

The Epistle

The Monthly Publication of the People of
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Kansas City, Missouri
September 2011

Rally Day and Ministry Fair Introduce New Fall Programs

Members of the Vestry welcome you to a special breakfast, 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11, to introduce you to our fall Christian formation programs for children and adults. With the help of chefs Larry Kennedy and Clay Glenn, specially prepared breakfast items will be served, including refreshments of coffee, tea and orange juice.

Along with Rally Day, a Ministry Fair will celebrate our various ministries and mission programs with representatives available to answer any questions you may have. This will be a great time to sign up to participate to sing in the choir, be a member of the Outreach Committee, participate in the women's Tuesday afternoon Bible study group, or the couples Bible study group on the first and third Thursdays, Building and Grounds projects, Christian education, Gift Shop, and others.

Come and celebrate our programs at St. Peter's. The Vestry will be serving a free, hot breakfast (donations accepted).

Children's Chapel to start Sept. 11

Children's Chapel will include music, prayers, and stories that coincide with the Sunday lessons, along with great art projects, and time to play. We hope to see all kindergartners through second graders.

What: Children's Chapel and Sunday School

Who: Kids in grades K-2

Where: St. Peter's Undercroft

When: Every Sunday starting Sept. 11 at 10am

Contact Sue Johnson at sljeawood@gmail.com or (913) 491-9040.

Thirty-One Cars at Annual Show



Flexing their muscles next to the 1955 Chevy muscle car are Cletson Cox, Jim McDowell, Sam Manthei, Sue and Russ Johnson and John Fisher at St. Peter's 4th Annual Car Show, August 13.

This year, the exhibit area was moved to the front of the Church and the east lawn, which provided shade for the participants. Several car owners commented on how friendly the church was; everyone enjoyed the food and drinks. I think next year's show will be even better. Thanks to all who helped.

Cletson Cox

Bible Study Group Hosts VBS



This theme of this year's Vacation Bible School, held August 20, was Noah and the Ark, as you might guess from the animal balloon hats. Pictured above are the adult leaders, members of the Midrash Bible Study, and some of the children who were enrolled in the day's program.

Ground Cleanup Day Set Oct. 15

Please reserve Saturday, Oct. 15, for a grounds cleanup day starting at 8:30 a.m. We are going to preserve the trees on the north side of the parking lot. Many need to be trimmed or cut and vines must be removed. All hands would be appreciated. Hand or power tools will be helpful. Thanks. John Fisher



St. Monica's Guild

First Fall Meeting Set Sept. 8

The first fall meeting of St. Monica's will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept 8. We will be discussing and taking reservations for our annual "Christmas in October" luncheon scheduled to be held at Loch Lloyd and only a month and a half away. We will also discuss the October nut sale.

Have you been purchasing gifts for Safehome throughout the summer? If not, please remember that we bring Christmas gifts to the October luncheon for Safehome. The gift list we have used for the past years will be available at the September meeting.

All women of St. Peter's are welcome to attend. Come and get to know one another better.

Couples Bible Study Resumes

Couples Bible Study starts on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. We meet in the Parlor for one hour, twice each month on the first and third Thursdays. We are beginning the fall session with the reading of the Book of Revelation. A study guide will be offered to help understand the last book of the New Testament. Refreshments are provided and a great time is had by all! Please join us for learning - fellowship - hospitality! Fr. Russ



Our faithful Building and Grounds vestry member, John Fisher, installed the new microwave/convection oven in the parlor kitchen. Many thanks to St. Monica's Guild for their donation of the new oven.

Day School News

New Year Starts; Some Room Available

The themes for the month of September are School and Apples. We have started the new school year and that means we are back to every day lesson plans, circle time and getting our new children and families acclimated with the day school program.

We still have several openings in the Green Room, which is our room for 3- and 4-year-olds. If you, or someone you know, are interested in our program, please come by the day school for information and a tour.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.



Cathy Henson
Day School Director

Singers and Ringers Reunite!

The music ministry will get back into full swing at the end of August. Chancel choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning on Aug. 31, and resume singing on Sunday mornings beginning Sept. 11.

The handbell choir will also resume in September, rehearsing on Sundays after church on Sept. 4, 11, and 18, and offering handbell music during the service on Sept. 25.

The children's choir will return in October, rehearsing after church on Oct. 2, 9, and 16, and sing for us on Oct. 23. The handbell choir and children's choir alternate every other month, from Labor Day through Memorial Day.

We've got a ton of great music planned for this year for all three of our music ministry groups.

If you have had the desire to be a part of the music ministry, as a singer of any age or a bell ringer, this is the perfect time to jump in. We can always use additional singers in the choir, and we are in need of two or three more ringers in the handbell choir.

Please contact our director of music, at laurie.schwab@stpetersepiscopal.net or at 816-524-4557.

Laurie Schwab



Rector's Ruminations

By the Rev. Russell W. Johnson, Jr.

Greetings, everyone!

As we begin the fall activities, I would like you to read the following paragraph from the magazine published by the Alban Institute *Congregations*, and the article is: **So, You Think You're Friendly.**

Sometimes church members are reluctant to talk to people they don't know simply because they are not sure if that person is new or not, especially if the church has multiple worship services. They don't want to embarrass themselves or the other person by asking if the person is new, so they don't say anything.

In my opinion, "are you new here?" is a question that should be retired from our church vocabulary. Instead of asking if a person is new, a better question might be: "I am afraid I have forgotten your name. Could you remind me again?"...Either way, asking a question like this saves both persons from a potentially embarrassing situation. Church leaders do well to teach their congregations to ask better questions of the people they don't recognize.

As some of you know, especially before the 8 a.m. service, I usually stand at the top of the stairway to welcome current parishioner and visitors to St. Peter's. Sometimes I can hear the greeters talking with those who enter through the downstairs vestibule, which is a good sign that our greeters are welcoming those who are coming to worship.

I cannot express to you enough – whether you're one of our greeters or not – how important it is for everyone at St. Peter's to welcome known and unfamiliar faces – those you don't know – who may be checking out to see what it is like to worship at St. Peter's. Everyone makes an impact to visitors, especially their first visit. What do they say? First impressions are lasting impressions. I can be the friendliest priest in the diocese, but if the members of the church are not friendly, then we might as well close shop and go worship somewhere else.

Susan and I visited an Episcopal Church in Overland Park the first Sunday in August. While we were welcomed as we entered the building, the feeling that I received from them was like a "dead fish handshake." They just didn't make me feel welcomed. People did come over and offered the Peace to us as we were beginning the Eucharist, and as we were walking out of the building after the service, there was a greeter at the door, opening it up for us, and wanted to know our first names, where did we come from (We said that we're from Leawood and that St. Peter's was our home parish.) and

asked us to come back and worship with them again.

I remember when it was so important when you entered the church quietly and sat down in "your" pew to kneel and say your prayers, for which we were given the title GOD'S FROZEN CHOSEN. The Episcopal Church was not a particular friendly place to visit and worship during the 50's and 60's. I believe that we (St. Peter's) have worked hard in welcoming current members and visitors, making our parish a friendly place to come and check us out. CONGRATULATIONS, but I believe we could still do better. While you may not be a designated greeter, every member of St. Peter's is a greeter by our baptismal prayers in *sending them into the world in witnessing to your love.*

The word "world" in this situation is our parish family, and it is so important for us to express God's love in welcoming current members as well as visitors.

I ask you to keep up the good work, and remember that when you focus on going directly to the parlor for the eighth sacrament (coffee), check around and see who might be "new" to you, go over and welcome them and say, "I'm sorry, we may have met before, but I'm _____." Please don't expect someone else to welcome our guests. As baptized Christians, it is everyone's responsibility to welcome current members as well as visitors, who may be looking for a new spiritual home, which could be St. Peter's.

If you have any questions about greeting current members and visitors, or this sounds something that you may be interested in doing, please don't be hesitant in speaking to me, either after the service or a telephone call to the office (816-942-1066).

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Our Adult Christian Formation begins again on Sept. 18 at 9:15 a.m. Deacon Kathy and I have put together a series of programs that we think you'll be most interested in attending: *"Bible stories from the inside out!"*

We begin with the characters Zacchaeus, the Prodigal Son and the tax collector and the Pharisees. Gather a cup of coffee and join us for fun in learning more about these well know characters in the Gospel stores.

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Special thanks to Clay Glenn and Larry Kennedy for their organizing our annual picnic at Longview Lake, Shelter House 13. For those who were there, we had a great time under the shelter, which kept the sun where it belongs and great food was provided along with the hot dogs, brats and hamburgers. Good job was done by all!

Our 4th annual Car Show was a success. Thanks to the hard work of Cletson Cox, cook Sam Manthei, registers Nancy Harris, Bill Brown and Sue Johnson, along with supervisors John Fisher and Jim McDowell, this was the "best in show" of our past three attempts – especially with the grand help of Mother Nature!

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A blessed and safe September to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell W. Johnson, Jr." with a flourish at the end.

And You Are There! Gospel Stories From the Inside Out

3D is all the rage these days. We flock to 3D versions of newly released movies, eagerly donning our outsize plastic glasses in anticipation of a 3D experience (and sometimes taking it a step further by going to an IMAX theater). And we no longer have to wait for somebody else to produce a 3D movie for our viewing pleasure. If our phones (or other digital gizmos) are smart enough, we can produce our own 3D videos. Why this fascination with 3D? Reasons will vary from person to person, of course, but I think the following might be a very common denominator: because it helps us to connect to the story by making the story world seem so much more real.

The Gospels seek to convey to us the greatest story ever told: the good news story about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Within that larger context they relate individual stories, some that Jesus told in order to make a point,



others about encounters between Jesus and some of the people he met as he went about his ministry. There are many ways to read Gospel stories, each of which can inform our faith, feed our spirits and grow us in discipleship. One of those ways is to read the stories from the inside, becoming participants in the unfolding action. When we do so, when we open ourselves to such an encounter with the Word made flesh, the stories become more real for us – rather like the experiential kick of a 3D movie! – and create a space in which our God can speak to our hearts.

Adult Education begins on Sept. 18 (more on time and place in the coming weeks). We will spend the first six weeks exploring Gospel stories from the inside, one story each week. Zacchaeus, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan and other familiar stories have new insights to offer when we experience them in this way. I will bring the materials, so all you need to bring is yourself, your imagination, and your openness to the movement of the Spirit as we read God's Word from an insider's perspective. I hope to see you there!

Kathy Hall

Mark Your Calendars For Events in October

St. Peter's to Participate in Red Bridge Fest

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday, October 1, St. Peter's will be participating with other area churches and merchants in the Second Annual Red Bridge Fest at the Red Bridge Shopping Center, located at the intersection of Red Bridge and Holmes Road. St. Peter's will have a table so that parish participants may meet and greet area residents, plus hand out information and tokens about our parish community. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex in mid-September to help represent our parish community within the Red Bridge community. If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please contact Becca Coleman at (913) 322-9100. Fr. Russ

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 8

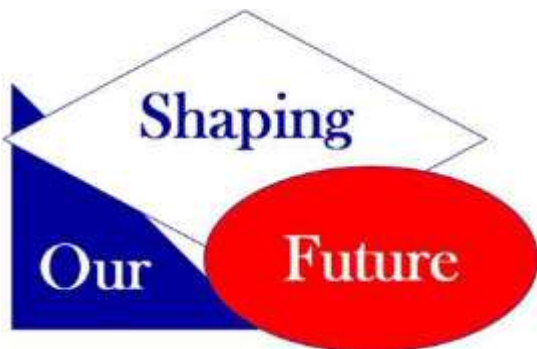
It is St. Peter's tradition to acknowledge St. Francis' love for all creatures. I look forward to your bringing your dog, cat, pig, bird, horse, hamster, snake, turtle and other beloved friends to receive a blessing, plus each animal will receive a small St. Francis pendent in remembrance of their blessing. See you with your animal at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8.

Arff-arff. Meow-meow ☺ Fr. Russ

Trunk or Treat

October 30, from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Look for more info in the October Epistle.

'Shaping Our Future' Forums to Be Held Throughout the Diocese



The West Missouri Futuring Task Group invites deanery delegates, congregational leaders and all adult and youth parishioners to attend the open forum "Shaping Our Future." Information gathered from these meetings will be used to shape the work of the task group. Bishop Martin Field will attend each meeting along with task group members. Forum times, dates and locations:

- Central Deanery: 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11 at St. Anne's in Lee's Summit
- Southern Deanery: 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 at Christ Church in Springfield
- Metro and Northern Deaneries: 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9 at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City

September 2011 Events Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.—Children's Christian Learning 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m.—Hand Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p>5—Office Closed Labor Day</p>	<p>6 2 p.m.—Bible Study 7 p.m.—Discernment</p>	<p>7 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>1 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 7 p.m.—Couples Bible Study 7 p.m.—1st Thursday Club</p>	<p>2—Office Closed 8:30 a.m. Aerobics</p>	<p>3 8:30 a.m.—Pantry Team to St. Paul's, KCK 9:30 a.m.—Praise Band</p>
<p>11 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.—Rally Day & Ministry Fair Breakfast 10 a.m.—Children's Christian Learning 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m.—Hand Bell Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 7 p.m.—Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13 10:30 a.m.—AARP 2 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p>14 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 7 p.m.—Couples Bible Study</p>	<p>16—Office Closed 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 5:30 p.m.—Klindworth/Showman Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 8:30 a.m.—Team Two to St. Paul's KCK 4 p.m.—Klindworth/Showman Wedding</p>
<p>18 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:15 a.m.—Adult Forum: Bible Study 10 a.m.—Children's Christian Learning 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m.—Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VESTRY</p>	<p>19 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 7 p.m.—Boy Scouts</p>	<p>20 2 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p>21 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>23—Office Closed 8:30 a.m. Aerobics</p>	<p>24 9:30 a.m.—Praise Band 11:30 a.m.—Memorial Service</p>
<p>25 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:15 a.m.—Adult Forum: Bible Study 10 a.m.—Children's Christian Learning 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.—OSL Meeting</p>	<p>26 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 7 p.m.—Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27 11 a.m.—Outreach Meeting 2 p.m.—Bible Study 7 p.m.—Discernment</p>	<p>28 8:30 a.m.—Aerobics 6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>30—Office Closed 8:30 a.m. Aerobics 6 p.m.—Kramer/Rhoads Rehearsal</p>	

September 2011 Ministry Schedule

	September 4 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	September 11 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 18 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 25 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
SACRISTANS 8 a.m.* 10 a.m.	Nancy Rozell* Betty Ritchie, Rebecca Fisher	Nan Bohl* Crystal Cameron-Vedros, Stacie Czar	Ellen Bartels, Suzanne Hoff* Helena Fulls, Irislee Pringle	Barbara Lorenz, Kathleen Clarke* Elizabeth Fuemmeler, Kemp Wiese
ACOLYTES 10 a.m. Crucifer Gospel Book Torch Torch	Elizabeth Fuemmeler Nicole Wright Julia Misemer	Janie Turner Abbie Czar Emma Czar Molly Johnson	Noah Ralston Travis Triplett Spencer Ralston	Jennifer Fuller Nicole Wright Benjamin Schwab
LECTORS/EM 8 a.m.* Lector/EM 10 a.m. 1 st Lector 2 nd Lector/EM Eucharistic Minister	Larry Christie* Bob Noll Ted Bell Jennifer Fuller	Terry Rozell* Barbara Roberson Elizabeth Fuemmeler Linda Manthel	Debbie Dribben*: LR Jack Knuth*:EM only Clay Glenn Frank Anderson Nancy Harris	Donna Stanford* Cleison Cox Jim McDowell Laurel Bondi
INTERCESSOR 8 a.m.* 10 a.m.	Larry Christie* Ted Bell	Terry Rozell* Laurie Schwab	Debbie Dribben* Tim Schwab	Donna Stanford* Amie Ralston
CELEBRANT/ HOMILIST	Johnson/Johnson	Johnson/Johnson	Johnson/Johnson	Johnson/Hall
CHAPEL PRAYER 8 a.m.* 10 a.m.	Michael Davis Nancy Harris	Michael Davis Laurel Bondi	Michael Davis Sandy Glenn	Michael Davis Debby Fuller
USHERS 8 a.m.* 10 a.m.	Charles Harvey* John Fisher, Bud Brown	Ford Bohl* Chris Czar, Sam Manthel	Larry Kennedy* Cleison Cox, Paul Vedros	John Van Hatten* Bill and Debby Norman
GREETERS 8 a.m.* Narthex: Vestibule 10 a.m. Narthex: Vestibule:	Ellen Bartels* Larry Christie* Nancy Harris Jim & Cindy Giddings	Becca Coleman* Linda Voran, Clint Haberland*	Patti Kennedy* Sherri Wingard*	Boo Van Hatten* Donna Stanford*
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS After 8 a.m. Eucharist *	Myra & Raymond Hyatt Bill & Debby Fuller	Sue Johnson Cleison Cox	Clay Glenn Sandy Glenn	Sue Ferraro Jennifer Fuller, Frank Anderson
GIFT SHOP HOSTS 8:00 a.m.*/10:00	Myra Hyatt* Crystal Cameron-Vedros	Donna Stanford Stacie & Chris Czars	Kathy Morris Sandy & Clay Glenn	Need Volunteer Need Volunteer
		Suzanne Hoff* Helena Fulls	Nancy Rozell* Kemp Wiese	Kathy Morris, Barbara Lorenz* Sandy Glenn

Food, Soap Needed at Pantry

In September we will be focusing our outreach efforts on helping Christ the King's food pantry. As always, Christ the King is grateful for any food items, laundry and dish soap, and bar soap. If you cannot get out to shop just make out a check to St. Peter's and place "Outreach" in the memo portion and we will shop for you.

The next No Charge Garage Sale to be held in Joplin to aid the victims of the tornado will be sometime in October. We are looking for good winter type clothing items, holiday items that you may no longer be using such as spare Christmas lights, and small appliances (coffee pots, toasters, toaster ovens, blenders, mixers, etc.) that you no longer have a need for but are in good shape. Bring these items to church and we will get them to Joplin in time for the October No Charge Garage Sale.

Thank you for all you do.

God's Blessings,
Clay Glenn Jr
Outreach Chair



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 3 Michael Davis
Maryann Turner
- 4 Becky Cheek
- 6 Helen Harrison
Gary Johnson
- 8 Bud Brown
Donna Marsh
- 10 Amie Ralston
- 11 Kathy Hall
- 15 Kim Johnson
- 17 Frank Anderson
Crickett Nelson

- 19 Barbara Oliver
- 22 Jim McDowell
Carter Markham
- 23 William Wiese
- 24 Stephen Clary
- 25 Zachary Ritchie
- 27 John Van Haften
- 28 Abbie Czar

Anniversaries

- 2 Jana & Kerry Triplett
- 5 Robert & Frances Jackson
- 17 Don & Donna White

Exciting New Gift Shop Stock

We have restocked our sold-out, best-selling Rabbit Creek mixes. If you have not tried the brownies, beer breads, cheese balls or dips please do. They come in handy as small gifts in addition to being easy to prepare for our own family and entertainments. We have stocked specialty bowls, plates, and beaded utensils for serving dips, cheese balls, etc. for your special occasions.

Looking ahead, we have a good start on stocking Halloween and Christmas decorations and gifts. Look for these items in the next months.

We hope you will consider our small Gift Shop your first stop for birthday or holiday gifts and decorations, our prices are very competitive. Plus, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping your church, as all profits go to funding needed improvements and projects.

We have need of an additional sales volunteer for the 8 a.m. service. Are you able to spare a very few minutes of your time once a month for a task that is both enjoyable and satisfying?

Enjoy the beginning of fall and cooler weather,
Kathy Morris and the Gift Shop Crew

Financial Status

<u>Year to Date thru July</u>	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$ 158,215	\$ 161,024
Expenses	\$ 159,121	\$ 157,912
Surplus (deficit)		\$ 3,112

We are running in the black at the end of July, partly because we transferred funds from the Endowment Account. Thank you so much for your efforts to continue giving to your church through the summer months.

Debbie Miller
Financial Advisor

St. Peter's Vestry

- Russell Johnson, Rector
(816) 942-1066 russ.johnson@stpetersepiscopal.net
- Becca Coleman, Senior Warden
(913) 541-8526 becca.coleman@stpetersepiscopal.net
- Jim Giddings, Junior Warden
(816) 569-2107 jim.giddings@stpetersepiscopal.net
- John Fisher, Buildings & Grounds
(816) 795-6693 john.fisher@stpetersepiscopal.net
- Clay Glenn, Outreach
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- Larry Kennedy, Membership/Fellowship
(913) 636-8862 larry.kennedy@stpetersepiscopal.net
- Larry Christie, Treasurer/Finance
(816) 322-1396 larry.christie@stpetersepiscopal.net
- Jana Triplett, Christian Education
(816) 444-5294 jana.beetriplett@stpetersepiscopal.net
- Linda Voran, Clerk
(913) 681-0255 linda.voran@stpetersepiscopal.net
- Kathy Hall, Deacon
(816) 560-3803 kathy.hall@stpetersepiscopal.net

Weekly Service Schedule

Sunday

Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum.....9:15 a.m.
Children's Learning.....10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist.....10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Holy Eucharist.....10:00 a.m.



St. Peter's Mission Statement

We are called by God through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to respond in this community by:

- *Worshiping God*
- *Growing in knowledge of God's presence in our daily lives*
- *Providing a warm, nourishing and reconciling fellowship*
- *Sharing God's love with others*

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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St. Peter's Day School

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St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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