

Esther Gilman Memorial Clothes Closet

Our annual Esther Gilman clothes closet, held on August 15, was one for the record books. At opening, we had over 100 people in line ready to shop. We had over 200 people from the community come through. We are so blessed to reach out to our community and be a part of sharing God's love to all.

St. Peter's would like to extend a special thank you for all our volunteers, donors, and supporters. Your generosity and love allows our missions to make a lasting impact.



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: Denny Waldrop, David Forlines, Bob Roberts, Bernie Stanley, Cameron Smith, Ellen Stanley, Ryan Spencer, Tim Davidson, Chuck and Kathy Sullivan, George Eanes, Barbara Adams, Winnie Morris, Ashton McClanahan, The Family of

Katherine Stone, Linda Stanley

Always in Our Prayers: Pastor Gretchen and Mike

Back to School Prayer For Students

God of wisdom and might,
We praise you for the wonder
of our being,
for mind, body, and spirit.
Be with us as we begin a
new school year.
Bless us and the teachers and staff
at our school.
Give strength and grace
to our growing bodies,
wisdom and knowledge to our minds
as we search for understanding,
and peace and zeal to our hearts.
We ask this through
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group News

The Men's Group continues to grow in fellowship, service, and purpose as we support one another and our church community.

Upcoming Gatherings

Men's Group Breakfast Meeting: Saturday, September 12 at 8:00 AM Kitchen 33 & Bakery A short, meaningful time of food, fellowship, and conversation as we check in, encourage one another, and discuss ongoing projects. **All men are welcome.**

Bi-Monthly Luncheon: Friday, September 18 • 1:00 PM The Eagles Nest Restaurant – The Federal Club Held every *third Friday of odd-numbered months*, these relaxed lunches help us deepen relationships and enjoy time together.

Evangelism & Outreach

We remain committed to welcoming new men into our group, into St. Peter's, and ultimately into God's kingdom. If you have ideas to help us reach others more effectively—or feedback on anything that may unintentionally hinder our mission—we want to hear from you. **Your voice matters.**

Service Ministries

Wheelchair Ramp Ministry: We currently have **seven ramps in place**, with additional units available for temporary use. If you know someone who needs a ramp, please reach out so we can help.

Firewood Ministry: This ministry is essential for families who rely on wood heat throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support of the wonderful ministry.

General Support & Repairs: Our group continues to assist with small repairs and maintenance needs for individuals in our church and community. If you or someone you know needs a helping hand, let us know.

Church maintenance: We are constantly looking for ways to help with the needs of the church properties.

Name our group: We're currently known as the Men's Group at St. Peter's UMC, but we're exploring whether a new name might better reflect who we are and what we do. If you have a suggestion or an idea that captures our mission, fellowship, or spirit of service, we'd love to hear it.

Supporting the Men's Group

If you feel led to support our ministry financially, you may give in any of the following ways:

- Write a check to **St. Peter's UMC** with "Men's Group" in the memo line
- Visit the church website → **GIVE** → enter your amount → select "Men's Group"

Place a donation in the offering plate with a note marked "Men's Group"

Stay Informed: Join our mailing list by clicking [here to subscribe](#).

Join Us

We'd love to have you join us for any meeting, ministry, or project. **No special skills required—just a willing heart for fellowship and service.**

If you have questions, contact us at MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org or call Butch at 804-496-1399.

May God continue to bless us all.



September Birthday's

Grace Lynn Pollock	12
Beth Nevius	16
Bob Norris	17
Rees Williams	29



JOIN SCOUTS TODAY!

Scout Troop 706 meets on Mondays at 7:00 PM and is currently looking for new scouts and adult volunteers interested in community service.

Please reach out to Kurt Speed with any questions about joining at 571-205-7180.

DS On-Boarding Sept 1 and 2
(please include information from separate district email)

Bible Study - Teach us to Pray
Wednesday lunch hour 12-1PM
September 2, 16, 23, 30
In person & Zoom
Expanding on themes from worship each week and experiencing prayer together. Contact Pastor Gretchen for the Zoom Link.

September Worship Focus

Worship Series — Practice What You Pray
Explore what scripture has to guide us in this relationship practice with God. Consider how we pray with adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication toward practiced prayer.

Youth Fellowship

Sundays 4-6
Beginning Sept 13th
Grades 6-12
Faith formation. Bible exploration. Games. Snacks.

Game Night (each third Friday)

Sept 18
5:30-7:30
A wonderful time to gather for fun for every age. Would you like to host with your favorite games? Contact Pastor Gretchen to claim a month.

Community Dinner (every first Wednesday)

Sept 2, 6-7 PM
September will feature a special speaker from the Hanover Sheriffs Office.
All are welcome. Bring friends and neighbors.
Menu TBA
Servants needed for each month to host and prepare a meal. Contact Pastor Gretchen to pick your month to offer generous hospitality.

Grandparents Day

September 13
Celebrate God's gift of generational wisdom and wonder in worship together.
Bring your grandparents to worship. Bring your grandchildren too.
Stay after worship for additional intergenerational activities and fellowship.

Charge Conference — save the date
October 12, 7 PM at Kenwood UMC



Pastor's Ponderings

Blessings to you and yours,

September marks "Season of Creation" throughout our Christian connection.

This season celebrates Creation as God's gift, and our responsibility to honor and act as stewards of this home of ours, earth.

Many congregations focus and study what it looks like to be a "Green Church," integrating our loving care for the natural world into worship, discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, and mission ministries. I encourage an exploration of this commitment as followers of Christ.

For me, Creation Care or environmental stewardship isn't just another "social justice issue" among many. I believe that we all exist, everything that is, within God's full presence, and that this same life that animates flora and fauna is God's Spirit that breathes life into humanity and guides us in our paths. We are interconnected through Holy Spirit, all peoples as well as more-than-human world.

A hymn that captures this understanding for me is *Oh, the Life of the World* by Kathy and Ian Galloway, found in the Upper Room Worship book:

Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure
unfolding in beauty the green-growing tree,
the changing of seasons in mountain and valley,
the stars and the bright restless sea.

Oh, the life of the world is a fountain of goodness
overflowing in labor and passion and pain,
in the sound of the city and the silence of wisdom
in the birth of a child once again.

Oh, the life of the world is the source of our healing.
It rises in laughter and wells up in song;
it springs from the care of the poor and the broken
and refreshes where justice is strong.

So give thanks for the life and give love to the Maker
and rejoice in the gift of the bright risen Son,
and walk in the peace and the power of the Spirit
till the days of our living are done.

I love how this hymn weaves together the natural world, human experience, worship and service, justice and theology — all together. God loves all of us because we are all made by God — who is Love — for the purpose of love. We live into our purpose when we recognize our relationships with all people and all creation; loving God by loving all that God has made. May we find joy in discovering together how to do this in new ways!

Serving and celebrating with you in Christ,
Pastor Gretchen

"What are we going to do with the darn kids these days!"

All our church youth - Abby Davis (16), Vince Nevius (16), Jordan Vig (14) [Morgan had band camp]; Diane's granddaughter Sarah-(16) and her friend Nora (14); and other friends invited - Keigen (14) Innin (12), Bash DesRoches (10), Molly (12), Colton (11), Sadie Meador (9), Duke (19), Caleb Flanagan (16), Charlie (17), Gavin (14), Luca Yonce (8), and Tyree Covington (7) all came and volunteered parts of a week of their precious summer vacation around jobs, friends, and naps to serve on **SPUMC Mission Week!**

Monday, we helped feed and clothe our neighbors from Hanover at **ACES-Ashland Christian Em Services** and talked at lunch about working for others. This week's theme was Jesus's theme of **"DO"** for others, which became the theme of our t-shirts. We then relaxed with ice cream at Jeff's pool; we are great floaters and some can do the butterfly. You should have seen it.

Tuesday was harvesting vegetables and watermelon for **WHEAT** and learned a lot about weeds and pollinators at Church of Our Savior's garden. At lunch we thanked God that we all had good food to eat and that we could help provide food for others. In the afternoon, we went to see Ellen Stanley at her home at Spring Oak Assisted Living. Jordan called a great game of BINGO and the rest of us got to make new friends, trying not to share COVID with them. Everyone was too tired to join with the Yonce's and friends playing wiffle ball; including the adults, except Mr. Yonce.

Wednesday, **Wings of Hope** horse ranch was the hit of the whole week, caring for the horses that show those in need of their love and comfort. We carefully fed the horses hay and a lot of water. We got all the poop and dust off the floors and benches; and only a few got into the woods where the chiggers were hiding. We brushed the dust off ourselves and then sorted a lot of clothes at St. Peter's. In the afternoon, in 95 degrees during our afternoon soccer game at DesRoches, the competition was amazing between the two pro soccer players, Jordan and Keigen. Sorry you all missed it.

Thursday, we prepared toys, clothes, electronics, and hangers for **Great & Mighty Things** in Beaverdam. We got them all ready to sell more things to make room for our Clothes Closet items. We learned a lot and were thankful to see so much work being done to help so many. Then off to the sweet place Katherine Stone had lived, "Sunrise Villa". Abby called a new type of BINGO. We all played with the fun ladies and helped give out their prize of choice, chocolates. We 'hit a tired wall' and canceled afternoon Bochy Ball game at the Flanagan's.

Friday, we committed all day to working at St. Peters United Methodist Church on the **Esther Gilman's Clothes Closet**; where even high school boys can sort and fold baby clothes for hours, only distracted by phones. And the young ladies stayed steadily folding and only glancing at styles they liked and making little piles to take home. By the afternoon we had picked out the best and/or silliest **FASHIONS** just for you! Hope you liked it. In the evening it was too hot to even have a cookout, but we did have some great hot dogs and all the tomatoes anyone could eat.

"What are we going to do with the darn kids these days, they learned it from the adults!"

Gretchen and I volunteered to be counselors for the youth for nine hours for five days, so we really did not have to have more adults, but still they came to **"DO"** with beautiful smiles. Folks like Ruth, Judy, Kenny, Leon, Mike, Amanda, Jessica, Jody, Jamie, and Mr. Yonce came to help and to play with us; instead of gardening, golfing, "going to the river", playing with other hobbies, or going to work. Some just told their workplace that they just had to "go shovel horse poop." And then all the folks that helped with youth and the Esther Gilman Clothes Closet - Kendal, Phyllis, Ruth, former Closet guests, others we don't even know; and our expert folder, label reader, and door greeter Pastor Gretchen.

Thank you all!





In Memory



Katherine McKenzie Stone, 96, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed peacefully to her heavenly home on Monday, August 3, 2026. She was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew Clyde McKenzie, and Katharine Garrett McKenzie; her brothers, Andrew Clyde McKenzie Jr. and James R. McKenzie, her beloved husband of 61 years, Douglas Smith Stone; and her beloved daughter, Jacquelynne Renee Stone.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen D. Tatti (Bob); her sons, Barry Stone (Tracy) and Kevin Stone (Jen); her grandchildren, Heather Sharpe (Jason), Katelyn T. Smith (Tyler), and Garrett Tatti (Stephanie); her great-grandchildren, Daisy Sharpe and Owen Tatti; and many caring nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Born on January 3, 1930, and raised in Hanover County, Katherine spent 92 of her 96 years in Hanover and remained deeply connected to the community she called home. After graduating from Henry Clay High School, she attended the Pan American School in Richmond and worked as a secretary for Ashland Roller Mills before beginning her family.

In later years, Katherine served as secretary for Berea Baptist Church for 25 years, offering her time and talents with dedication and care. A devout follower of Jesus Christ, she was also a faithful member of St. Peter's United Methodist Church for more than 61 years, where her faith and commitment were evident throughout her life.

Katherine found joy in riding horses, camping with her family, cooking, baking, and caring for those she loved. Family and friends were at the center of her life, and she will be remembered for her warmth, devotion, generous spirit, and steady love for her family, church, and community.

Her quiet strength, faithful heart, and gracious care for others leave a legacy for all who knew and loved her.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 12:00 noon at St. Peter's United Methodist Church, 15599 Mountain Road, Montpelier, VA 23192, with a reception immediately following. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter's Church in Montpelier.

- obituary courtesy of Nelsen Funeral Home

Peggy Willis Harris - April 24, 1940 - July 9, 2026

Former St. Peter's member, Peggy Harris, wife of Tyree Harris, joined our heavenly father on July 9, 2026. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the Harris family for peace and comfort.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16



St. Peter's United Methodist Church
15599 Mountain Road
Montpelier, Virginia 23192
Phone: 804/883-5596
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.

