

THE

NOVEMBER

Happy Thanksgiving

2025

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TRUNK OR TREAT

Our annual Trunk or Treat was enjoyed by many on Friday, October 24. A crisp and cool fall evening invited local families to trunk or treat. Colorful displays adorned the many trunks. From Halloween gnomes, a Crayola experience, pumpkins, spooky skeletons to Elsa and Hans from Frozen, it was simply spooktacular fun!

We want to thank our St. Peter's family for all your support and helping make this a wonderful evening for families to have a safe and fun environment. Also, many thanks to our missions committee for organizing.



Men's Group News

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for 8am on November 15th at Kitchen 33 & Bakery. **This is a change from the second Saturday to the third due to the Fall Cleanup.** 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: Join us for our next casual get-together on November 21st at 1 PM at The Eagles Nest Restaurant at the Federal Club located at 13450 Palmers Way, Glen Allen, VA 23059. This is just a bunch of guys hanging out, chatting about anything and everything.

BBQ: Because of all of you, our BBQ Fundraiser was a success. Thank you all very much!

Recent Activities: Took care of some maintenance items at the church and parsonage.

Wheelchair Ramp Initiative: We have 5 ramps installed at this time. If you know someone who needs a temporary wheelchair ramp, please let us know.

Firewood Ministry: We've gotten the wood yard organized and split some wood, made one delivery to a WHEAT client who needed firewood. You don't need to split wood to be part of this mission, just come out and enjoy the fellowship!

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: We will be preparing and packaging the Brunswick Stew for the church fundraiser. Please look for the emails asking for help cooking chickens and chopping onions.

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 or call Butch at 804-496-1399.

May God continue to bless us all!

Men's Group - Wood Ministry





UPCOMING EVENTS



November 22, 2025 - 11AM - Brunswick Stew Sale

Support St. Peter's UMC and purchase a quart of stew for \$12. Preorders appreciated by 11/17 to stpetersumc@gmail.com but stew also available the day of on a first come, first serve basis.

December 5, 2025 - 6PM - Pancake Supper & Santa Visit

Join us for our annual pancake supper followed by a visit from Santa! Children will also participate in craft activities and have the opportunity to shop (free of charge) for gifts for their loved ones.



Fall Back—Get an extra hour of sleep!

Set your Clocks back one hour.

Sunday, November 2nd



November Birthdays

ST. PETERS UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION	SEPTEMBER 2025	YEAR TO DATE
Donations to the Budget Account	20,422.00	200,882.00
Transferred from Savings	None	None
Budget Account expenses	18,435.00	187,875.00
Gain/Loss	1,987.00	13,008.00



Brian Davis	1
Morgan Vig	5
Vera Chunnanond	6
Mike Nelson	7
Gretchen Nelson	8
Bill Wiggins	10
Will Roche	22
Ellen McIlhenny	28

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 Nicholsan, 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, David Forlines, Bob Roberts, Nany Behrens & family, Millie Simmers, Patty Shortridge, Bernie Stanley,

Always in Our Prayers: Pastor Gretchen and family



The Elderberries will meet for lunch on Friday, November 7 around 11:30 at Sportspage in Manakin-Sabot. Prior to lunch, Tony Gilman will give us a tour of Luck Stone at 10:00. Tony will tell us about the company and then we will tour the plant in their company van. There are 12 available spots. You may join us for lunch or lunch and the tour, but we do need you to sign up. If there are more than 12 people interested in the tour, we will have another one after lunch.

Sign up at church or call or text Ruth Smith: 804-216-1260



FORMER ST. PETER'S YOUTH RECIEVE HONORS - Congratulations to two teachers who grew up at St Peter's who were recently named Teachers of the Year at their school. Angela Bryant Taylor was named Teacher of the Year at Beaverdam Elementary and Anne Duncan Koenig was recognized at Greenwood Elementary in Henrico County. We are proud of you!



Sharing Living Water Through Our Gifts

The annual pledge process is a way to practice stewardship, a spiritual practice by which we, as Christian stewards, receive God's Living Water gratefully, cultivate it responsibly, share it lovingly with others, and return it to the Lord. It is a blessing to participate in God's work, build a Christian community, and help those in need – all of which is accomplished with the help of your giving.

As you consider your opportunity to practice stewardship in the upcoming year, remember that the Living Water of our St. Peter's community sustains our ongoing ministries and outreach efforts. You do not have to be a member of St. Peter's to make a pledge. Everything we offer is available to all, just as God's Living Water is available to all. If you already make regular gifts, please consider strengthening your commitment by returning your pledge in the offering plate or email to our secretary at stpetersumc@gmail.com to support St. Peter's in 2026.

2025 Stewardship Campaign Goals for 2026:

- Receive 50 or more pledges
- \$175,000 pledged to support the Budget
(65% of our expected budget expenses)
- \$20,000 pledged for the Parsonage Fund
- \$11,000 pledged to support Mission Programs
- \$5,000 pledged for the Building Fund
- \$3,500 pledged to support Youth Programs
- \$2,000 pledged for Technology expenses



Missions in Motion: Giving Thanks by Giving Back

Because of your generosity, St. Peter's continues to make a difference—one meal, one gift, one act of love at a time. As we count our blessings this November, St. Peter's is thankful for the many ways our church family continues to share God's love through mission and service.

This fall, we were able to bless our community - both near and far - through two special gifts. We recently donated **\$400 to the Patrick Henry PTA to support the Student Food Pantry**, helping ensure that local students have food to take home on weekends. We also sent **\$3,000 in support to Wings of the Morning**, a missionary aviation ministry serving in remote areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Thank you for helping make this outreach possible. Together, we are helping meet both physical and spiritual needs across the globe.

As we move into **November**, our focus turns to caring for our neighbors through **WHEAT (Western Hanover Emergency Action Team)**. Throughout the month, we're collecting **donations for the WHEAT food pantry**—simple gifts that can fill an empty shelf and lift a weary heart. You can leave your food pantry donation items **under the Mission Board in the narthex**. Every item you bring helps a neighbor in need—thank you for being part of this ministry of compassion. Some of their most-needed items include:

Cereal	Canned Meat - Tuna, Chicken
Instant Oatmeal	Dried Beans – Can or Bag
Pancake Mix & Syrup	Canned Vegetables
Muffin Mix	Gravy Mix
Box Pasta/Box Mac & Cheese	Cake Mix and Icing
Spaghetti Sauce	Bag of White or Brown Rice
Ramen Noodles	Canned Fruit
Peanut Butter	Canned Tomatoes
Jam or Jelly	One dish meals – Ex. Brunswick stew

Mark your calendars for two upcoming events! On **Saturday, November 8**, Fall Clean Up We will rake leaves in the yards of some of our senior members. Please sign up on the Missions bulletin board if you are available to help. All ages are welcome as well as friends! We will meet at church at 9:00 and then have lunch at church around Noon, and finish up after lunch. (Signing up is important in order to prepare the right amount of food for lunch.) Thanks! Call or text Ruth Smith with questions: 804-216-1260

Then, on **Friday, December 5**, bring the whole family to our **Pancake Supper and Santa Visit!** Children will enjoy **craft activities, story time, and a visit from Santa**, and will have the exciting opportunity to **shop for holiday presents for loved ones in our special holiday shopping area—completely free of charge**. It's a wonderful way to serve others, celebrate the season, and make memories together.

December will also bring opportunities to bless two local families for Christmas, and our **Angel Tree** will soon be up and ready for your support. Stay tuned for more ways you can support these families and help make their Christmas bright.

As we look toward **2026**, we are already planning meaningful ways to serve our community. **Souper Bowl Sunday will return this February**. Prepare to bring canned soup donations and place at the altar in the box of the Super Bowl team you're rooting for. And save the date **Sunday, May 3** for our **Rise Against Hunger** event where together we will pack 10,000 meals together.

Through each of these missions, we see the heart of our church at work—serving joyfully, giving thankfully, and shining Christ's light in our community and beyond. Together, we give thanks by giving back—living out Christ's love in word and deed.

"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14
— St. Peter's Missions Team: Serving God by Serving Others



Pastor's Ponderings November.

November is one of my favorite months of the year. Autumn color and crispness sets in deeply. All Saints ushers in joy at God's peace-making work among people throughout time. Heightened awareness of gratitude ensues as Thanksgiving plans are developed. Parades with bands, floats, and holiday delight march across my screens and neighborhood. Advent sneaks in towards the end. O, and Mike & I celebrate life's birth-iversary during the first week! Huzzah!!

November has always brought me joy. As fall colors peak, I am once again enamored with God's beauty. As the weather cools and daylight diminishes I am drawn into reflection. I do not know if it is these conditions that inspire me or if it is a pattern I learned early in life. No matter the source of the pull, I start to review my year enveloped by colorful gratitude.

Reflection takes a shape similar to that of a spiritual practice known as Examen. Looking through the year at what has shown me gratitude, where I have experienced holy moments, when I have participated well in the work of discipleship. Sifting through the days to see what opportunities I have missed, when I might have paid more attention to how God was presently at work and accepted an invitation for me to join in.

Autumn is a wonderful setting for this spiritual exploration of my time and energy. I engage this review intentionally through set aside hours or days for Sabbath retreat. I experience this seasonal time as holy conversation with Ruach to be revealing, healing, and hopeful. It is a part of my faith journey which nourishes my relationship with Christ, fueling my faith-walk.

Whenever is best for your soul, I encourage you to a similar intentional practice to review the steps and path and shape of your faith journey. Not for wrath's sake (as John Wesley puts it) but for courage and strength. Looking for the delight of the Lord in the daily efforts of discipleship as well as the nudges of challenge for growing in love. If you'd like to know more or seek out resources for this practice, I would love to share what I have gleaned on my sojourn with God in Autumn reflections.

Together with you I am seeking Christ's example of living for God's Beloved Community of oneness where God "is making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). Blessings on your faith-walk right where you are and enjoy the gifts of this season alongside.

Blessings, Pastor Gretchen

Living Waters Stewardship

Our worship series focus on God's generous blessings and our response continues through November. On Sunday November 23rd we will celebrate our responses together in praise-filled covenant remembrance.

District Conference November 23 3-5 PM hosted by Good Shepherd UMC

First Week of Advent — begins Sunday, November 30th

Worship series: Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever

Movie Watchparty TBA

— November 30th - 1st Sunday worship will include hanging of the greens. More decorating afterward as well. Come participate in preparing the sanctuary for a season of anticipation and celebration. Watch for more information during November.

— Bible Study and prayer practice with Pastor Gretchen on Sunday afternoons 4-5:30 PM. In the parlor. Hold the dates now. November 30 - December 21.

November Election Season

As a community faith leader I want to encourage you all to practice discipleship through the act of voting. As people of faith, we believe God has given us power – power to act and power to make a difference. We participate with God's power as God works through us.

Voting is a privilege and a responsibility and a way of living this faith. Off-year elections (when we are not voting for president or Congressional leaders) are notoriously low-turnout elections. Let's all do our share to encourage people to employ their power.

Vote yourself. Vote in-person on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4. Offer rides. If you know someone who is homebound or doesn't drive, offer to drive them to the polls or a ballot drop-off location.

Check in with young people. Young people are way less likely to vote than older people – that's just the facts. So, check in with young people in your family, congregation or community and encourage them to vote. Their perspectives matter.

As your pastor I will never tell you who to vote for. I do encourage you to vote. Use the insight that God has given you. Seek God's wisdom in holy conversations with one another. Be an intentional, active participant in our communal civic life.

Pray for all those running, all those already in leadership, and any who are exploring ways to be engaged in civic life.

Sharing with you in community leadership,
Pastor Gretchen

All Saints Day, November 2nd

John Wesley considered this observance of the church to be one of the greatest celebrations in the life of the church. "How superstitious are they who scruple giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints!" said Wesley in 1756. Year after year, he commented on the celebration of the saints. It was a festival he dearly loved.

We too love the remembrance of the saints of the church. Many congregations have different traditions for this celebration. All Saints Day can be an opportunity to grieve together and to reclaim the hope of the Resurrection, as we acknowledge the legacy that remains from the blessed saints of the church.

It is a celebration with hope, even while it helps us acknowledge the deep grief we feel at the loss of loved ones from our sight. All Saints is about acknowledging those who have died recently, as well as those who have died throughout history. It is to acknowledge those who are no longer a part of *this* congregation AND who are a part of the larger congregation of the body of Christ.

At the same time, All Saints Day provides an opportunity to remember the promises of eternity; a way of looking through all that is surrounding us now into a future that looks significantly different. Not an escape, All Saints is a call to action, to live into this possible future, the kin-dom of God, where—as scripture reminds us — there is no hunger or thirst, there is comfort for those who mourn and those who suffer.

However you envision this hope, it is a grace to cling to in uncertain times. We look toward the multitudes who have gone before as a promise and a beacon of light in our darkness. These are they who have gone before; let us celebrate them, even as we honor them by how we live.



Fall is in full swing and our classroom has been busy with exciting seasonal activities and learning adventures! This month, our theme focused on *Woodland Animals* and *Nature Exploration*. The children enjoyed going on a nature walk to search for acorns, leaves, and even a few animal tracks! It was a wonderful way to explore God's creation and see how animals prepare for the cooler weather.

Our **pumpkin patch field trip** was a big success! The children loved picking their very own pumpkins and had a blast jumping in the bounce houses. Thank you to all the parents who joined us — your help and enthusiasm made the day extra special!

We wrapped up October with our **Halloween Party and Trunk-or-Treat**. The children looked adorable in their costumes and had so much fun trick-or-treating with their friends. Thank you for helping make it a festive day filled with laughter and creativity!

Looking Ahead to November:

As we move into November, we'll continue learning about *nocturnal animals* — discovering which creatures come out at night and how they see in the dark. We'll also begin our *Thanksgiving* unit, talking about the *Pilgrims and Native Americans* and learning the importance of gratitude, sharing, and friendship.

We're so thankful for all our preschool families and the joy your children bring to our classroom each day. Wishing everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving season!



Community Helpers Week
with visits with Dr. V & Mr.
Christ.





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E-mail: 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.



Upcoming Events at St. Peter's

- November 2 - All Saints Sunday
 - November 7 - Elderberries Luncheon
 - November 8 - Fall Cleanup
 - November 15 - Men's Breakfast
 - November 22 - Brunswick Stew Sale
 - November 23 - Celebration Sunday
 - November 30 - First Sunday of Advent & Decorating of the Greens
 - November 30 - December 21 - Bible Study & Prayer Practice
 - December 5 - Pancake Supper with Santa
- *see newsletter for details