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**BENCH RESTORED WITH LOVE**

This past month, Ted Boyette loaded up his truck with the bench that sat beneath the crape myrtle tree by the preschool playground. With plans to restore and make the bench beautiful again, he got to work. He used his talents and love to restore the bench with new paint, hardware, and wood. The final touch was a beautiful plaque which adorns the bench in loving memory of Ted's wife, Annette Boyette.

Ted beamed from ear to ear as he talked about the attention and care for giving this bench new life. We thank Ted for his talents and passion. We know Annette would be so proud.



**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, David Forlines, Bob Roberts, Rachel Bowles, Nany Behrens & family, Millie Simmers, Patty Shortidge, The Wood Family, Bernie Stanley, The Family of Gerald Perkins

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



### **Blessing of the Animals**

Give thanks for the animals in your life. Come and offer a blessing for their presence with us in work and companionship. Bring them or a picture of them to church on Sunday, October 12th, 2 PM. We will gather on the back lawn for a time of thanksgiving. Invite your friends and neighbors.

This tradition rose up as part of celebrating St. Francis feast day generations ago. He was known to lift up animals and all of creation as gifts from God to be honored. He wrote about our interconnectedness in this creation as blessing together in relationship with our Creator.

### **World Communion Sunday**

Each October, Christian Communities around the globe observe this special time of worship. With faith communities of all nations we celebrate this sacrament which binds us with each other and with Jesus Christ.

During worship on October 5th, we will praise God for our worldwide connection at Jesus' Table of grace. This day Christians remember how grace unites us in Christ. As we feast in communion, we honor and celebrate unique gifts from all cultures in harmony with one another. Everyone is invited to bring a type of bread from your family heritage or simply a favorite type of bread you enjoy. These will fill our worship table and then provide our refreshment after worship.

Let's honor our uniqueness, enjoy our rich diversity, and give glory to God united as co-missioned disciples. Take time to explore another culture, pray for other countries, listen to your favorite scripture read in a language you do not speak, and find new ways to connect in the fullness of the Body of Christ.

### **Living Waters — Fall Generosity Focus**

Beginning October 12th, the sermon series theme will be *Living Waters*. A focused exploration on God's precious, life-giving provisions for us and our response through daily life. Taking time to explore vows spoken in Baptism to live out love of God and neighbor through our practices of: prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Expressions of discipleship praise will include witness moments and faithful discernment for pledging our whole selves with gifts to work through St. Peter's UMC community mission. Come and worship in celebration of God's living waters.

### **Youth & Children's Ministry**

In September, Jen Kahler announced her resignation as Director of Youth and Children's Ministry. She and her family continue to be faithful, active members of this congregation. I am sad that I have only gotten to experience her gifts and graces in this role for a short three months. I am grateful, as you all have unanimously expressed, for her many years of devoted, delight-filled ministry with the youth, children, and adults of this community. I pray for a blessed next season for her journey in discipleship.

As a response to this opening for ministry leadership, the SPRC and I are requesting all of you to participate in leading Kids Club and Youth for a season. A sign up email has been circulated to pick what days you will offer your gifts and talents in service and love for our treasured young disciples.

1st & 3rd Sundays

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM Kids Club

5-6:30 PM Youth Group

Include a simple meal. These gatherings are focused on offering enjoyable engagement of Bible exploration, faith topics, and Christian fellowship. Share with them something you love. Let them know they are loved by God and by this community. Sign up today. Contact Amanda Bishoff in the church office for assistance.

Thank you for praying for this ministry and letting God work through your gifts in this opportunity.

— Pastor Gretchen

### Pastor's Ponderings - a Curious Faith

"Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. . . If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—I would never have to prepare a sermon." — Meister Eckhart

Meister Eckhart was a 13th-14th century German mystic who preached a powerful path of stripping away all that we think we know of God to come to an encounter with holy, divine presence. Even though he primarily preached in cities, he saw the Holy in all of creation.

I have come to believe that curiosity is an undervalued virtue. Having a curious mind provides space for us to listen with patience, observe with peace, converse with courage, and live into hope. Curiosity about people and situations creates a path through fear. In many ways remaining open to explore with a curious nature is a cure for fear, which scripture *frequently* reminds us to set aside.

One way to develop a curious being is to expect, look for, and apprehend God in all things, in all creatures, in all creation. This practice grows wonder for every living being. Through spending time with each other in curious wonder we can recognize the image of God in whom we are all made. Wonder becomes awe which enhances respect. Engaging one another with curious compassion enriches our relationship with God as we recognize more and more divine presence all around and among us. In drawing closer to God we can let go of fears which divide us.

Seek to apprehend God in all things with great curiosity. Let God's divine nature bring a message of wonder, compassion, and respect. See where this kind of faith practice leads you on The Way with Jesus.

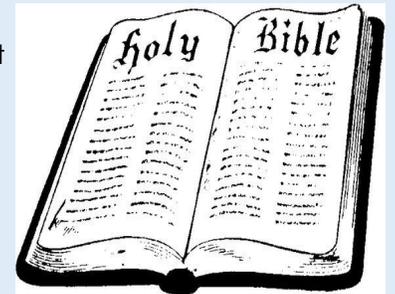
Curiously with Christ,  
Pastor Gretchen

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study will begin on Thursday, October 2 at 10:00 in the parlor at St Peter's. We are studying the book, They Walked with God, by Max Lucado. Our first lesson will be on Josiah.

We will meet on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 during the months of October and November. All are welcome!

Ruth Smith 804-216-1260



### LUCK STONE TOUR



The Elderberries will meet on Friday, November 7 at 10:00 for a tour of Luck Stone. The tour is limited to 12 people, but we are hoping to add another tour either in the afternoon or on another day. After the tour we plan to go to lunch.

You can meet us for lunch if you don't want to take the tour.

More details to come as we finalize our plans.

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



## Men's Group News

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for 8am on October 11th 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:** Join us for our next casual get-together on November 21st at 1 PM at Kitchen 33 & Bakery. This isn't a formal meeting, just a bunch of guys hanging out, chatting about anything and everything.

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

**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 set aside October 18th to get the wood splitters tuned up and start splitting firewood for the season. So far, we've cut up three donated trees and delivered the wood to the yard. We've already made two deliveries to WHEAT clients who need firewood for the colder months. 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:** Our BBQ & BBQ Chicken fundraiser is coming up on October 4th. 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!



## October Birthdays

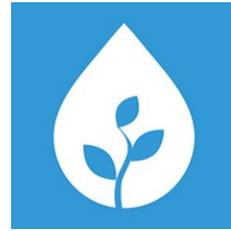
Elle Hershfield	1
Tom Merica	8
Chuck Sullivan	10
Jane Barthurst	18
Claire Williams	21
Jordan Vig	21
Ellen H. Stanley	23
Jacob Kahler	27
Carol Moyer	28
Paula Gilman	30



### IN MEMORY

It is with a heavy heart, we announce the passing of our brother in Christ, Gerald Perkins. Gerald went to be with our Lord on Tuesday, September 30. Gerald was a member of St. Peter's and a neighbor to Ginny Sirc and had several dear friends in Montpelier. We ask you to lift up Gerald's family and friends in prayer for comfort during this difficult time.

A graveside service will be held at St. Peter's Cemetery on Saturday, October 11 at 2:00 p.m.



Our annual Stewardship Campaign kicks off **Sunday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**. Stewardship is a spiritual practice by which we, as Christian stewards, receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly with others, and return them 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. Please consider a commitment and submit your pledge by the end of November to support St. Peter's in 2026.

### 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

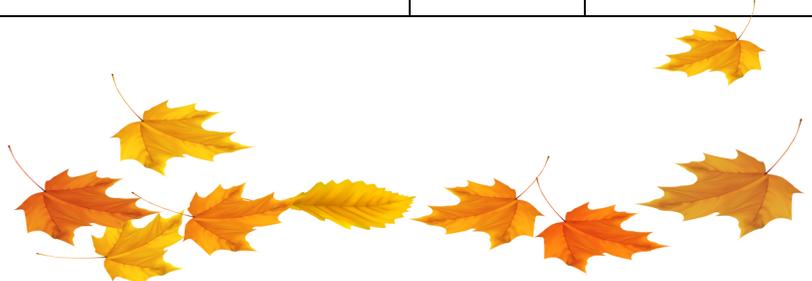
\$11,000 pledged to support Mission Programs

\$5,000 pledged for the Building Fund

\$3,500 pledged to support Youth Programs

\$2,000 pledged for Technology expenses

ST. PETERS UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION	AUGUST 2025	YEAR TO DATE
Donations to the Budget Account	17,591.00	180,460.00
Transferred from Savings	None	None
Budget Account expenses	20,514.00	169,440.00
Gain/Loss	-2,923.00	11,020.00



# MISSION COMMITTEE

*Upcoming Efforts & Save the Dates*



## WINGS OF THE MORNING FALL FUNDRAISER

*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. " Make donations throughout October and indicate Wings of the Morning in the memo line.*

## THANKSGIVING FOOD PANTRY

*Throughout the month of November, help us stock the Western Hanover Emergency Action Team (WHEAT) food pantry shelves ahead of the holidays with non perishable food items. Donations can be left under the missions board in the narthex.*



## Thanksgiving Food Drive



## FALL CLEAN-UP

*Plan to join November 8 for Fall Clean Up efforts. More details and clean up locations to be provided closer to the event. Lunch will be provided. Sign up in narthex for additional info and planning purposes.*

*\*See next page for more details*

**Trunk or Treat** will be held on Friday, October 24 from 6-7 PM. We are looking for volunteers to have a decorated trunk/tailgate and to hand out treats. Decorated trunks can be simple to extravagant, the choice is up to you! This is a fun event and we love to see all the trunks and creative costumes of all the families attending.

To sign up your trunk and give out treats, please reach out to Jean Davis or contact the church office.



**Trunk or Treat**  
**Friday, October 24**  
**6 - 7 PM**



**St. Peter's UMC**  
**15599 Mountain Road, Montpelier, Va 23192**

### Fall Clean - Up

One of our Mission projects is to help our own church members and friends with their yard work. Please join us on Saturday, November 8 at 9:00 to help with this project. All ages are welcome as well as friends. Bring rakes, work gloves, pruners, weed eaters, leaf blowers or other tools to help clean up a yard.

Lunch will be provided by the church and volunteers.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or call or text Ruth Smith 804-216-1260. A schedule of the yards and addresses will be available closer to the date. Thanks!



**Christmas**  
**PANCAKE**  
**SUPPER**  
with Santa

**Dec. 5\* 6:00 PM**

St. Peter's UMC  
15599 Mountain Road  
Montpelier, VA

**Our Annual Christmas Pancake Supper** is right around the corner and will be held on Friday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

As we prepare, we are looking for volunteers and donations. We need volunteers to help greet guests, leaders to guide children, craft helpers, gift station helpers, and wait staff. To sign up, please see the sign up sheet on the missions board in the narthex or call the church office.

During our pancake supper, children are able to shop Christmas gifts for their loved ones. We are seeking donations which are thoughtful and quality items for the Santa shop. After the children shop, gifts will be wrapped. We need tissue paper and all size gift bags only. Due to overwhelming support, we do not need wrapping paper.

If you have any questions, please reach out to church office.

## Welcome Back!

We are so excited to begin a new school year with your children! The first few weeks of school have been filled with smiles, new friendships, and learning our classroom routines.

The children shared their favorite colors, foods, and activities while creating self-portraits. This helped build confidence and celebrate what makes each child unique. We talked about the people and animals we love at home. Children drew family pictures and shared stories, which encouraged speaking and listening skills.

We began our fall theme by learning about apples and we look forward to tasting different apples, graphing our favorites, and using apples for counting and patterning. We also enjoyed apple-themed art projects and stories.

Looking ahead, our October themes are Community Helpers, Forest Animals, Pumpkins, Bats, and Spiders. We have a Field Trip planned to Hanover Vegetable Farm to pick pumpkins.

We look forward to a wonderful Fall, filled with hands-on learning, discovery, and lots of laughter.



**Friendship Snack!**



**Friendship Flag**

**Where Learning and Fun come Together as One!**



Scouting  America



**CUB SCOUT  
PACK 706**

MONTPELIER, VIRGINIA

**Boys & Girls  
K-5th Grade Welcome**

check us out!  
↓



**Adventure  
Camping  
Archery  
Crafts  
Hiking  
Friends  
Outdoor Play  
Nature  
Service  
Fun!**



**email us for more info : [info@cubscoutpack706.org](mailto:info@cubscoutpack706.org)**



St. Peter's United Methodist Church  
15599 Mountain Road  
Montpelier, Virginia 23192  
Phone: 804/883-5596  
E-mail: [stpetersumc@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersumc@gmail.com)

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## **BBQ Chicken Dinner or Pork BBQ Dinner**

**Take-Out orders only**

Limited number of meals available, pre-ordering is recommended  
Delivery is available for those in need - please ask

**Saturday, October 4th**

**Pickup time is 11 AM at St. Peter's UMC  
15599 Mountain Road, Montpelier, VA 23192**

Preorder by email to: [MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org](mailto:MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org)  
Or call Butch at 804-496-1399, or call the church at 804-883-5596

Pork BBQ or Barbecued Half chicken, potato salad,  
baked beans, and a roll for \$12.00



### **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

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

