

What's Happening: October 6, 2024

The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Parishioners in need of Prayer: Pat W., Sam M., Yhosila N., Michael M., Carolyn B., Cindy L., Bryan M., Lois S., Jim & Linda P., Bob L., Peggy Z., Jo O.

Homebound Parishioners: Anida B., Sheena J., Doug B., Jane N., and Molly S.

Parishioners' Friends and Family: Cindy (Amanda Chambers); Neal (Liz Crosby); Maryellen (Bob Brown); Craig, Don (Ann Bish); Azri & Barb, Stan & Deloris (Jim & Nickie Stary); Vitalia (Carolyn Beredo); Laura (Dennis McCready); Lee (John Keller); Dan (Deb Vandrasik); John (David Nash); Marilou (Sara Ferry); Samantha (Sam Morgan); John & Mary (Julie Steigerwald); Brynn, Ellie (Linda Purdy); Virginia (Brenda Pongracz); Christian (Ann Wright); Grace (Cheshier Family); Tristan (Jessica Philpott, Luke & Mark Sferra); Bonnie, Gary (Emily Malquest); Leslie, Alyssa, Gerry, Nacine, Paul (Joanne Hull); David (Beth O'Rourke); Dan (Cindy Lemmerman); Lee (Tom & Sue Andrews); Weston (John Neumann); Elaine (Patti Dobro); Sue, Michael (Amanda Chambers); Kristen (Alison LaRosa); Carol (Monica Jochum); John (Michelle Killin-Keith); the Capece family (Kristen Gardner); Sherry (Mark Lekan); Elizabeth (Jan McDonough); Lori (Kathy Woolner); Chip (the Jochum family); Bonnie (Carol Childs)

October Outreach Focus of the Month: Community Meal

Editor's Note: Community Meal is this week, Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 5:30 p.m.

At our September Community Meal, I asked some of our guests what they think about our ministry. "Grateful," Kristen said with a smile. Across the room, Sarah shared the same sentiment. "We're sure thankful and grateful that you guys have it, and I like the celery in the dish tonight." David appreciates the beautiful atmosphere we provide, and how we always have something homemade and special. Bill explained that he lives alone and doesn't cook for himself; most of the time he can't afford restaurant or fast food. "I get a lot more variety here!"

In August, Community Meal returned to in-person dining after years of pandemic-related take-out service. Flower centerpieces and seasonal decorations adorn the tables once again; there are gifts, and piano accompaniment by Patricia Wielinski; and the Undercroft is filled with the sounds of friends catching up over dinner. One guest told me that he's known most of the people here for more than twenty years. This ministry *really is* about community.

This atmosphere extends to the kitchen as well. Barb volunteers "for the people inside and outside" the kitchen, and Neil "for the fellowship." Julie finds it "a wonderful way to connect with the community," and Anne Marie says that she loves serving the people and talking with them. Lisa says that she can use her "passion for food to provide a nice meal for people in the community." Ann Bish explained that it used to be a family activity, and that she and her sons continue doing it to honor their late father.

Community Meal takes the energy and talent of many volunteers: shoppers, cooks, bakers, servers, dishwashers, set-up and tear-down folk, to name a few! We always need help; would you please consider volunteering? Jan Babbit and I send out a monthly email, letting our group of volunteers know what is needed. If you would like to join the email notification list, please contact Jan at 440-668-6289 or jrbabbit@gmail.com, or me at 740-368-7677 or lesleydemagall@gmail.com.

We're grateful that our ministry has been selected as Outreach Partner of the Month, not only because your loose plate offerings provide funds to pay for the meals, but also because it gives us the

opportunity to reach out to you and invite you to be with us this month; **the Undercroft doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, and dinner is served at 6 p.m.**

A guest named Christopher told me that Community Meal is an example of the Creator's Way to be in a world that views scarcity as a necessity. What a profound interpretation of what we do!

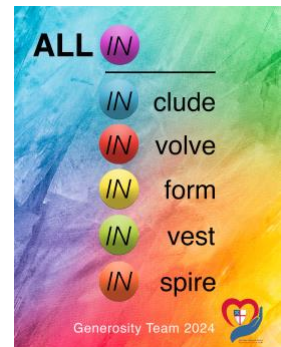
We would love for you to join us in this wonderful ministry, and help us fulfill the Creator's Way.

— Lesley Demagall



GENEROSITY TEAM

Stewardship Campaign



Dear St. Peter's Family:

By now you should have received in the mail your campaign kick-off letter and pledge materials from the Generosity Team for our annual Stewardship Campaign. If not, please let the office know. Extra copies are available at the back of the church. And do mark your calendar for our **annual IN-GATHERING brunch on Sunday, November 3, following one all-church service at 9:30 a.m.** This celebration in the Undercroft is hosted by the Generosity Team and the Vestry to express our gratitude for your support of the Stewardship Campaign. Please contact any member of the Generosity Team if you have any questions. We look forward to another successful campaign this fall!

You will also soon receive in the mail — and hear in church — testimonials from five of our parishioners. They have been asked to share their thoughts on how belonging to the St. Peter's family has inspired them to be **ALL IN!**

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Your Generosity Team: Jan McDonough, Martha Taylor, Anne Marie Foti, Pat Wielinski, Naomi Opdyke, Tucker Handley, Beth O'Rourke, and Jeff Tennant



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The Vestry is the legal body that represents the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. At St. Peter's there are twelve Vestry members, with four being elected each year and four "retiring" or rolling off each year. St. Peter's Vestry members are elected at the annual

parish meeting which will take place on January 19, 2025. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation, to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.

The "legal" requirements to serve on vestry are twofold: (1) Candidates must be at least 16-years old and active members of St. Peter's for at least six months; and (2) The candidate must make and maintain a pledge (financial support for St. Peter's). But service on Vestry contemplates more than these simple requirements:

- Vestry members commit to attend ten meetings per year. These meetings take place on the third Monday of each month, from September through June.
- Vestry members agree to have oversight for or significant involvement in at least one of the St. Peter's ministries. These can include (1) children, youth, and families; (2) outreach and generosity; (3) fellowship; (4) liturgical volunteers; (5) music program; (6) buildings and grounds; (7) chancel guild; and (8) pastoral care. We also try to have representation from both 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services.
- Vestry members share important governance information with the parish and in turn, LISTEN to parish needs and report to Vestry.
- Vestry members are regular in worship.
- Vestry members are LEADERS in most St. Peter's initiatives.

This year, the terms of four Vestry members expire: Liz Crosby, John Newman, Dan Lammers, and Betsy Yingling. We are therefore seeking qualified members to fill these positions.

If you are interested in or willing to become a leader at St. Peter's, please let Liz, John, Dan, or Betsy know of your interest. Alternatively, if you have observed leadership qualities in one of our parishioners, please feel free to nominate that person.

We will plan to have a slate of candidates for publication in the December Net; therefore, the nomination process will remain open through November 15.

We hope you will give this amazing opportunity your heartfelt consideration.

— *THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE*



DIOCESE OF OHIO GENERAL CONVENTION DELEGATES NEEDED

The 208th General Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio will take place on **November 8 and 9, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg, Ohio.** Many diocesan issues are decided at Convention, which include election of both clergy and lay leaders to diocesan offices. St. Peter's is permitted two voting members to participate as delegates at General Convention. This is both a privilege and responsibility. At this time St. Peter's Vestry is seeking volunteers or nominations. We require two delegates and an alternate. If you are available on **November 8 and 9**, are willing to travel to Perrysburg, and have the desire to represent St. Peter's at this event, please see Liz Crosby, Father Mike, or any member of the Vestry.



GENEROSITY TEAM

Apple Picking

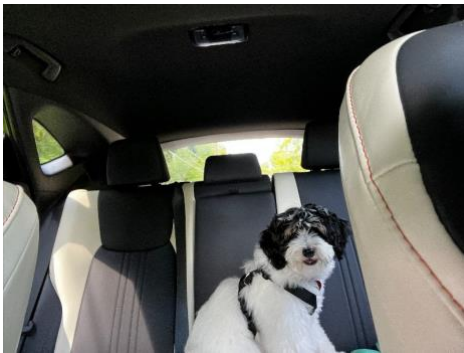
It's Apple-Picking Time!

Celebrate the beauty of autumn by joining us for a morning of apple-picking at Miller's Apple Hill on **Saturday, October 5, at 10 a.m.** We'll enjoy wagon rides, food trucks, arts & crafts exhibits, and more! This fellowship event sponsored by the Generosity Team promises to inspire your fall baking! Miller's is located in Lorain County at 50549 Telegraph Road, Amherst.

Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6

Follow Maisie to St. Peter's on **Sunday, October 6 at 5 p.m.** for the Blessing of the Animals, when we celebrate the ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi. Everyone is invited to this outdoor service on the front plaza of the church, led by Fr. Mike, who will bless your pet.

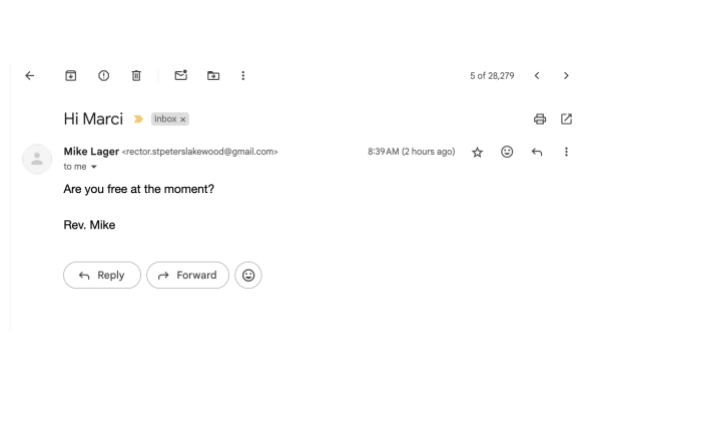
If your pet is not comfortable traveling, you may bring a picture for the blessing. And if your child has a stuffed animal that he or she would like to have blessed, then bring that, too. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this wonderful outreach event. For more information, please call the church office.



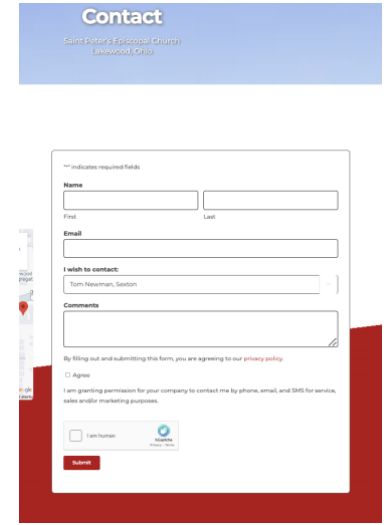
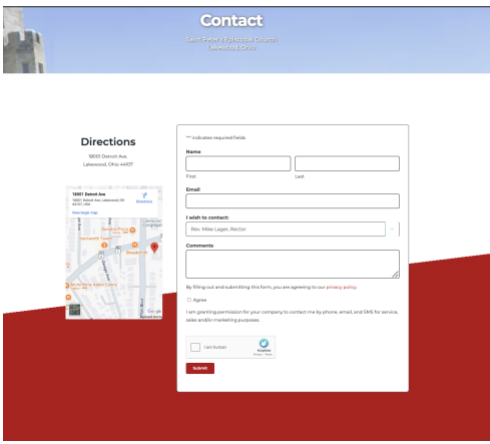
St. Cecilia Guild will meet on **Wednesday, October 16, at noon in the chapel**, and the program is a lovely and uplifting one. Cathie Tasse of Westlake will be talking about her experiences hosting a family from Ukraine for a year-and-a-half, and Lorna Jordan is hoping that a member of the family will join attend as well. Antonio's will cater a lunch of chicken, rigatoni, green beans, salad, breadsticks, and beverages. **The cost is \$14 per person. Lorna Jordan has extended the previously reported deadline to October 9. A minimum of 20 is needed for catering**, so please send your check, made out to Lorna, to her at 1507 Westford

Circle, #105, Westlake, Ohio, 44145. Lorna says: "I will not cash checks until I know if we have enough people, and if we don't, I will send checks back and people will have to bring their own lunch." If you have questions, contact her at 216-647-3774 or ljcookie1@gmail.com.

It's Time, Once Again, for Another Edition of "Protecting Yourself from Spam"



Mike Lager
rector@stpeterslakewood.org



The last time I wrote one of these public service announcements, it was summer. With the receipt of an email on the morning of Monday, September 30, 2024, I knew that it was time once more to communicate to you that an imposter of Father Mike’s is again making the rounds. The spammer’s techniques have become more sophisticated: note how similar the return email address looks to Father Mike’s *real* email. So similar was this return address to Father Mike’s that my robust Gmail spam filter didn't catch it; there it was, sitting in my inbox, waiting for me to take the bait.

I didn’t.

I realized that it is time for us to take real action. But first, a caveat: if a spammer or phisher or other bad actor is determined to send you a scam email, they’re going to do it. *But we don’t have to make it easy for them.* And we have been doing just that — all in the interest of making it easy for our parishioners to reach us — by having hyperlinked emails on our website.

A brief digression for those unfamiliar with the term. A hyperlink is an “energized” way for someone to generate an outgoing email by simply clicking on an email address that appears on a website. For example, if you go to the “[About Us](#)” page on our website and click on Clergy,” Father Mike’s photo and bio will appear. Beneath his photo you will see his email address. (See image accompanying this article.) Clicking on it will immediately generate an outgoing email, because the email address is “hyperlinked.” And by the way, the phrase “About Us” in this paragraph is another example of a hyperlink. You simply click on it and you’ll be redirected to that page.

Back to preventive measures. I recently attended a communications seminar sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and led by Jessica Rocha, director of communications for the diocese. I mentioned that we’ve been plagued by phishing and scamming emails, and asked for her recommendations as to what we can do to mitigate the problem. What are best practices, for example, with respect to posting staff emails on our website with a hyperlink? Jessica told our group that it is *never* a good idea to have hyperlinked emails on a website. The diocese, in fact, no longer does this. What they do have (and what we have, too) is [a contact form with a drop-down menu](#) (see another of the other images above).

So we would like everyone to do two things to help us help you:

1. If you have a smart phone, open your contacts app and create a contact for everyone at St.

Peter's with whom you communicate regularly. Send an email or text directly from your contact list, bypassing the website entirely.

2. If you must use the website to generate an email, please use the drop-down menu. The default name that will come up is that of our sexton, Tom Newman. Simply click on his name and the entire drop-down menu will appear so that you can select the person on our staff that you wish to contact. The beauty of this drop-down feature is that it has built-in protections for the church. It makes you click a box proving you're not a robot, for example. I like to think many robotic spammers have been tripped up this way.

In the days to come, I will contact our web company and ask them to remove all hyperlinked emails from our contact page.

1. Never click on any link in an email or text that looks suspicious.
2. Never download any attachments from a suspicious email.
3. Never share any personal or financial information with someone sending you a dubious email. St. Peter's will *never* ask you for personal or financial information in an email.
4. Never send any money or gift cards if the suspicious email or text contains a request to do so.
5. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be with a government agency, a utility company, or a credit bureau, end the call immediately and call the actual entity to let them know you've received such a call.
6. You can report these scams to the Federal Trade Commission's "Report Fraud" website: <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>
7. Call, text, or email the person being impersonated. (In today's example, I spoke to Father Mike on the phone, alerting him that he'd been spammed again.) Advise the person that you received a questionable email, and ask if they did, in fact, send you such a communication.

If you receive a spammy text from anyone, especially someone pretending to be from St. Peter's, here are some guidelines from the Federal Trade Commission:

1. Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM). This helps your wireless provider spot and block similar messages in the future.
2. Report the spam on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam.
3. Report the spam to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. I would also add that you never attempt to return the call, and that you never click on any link that might be contained in the message.

Peace and blessings,

—*The Real Marci Rich*



National Fire Prevention Week is October 6 - 12

St. Peter's parishioners know him as Dave Tabar, a longtime member of the parish. But when Dave's not at church on Sunday, or at a Vestry meeting, or attending a session of the organ campaign committee, he does in fact have a part-time job: He's host of the weekly podcast "Mighty Line Minute" for ShieldMark Inc. in Rocky River. You could say that safety is Dave's jam. In honor of National Fire Prevention Week this month, Dave asked if he could share the following important tips with our parishioners, because, as he explained: "I've known too many people impacted by residential fires."

National Fire Prevention Week takes place each year in October in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and it offers an opportune time to review the following safety tips. If you implement these, you can significantly reduce fire risks and enhance safety in your home:

1. **Smoke Alarms:** Test or install updated smoke alarms on every level and inside bedrooms. Test monthly and replace batteries yearly. Best practices include 10-year sealed battery units to avoid 9V battery failure and detector "chirping," use of interconnected (multiple station) alarms, and regular testing. Install and test carbon monoxide detectors so they can be heard in sleeping areas. Understand the differences between "photoelectric" (light beam) and "ionization" (radioactive element) smoke detectors before purchasing. Consider installing garage heat detectors. Consult local fire officials for further advice, and possibly free detectors.
2. **Battery Charging:** Choose charging locations carefully. Avoid unattended, overnight charging of tools, e-bikes, scooters, etc., and charge only on noncombustible surfaces and in areas that avoid combustibles.
3. **Fire-Escape Plan:** Create and practice a fire-escape plan. Identify two exits from each room and designate an outdoor meeting place. Keep bedroom doors closed at night, and consider escape ladders for upper floors.
4. **Safe Cooking:** Stay near the kitchen while cooking, especially when grilling or frying. Keep flammable items (aerosols, cooking oils) away from the stovetop, and have an ABC fire extinguisher nearby. (ABC defines the type of fire that the extinguisher is designed for: A = ordinary combustibles, B = flammable liquids, and C = electrical.)
5. **Space Heaters:** Avoid if possible. If you must purchase a space heater, choose heaters with safety certifications such as UL, ETL, or CSA. Always look for tip-over and auto-shutoff features.
6. **Flammable Materials:** Store flammable liquids in approved metal containers away from heat sources. Best practice: Use "Justrite" or "Eagle" brand UL or FM approved metal "Type II" safety cans for gasoline storage.
7. **Electrical Cords:** Regularly inspect cords for damage. Avoid overloading outlets and using temporary extension cords as permanent solutions.
8. **Fireplace Maintenance:** Have your fireplace and chimney inspected and cleaned regularly. Always use a screen to prevent wood-burning sparks from escaping.
9. **Fire Extinguishers:** Keep multi-purpose "ABC" type fire extinguishers accessible [see above], especially in the kitchen and garage. Learn how to use them.

10. **Candles:** Consider alternatives to open flames. If using candles, ensure they are a reputable brand, and are placed safely on stable, non-combustible surfaces away from children. Never use when sleeping, if possible.

For more information, listen to (and view) a special edition of the “Mighty Line Minute” podcast on fire safety, in which Dave interviews a member of the Westlake Fire Department. You can find it by visiting this link: <https://vimeo.com/1006718133>.



Father Mike’s Adult Forum classes, also known as “9:09,” take place at 9:09 a.m. in the Undercroft. This progressive study of the Bible is also taught on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the upstairs office lounge, following the 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Oratory. Other opportunities for Bible study are Fridays at 8 a.m. at Joe’s Deli in Rocky River. For information about the latter group, contact Jim Calhoun at jlciv401@gmail.com.

For pastoral emergencies, please contact The Rev. Mike Lager at 479-221-4030 or via email at rector@stpeterslakewood.org.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the office at office@stpeterslakewood.org.