual Esther Gilman clothes closet was a great success! We want to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came and supported this event and for all the volunteers who gave their time. Whether you donated, served or received, you were part of something meaningful.

This year, we had over 125 people visit the clothes closet. We pray these clothes not only warm bodies, but also hearts, as we care for one another just as Christ cares for us.



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** **Missionaries:** Our covenant missionaries to the Congo: Gaston Nkulu Ntambo **Our Military:** Matt Chapman, Madison Siple. Ayden Carter **Children:** Taylor Macaulay, Gavin Yonce, Jackson Andrews, Teddy D.

**Prayer Requests:** Jonathon Horton, Cynthia Kersey, Bob Richards, Ellen McIlhenny's sister, Eileen Siple, Laura Smith, Louise Tanner, Kyle Dobb, John Militzer, Cecilia Taylor, Janet Ervin, Fay Turner, Leann L., Kathy Richard, David Miller, Patty Taylor, Ryan Spencer, Karen Tatti, Keri Nicholans, Ellen Stanley, Shelley Horton, Kim Fuhrman, Gene Hall, Kim Jones, Barbara Adam's SIL, Lexi Lowry & family, RJ (Dwayne Kahler's cousin), Walter Taylor, Stephanie Gerskey & family, Kevin Shaver, Tom Gilman, Jessica Matyiko Green, Mike Jones, Kathy Sullivan, Missy Bauder, Debbie Murphy, Ricky Pillow, Carrie Wright, May Shifflet, Thomas Jordan, Anne Babel, Latrice Knight, Katherine Stone, Jim Wuensch, Aiden Carter, Denny Waldrop & family, Carol Moyer, Dwayne Kahler, Gerald Perkins, David Forlines, Bob Roberts, Rachel Bowles, The Daniels/Kahler Family, The Family of Lydia Bowles, Nany Behrens & family, The Family of Alice Luck

**Always in Our Prayers:** Pastor Gretchen and family

## MEN'S GROUP

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for 8am on September 13<sup>th</sup> at Kitchen 33 & Bakery. Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a discussion on ongoing and new projects. These meetings are typically brief, focusing mainly on bonding with other Christian men.

**Luncheon:** We had our first Men's Group Luncheon that was a big success. Our next one will be on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Kitchen 33 & Bakery. These are not meetings, they are just guys getting together and talking about anything and everything. These get togethers have the potential to change the world.

**Recent Activities:** Helped a couple of church members with small chores around the house. Took care of some maintenance items at the parsonage.

**Wheelchair Ramp Initiative:** Installed a ramp for a community member. Removed 4 previously installed ramps that were no longer needed. There are 5 ramps installed at this time. If you know someone who needs a temporary wheelchair ramp, please let us know.

**Firewood Ministry:** We have partnered with the West Hanover Wood Ministry group. We've scheduled October 18<sup>th</sup> to get the wood splitters in good working order and start splitting wood for the upcoming season. You don't have to split wood to join us, just come for the fellowship and watch Greg split wood by hand and keep up with the splitter. I'm telling you it's something to see!

**Ongoing Support:** We handle small repairs and maintenance issues for those in need in our church and community. Please let us know if we can assist you or someone you know.

**Looking Ahead:** Our BBQ & BBQ Chicken fundraiser is coming up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. More details will be coming in your church emails.

**Donations:** If you would like to make a monetary donation to our group, please make your check out to St. Peter's UMC and write "Men's Group" in the memo line; or visit the church website, click **GIVE** in the upper right hand corner, insert your amount, and select "**Men's Group**" from the drop-down list; or simply drop your donation in the offering plate with a note "**Men's Group**".

We welcome you to join us at any of our meetings or projects. No special talents are required—just come for the fellowship! If you have any questions or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at [MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org](mailto:MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org) or call Butch at 804-496-1399.

May God continue to bless us all!



### ST. PETERS UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Donations to the Budget Account	\$16,516.00	\$162,869
Transferred from Savings	None	None
Budget Account expenses	\$19,022.00	\$148,966
Gain/Loss	-\$2,506.00	\$13,903.00



#### September Birthday's

Grace Lynn Pollock	12
Woody McIlhenny	16
Tyree Harris	16
Beth Nevius	16
Bob Norris	17
Ben McIlhenny	26
Rees Williams	29

## Upcoming Events at St. Peter's

**September 12** – Elerberries Luncheon at Wood & Iron in Short Pump at 11:30 (Sign up at church or call the church office at 804-883-5596)

**October 2 – November 20** - The Ladies Bible study will resume on Thursday mornings starting on October 2 at 10:00 in the parlor. We will continue for eight weeks, ending on November 20. We are studying the book, "They Walked with God" by Max Lucado. Come and join us! Ruth Smith 804-216-1260

**October 4** - Men's Group BBQ & BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

**October** – Stay tuned for date for our Annual Trunk or Treat

**November 8** – Fall Clean-Up; stay tuned for details on how to volunteer

**December 5** – Christmas Pancake Dinner with Santa at 6:00 p.m.



## Music at St. Peter's

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank all of you who participate and/or have participated in the music ministry. How blessed are we to have so much talent and so many people willing to share their talents with St. Peter's?? I appreciate you! September is scheduled, but please contact me if you'd like to share something in October. Otherwise, I will have to channel my inner Mom/Esther and start volunteering! :D

For those of you interested in participating in the Christmas Choir, there will be an initial meeting/practice after church on September 28. I've found a few potential songs we can run through to see what we think, but I'm also very interested in what YOU would like to sing. Let's meet and sing and discuss at this first meeting and then we'll put a handful of other dates on the calendar. I don't think we would need to meet more than twice a month. Thank you in advance!

Harmonious regards,  
Christy Gilman-Booker



## Wings of the Morning Aviation Ministry September Fundraiser

We will be collecting donations to support Gaston Nkulu Ntambo .

*"Gaston is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church assigned to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Based in Luena, Gaston serves as a pilot and mechanic with the Wings of the Morning Aviation Ministry in the North Katanga Conference. "* - The UMC Global Ministries



A promotional poster for a West End Cluster Youth kick-off concert. The poster features a dark background with purple and blue light effects. At the top left, there is a circular inset showing a group of people with their hands raised in a worship setting. The text on the poster includes: "WEST END CLUSTER YOUTH", "2025/2026", "kick-off concert", "FEATURING AMY COX", "Sun, Sept 14 6:00pm", "Hosted at Good Shepherd UMC / 9155 Hungary Road", "Dinner, music, and more is provided", "\$5 cost per person", "Register at: bit.ly/wec2526kickoff or use the QR code", and a QR code. At the bottom right, there is a circular inset showing a woman with long blonde hair playing an acoustic guitar and singing into a microphone.

## Pastor's Ponderings



For longer than I can recall I have been collecting quotes. Drawn from literary classics, music lyrics, magazine articles, movies, comedians — any form of communication really. When a line strikes me stirring some emotional query, I find a way to store it away for another time. Written in journals. A running list in tiny print. Posted on my Social Media Feeds. Saved in an Instagram folder. Collected in a Pinterest Board. Sticky notes moving from page to page in my daily calendar. Stored in Kindle quotes.

From time to time I pull them out, read through, and explore the archives of my reading history. Selecting one, I write it on a blank page. Spend time with each word. Add color, doodles, questions, insights. Consider how this quote has accompanied me through certain life seasons. Ponder connections through Holy Spirit conversations and Scripture passages (many of which are in those accumulated lists). Mostly though, these excavated lines of text are hibernating in my mind's curvy grey matter until called up for contemplation. Distant reflections from experiences which resonate as I live this faith journey. A curated gallery of spiritual guides, friends, teachers, antagonists rousing me to think, companions on this same human journey wandering through great holy themes of hope, faith, and love. Their voices offer guiding comfort as I hear the universal struggles, personal griefs, familiar wrestling, and witnessed wonder through it all.

We all have resources that nurture, heal, encourage, and provide guidance for each step and stage of this human experience. Written words are a love language that speak to my spirit. Whatever it is that feeds your soul and directs your heart to God's Divine presence, make space and time to really enjoy every aspect. Let that practice immerse you in Holy Spirit awe. For me, I'll soak in some restoring quotes during this sweltering summer season.

"Truth is eternal, knowledge is changeable. It is disastrous to confuse them." -Madeline L'Engle

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139

"Do not stop thinking of life as an adventure. You have no security unless you can live bravely, excitingly, imaginatively." - Eleanor Roosevelt

"... remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." – Jesus

Blessings, Pastor Gretchen

### September Worship Focus

First two weeks: Lectionary Texts

Next Worship Series

September 21 - October 5

The Shepherd's Psalm in 3 Movements — Exploring Psalm 23

**Worship Team** — Looking for folks interested in all aspects of worship. This team will explore all worship arts and work to fill out this faith expression with everyone's gifts. Team will meet monthly to share ideas, plan, and develop worship celebrations throughout our church seasons. Please contact Pastor Gretchen of your interest.

### Scheduling To Use Church Facility

A reminder for all church events and community groups - please contact the church office and complete the building use form to schedule your ministry, fellowship, missions, and all other gatherings. This helps to foster strong communications and calendar clarity.

(cont'd on next page)

## Pastor Chats

I have been enjoying getting to know you all these last two months. In September I would love the opportunity to connect with you individually and as families. I want to hear your stories of how you came to be part of St. Peter's, your sense of calling as a disciple, your hopes, your challenges, where you have enjoyed serving in this community, your ongoing faith journey, and whatever is on your mind these days. Please reach out by email, text, or call to schedule a chat.

**Charge Conference -- save the date.** Hosted as a cluster event at Duncan Memorial UMC. Sunday, September 28, 5 PM. All are invited to attend. All in leadership positions, please prepare your annual reports. Contact Amanda or Pastor Gretchen for details and with any questions.

**St. Peter's Preschool** begins September 8th. Surround these families, Linda, Molly, and all assistants and helpers with your prayers for a year filled with wonder.

## Big News!

We've just launched our **St. Peter's UMC YouTube channel** and we need your help to get started! Before we can post regularly and unlock all YouTube features, we need to hit a subscriber milestone.

**Click the link and hit "Subscribe":** <https://www.youtube.com/@St.PetersUnitedMethodistChurch>

We'll be sharing Sunday Worship services and other uplifting content—don't miss out!

Invite a friend who'd love this too!

Thanks for supporting us on this journey!



## 2025 St. Peter's Leadership

### Church Council Members

Chair - Leon Stockwell

Secretary - Anna Williams

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference - Patty Kelley

SPR - Greg Vig

Finance - Mike Williams

Treasurer - Mike Williams

Asst Treasurer - Holli Forlines

Trustees - Tom Gilman

Worship Arts - Vacant - *Is God calling you to serve as Worship Arts' chair?*

Missions - Kendall Covington

Lay Leader - Brian Davis

Delegate to District Conference - Brian Davis

Children/Youth - Jen Kahler

Music - Christy Gilman-Booker

Scouts - Chuck Sullivan

Members at Large - Phyllis Wiggins, Shelley Horton

Men's Group - Butch Jackson

Youth Representative - Abby Davis

Pastor - Gretchen Nelson

### SPR Committee

2025 - Greg Vig (chair)

2025 - Mark Booker

2026 - Jean Davis

2026 - Dani Stockwell

2027 - Tonya Austin

Lay Leader - Brian Davis

Lay Delegate - Patty Kelley

Pastor - Gretchen Nelson

### Board of Trustees

2025 - Patty Kelley

2025 - Bryan Nevius

2025 - Mark Booker

2026 - Tom Gilman (chair)

2026 - Kenny Tyree

2026 - Johnny Gentry

### Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

2025 - Mildred Jackson

2026 - Anne Vig

2026 - Buddy Austin

2026 - Tonya Austin

Lay Leader - Brian Davis

Pastor - Gretchen Nelson (chair)

### Committee on Finance

Mike Williams (chair)

Lay Delegate - Patty Kelley

Council Chair - Leon Stockwell

SPR Chair - Greg Vig

Trustees Chair - Tom Gilman

Lay Leader - Brian Davis

Business Administrator - Amanda Bishoff

Assistant Treasurer - Holli Forlines

Chuck Sullivan

Anne Vig




**JOIN CUB SCOUTS**

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Wednesday of every month



St. Peter's United Methodist Church  
15599 Mountain Rd. Montpelier, VA 23192

Our Pack is for Boys & Girls in K-5th grade



**UPCOMING PACK EVENTS!** **Come Join the FUN!**

 <p>Sept. 6-7, 2025 <b>CAMPING</b> - Cub Scout Aviation Day 2025 Camping at Gordonsville Municipal Airport</p>	 <p>Nov. 8-9, 2025 <b>CAMPING</b> - Nauticus &amp; The Battleship Wisconsin Overnight Camping on USS Wisconsin</p>
 <p>Oct. 25-26, 2025 <b>CAMPING</b> - Creepy Hallow Cub Adventure Camp Halloween Camping at T Brady Saunders</p>	 <p>Nov. 23, 2025 <b>FUN</b> - Ashland Olde Time Holiday Parade Holiday Spirit on a Festive Float</p>
 <p>Oct. 31, 2025 <b>FUN</b> - Trunk-N-Treat Halloween St. Peter's UMC Parking Lot</p>	 <p>Dec. 13, 2025 <b>SERVICE</b> - Wreaths Across America Richmond National Cemetary</p>

*Want to learn more?*

**New Family Meeting Night**

**Wed. Sept. 3, 2025**

**6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Rockville Center  
16328 Pouncey Tract Rd.  
Rockville, VA 23146**



Check us out on Facebook



Scan the QR code to see more!



**Troop 706 Eagle Court of Honor**

- #1 - By height and left to right: Turner Ashby, Thomas Stills, Duke Flannigan.
- #2 - All 3 taking the Eagle Scout Oath from me. Scoutmaster Allan Noah, standing behind them
- #3 - Fathers and sons: Carl Ashby, Turner Ashby, Thomas Stills, Harold Stills, Duke Flannigan, Bob Flannigan.
- #4 - Standing for the Scout Oath and Law at the beginning of the Court... and smiling ear to ear.





St. Peter's United Methodist Church  
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Montpelier, Virginia 23192  
Phone: 804/883-5596  
E-mail: [stpetersumc@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersumc@gmail.com)

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

#### **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

**We envision our church welcoming all people, encouraging a journey of faith, and serving the world in the name of Christ.**

