



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Ashtabula, Ohio

The St. Peter's EPISTLE

January – February 2012

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ashtabula, Ohio

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)



ASHTABULA COUNTY SUMMER FOODS PROGRAM

Ashtabula County Children Services has been the sponsor of the Summer Foods Program for Youth in Ashtabula County since 2005. The program's mission is to ensure that no child in Ashtabula County goes hungry during the summer break from school, when free and reduced breakfasts and lunch are not available to children in need. It has grown from six serving sites throughout Ashtabula County in 2005 to thirty-one serving sites during the summer of 2011. One of the new sites in 2011 was St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

During the nine week program, 45,919 free breakfasts and lunches were served Monday through Friday at the Summer Foods sites. St. Peter's site was a lunch only site and 613 lunches were served to the children in attendance during the program. In addition to the free lunches children also had enrichment activities provided to them by After School Discovery. Games and activities were done with the children. It is only with the support and participation of the community that this program is a success.

Reaching out and meeting the needs is important in improving our community. Children Services and the Summer Foods Program in grateful for the support and advocacy of the congregation and clergy at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

On behalf of Children Services and the Summer Foods Program, "Thank you" to St. Pete's clergy, staff, and congregation for your generosity and commitment to serving the families and children in Ashtabula.

SEEKERS

After a break of a few months, we'll be back on schedule in February. We meet the 3rd Monday of each month from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Guild Room. We'll review a bit and continue from Chapter 8 in What Difference Do It Make? It's the sequel to Same Kind of Different As Me and is filled with stories of how others have taken the work of Ron Hall, a millionaire, and Denver Moore, a homeless man, and helped others. Come join the discussion and friendship.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Christian Education has been moving along—thanks to Berta and the Dickey young ladies as well as Linda Hollar and her hubby and Phyllis and Danielle. We have followed the readings of the day and tried to make them relevant to our present life. There has been a review of where we came from and what we know as we progress into the lesson of the day. We always try to have some sort of hands on craft to remind us of our lesson. I have spoken with Cathy Pelton and expressed a wish to have the older children have a more informative class in the New Year. Pray for us that this idea may come to fruition. Pat Van Allen



GREAT MUSIC WITHOUT BARRIERS



The Omer Quartet is coming to Great Music without Barriers on Sunday, March 25 at 2:00 in the afternoon.

The Omer Quartet, formed in 2009, has performed many works of the quartet repertoire in various venues around the Cleveland area. Consisting of four Cleveland Institute of Music juniors hailing from around the nation, the quartet's members include violinist Mason Yu and Erica Tursi, cellist Alex Cox, and violist Joe LoCicero. In the summer of 2011 they were invited to the Banff Centre Chamber Music Residency to perform and collaborate with prominent chamber musicians from the world including members of the Juilliard, Brentano, St. Lawrence, Orford, and the London Haydn quartets. They returned to Banff two months later to premiere a new work for percussion ensemble and string quartet by Bob Becker. In August and October 2011, they were the featured quartet for Cleveland Institute of Music's Distance Learning exchange with Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, Denmark, in which they received coachings from Tim Frederiksen through video conferencing. Last year, they were invited to perform at the Legal Aid Society's Annual Event which included guest speaker Supreme Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The Omer Quartet is in its second semester participating in the Cleveland Institute of Music's Intensive Quartet Seminar, an honor usually given to graduate student groups.

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

Ernestine Bush has retired from heading the Coffee Hour Ministry. We are in need of someone to fill that position. If you are interested, please talk to Ernestine about what is entailed with that ministry. Perhaps it is a ministry that could be shared – much like the Altar Guild lightens its work by sharing the load.

BEATITUDE HOUSE APARTMENT ITEMS

The following items are what are needed to make the apartment that St. Peter's has adopted livable for our homeless mother and her children. We have chosen a 2 bedroom apartment located near the front entrance. We have already begun to receive some items on the list. Jim has set aside a room upstairs for storage. It would be nice to begin collecting the remainder of the items needed on February 12th (the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day) and complete the collection at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, February 21st beginning at 5:30 p.m.

If you have items that you can contribute (new is great; slightly used is wonderful), please indicate which you can bring on the bulletin board across from the office.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for news about choosing a name for the apartment.

Beattitude House Apartment Items:

KITCHEN:

Microwave	Toaster	Electric Can Opener	2 Potholders
Set of Dishes	Silverware Tray	Silverware	Mixing Bowls
Coffeemaker	Plastic Pitcher	Chopping Board	Pots & Pans
Large Waste Basket	4 Towels & Dish Rags	Oven Towel & Mitt	Sink Mat
Dish Drainer & Mat	Colander	Electric Hand Mixer	Wall Clock
Food Storage Containers	Salt & Pepper Shakers	Baking Dishes	Set of Glasses
Aluminum Foil	2 Pkgs. Napkins	Cling Wrap	Lysol or Pinesol
Windex	Brillo Pads	Murphy Oil Soap	Garbage Bags
Dish Detergent	Soft Scrub	Cleanser	4 Paper Towels

UTENSILS:

Sharp Knives	Egg Turner	Measuring Cups & Spoons	
Tongs	Cooking Fork	Potato Peeler	Spatulas
Slotted Spoon	Ladle	Ice Cube Trays	Small Strainer
Hand Can Opener	Wisk	Wooden Spoons	Grater

BEDROOM:

Alarm Clock Radio	Night Stand(s)	2 Sets of Sheets per Person	
Pillows & Protectors	Blankets	Small Waste Basket	
Night Lamps	Mattress Pads	Bedspreads	

BATHROOM:

Shower Curtain	Toilet Brush & Holder	2 Sets of Towels per Person	
Small Waste Basket	Toilet Cleaner		

LIVING ROOM:

Couch	2 Chairs	Desk & Chair	
TV (stand if needed)	2 End Tables	2 Lamps	

GENERAL:

Laundry Hamper	Broom & Dust Pan	Iron & Ironing Board	Mop
Sweeper	Bucket & Brush	Hangers	Sponges
Computer & Mouse (if we have them)			

PERSONAL HYGIENE:

2 Hand Lotion	3 Conditioners	4 Toothpastes	Q-Tips
6 Bars of Soap	3 Shampoos	2 Deodorants	
2 Toothbrushes per person	4 Toilet Paper	3 Kleenex	



WORKING TOGETHER

Community Action, Imagine Ashtabula, and St. Peter's are joining in working together to offer some improvements to our neighborhood. Community Action personnel have gone door-to-door in our neighborhood to try and discover local 'needs.' First and foremost, the concern of those in our neighborhood is *safety*. A second issue is the Chestnut Street School property which could be used by our neighbors for recreation or as a community garden.

Community Action and Imagine Ashtabula will host a neighborhood dinner at St. Peter's on Thursday, January 19th to 'get the ball rolling' in the St. Peter's neighborhood. We will gather at 6:00 in the evening to meet, greet and eat. Serious conversation will take place that evening.

Because this is our neighborhood, St. Peter's parishioners are encouraged to join us on that night. More information will appear on our web site (www.stpetersashtabula.org) and in our Sunday bulletins.



ALTAR BREAD UNTIL LENT

You'll notice a change from wafers to baked bread when you receive communion from now until Lent. The Boys Club/Flour Power will be asked to bake during the season of Epiphany. Anyone who would like to join in the '*baking of the bread for the breaking of the bread*' should let Roger Smith know. Recipes and encouragement will be provided.

CHOIR NEWS

I am delighted by the fact that we may need to purchase additional choir robes! Our group of singers keeps growing with a record 14 members participating in the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. I'd like to thank everyone who lends a voice to our efforts and encourage anyone who hears that "still, small voice" to join us. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Be assured that you will be welcomed with open arms, if not a choir robe!

Christopher Mead graciously arranged one of my favorite Christmas carols, "I Wonder as I Wander" for our choir to perform on Christmas Eve. An unexpected, jazzy arrangement, it added a contemplative air to the beginning of the service. Thank you, Chris, for sharing your many talents with us! I'd also like to thank Brian Thomas, Dale Schall, and Ken Niemi for their special musical contributions to the Christmas Eve service. Also thanks to Sara (Hazeltine) Nefbitt, Martha Hazeltine, Randy Niemi, and Brian Thomas for joining us in song while they returned to our church family for the holiday.

We are truly blessed to have so many talented musicians who are willing to offer their gifts in service!

Musically Yours, Danielle Weiser-Cline

ANNUAL MEETING

This year the Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 29th following the 10:00 a.m. service. We will have a simple lunch on this day and will be finished before 2:30 p.m. We will review this past year's events and also name several plans for 2012. Please stay and help us plan for 2012.

Also, please start preparing a report of your activities if you are a group leader or head of a ministry in the church.

ANNUAL MEETING RECORDING SECRETARY

The Vestry is asking for a volunteer from the congregation to be the Recording Secretary for the Annual Meeting on January 29th following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please let Marguerite know if you are willing to scribe on that day.

PICTURES OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

This year we will be taking two new congregational pictures following each service. Please plan to be in attendance on that day. Including the children in this picture allows all to see our children grow over the years. Date to be announced.



PLANS FOR 2012 TECHNOLOGY

This year we hope to have our Internet camera system upgraded so people not able to attend church will, through the Internet, be able to join us.

Did you know that there is great interest in our website? We know this because Rick Balog has been tracking the number of new visitors to the web site and the length of time they spend on the website.

Our culture is changing and such presence is a help to those curious about the faith.

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

If you are new to St. Peter's, we want to tell you both about the church (St. Peter's) but also want to tell you about the Christian Church from the time of Jesus to today. In addition, it's important to know your calling as a Christian and what you may be called to become and to do. We'll explore these issues and learn about the lives of some of the many people of faith who have affected us through the centuries. For example, do you know anything about the following people? (Polycarp, Arius, Theotokos, Miles Coverdale, Lancelot Andrews, Thomas Cranmer, Henry Hobart, Rowan Williams.)

This group will meet on Sundays (dates to be determined). If you want to grow in your faith and membership at St. Peter's, please decide to join others and meet with me, Fr. David Evans.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER – February 21, 2012

Lent begins on February 22nd – Ash Wednesday. We'll be gearing up for Lent in the traditional way of 'using up the oil', etc. the evening before. Pancakes have been the custom for years at St. Peter's. Though the "feast" was cancelled at the last minute in 2011, it will happen in 2012.

We'll have pancakes, sausage, bacon, perhaps some fruit and other items to go on the plates that evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. and going until about 7:30 p.m. Also, that will be the evening we hope to conclude our collection for Beatitude House. Please plan to join us and some kitchen helpers from Kent State University on "Fat Tuesday". Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin.

BAPTISMS

Each year we invite those who have not been baptized on four major days of the church year: the first Sunday after Epiphany (January 6th), Easter (April 8th), Pentecost (May 27th), and All Saints Sunday (November 4th).

We open our doors to those interested in taking a step in faith each year with the expectation that they will grow in faith, practice and holiness. While there is not a great deal of preparation, there is a great deal of prayer.

If you know of people who have expressed interest in the faith, or have asked you about your church, please share their name with me. I will write them a letter as each of these dates draw near and invite them to take a step in faith. I'll also send you a copy of my letter so you can ask them if they are interested in experiencing God's grace in greater measure this year.

If you are hesitant to pass along a name, please pray from your friends. I pray you are firm in your faith and know that only Jesus can fill the needs of each one of us, as we turn to him and ask only to know God more deeply and with authenticity.



FUNERAL ASSISTANT TRAINING

A year ago or so we had our first meeting for those interested in helping those in our church and outside as the time of death draws near. The need for those to help continues and I want to offer a day to gather again and finish our discussions and training so others can assist in helping.

If you are interested, then please attend our next meeting on January 21st at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will last about 1 ½ hours.

LENT 2012

Lenten meals begin on February 29th with a slight twist this year. For years we have brought dishes to share. We have begun to eat about 6:00 p.m. and when dinner was finished, we had a program that was either a teaching or discussion.

This year we will use a different format of following the meeting. It will be something that I think you will enjoy. Following dinner we will be watching a movie and then before going home, take the time to discuss what we experienced. Here are a few of our first movies. Also you can look at trailers if you click the link behind the title.

February 29 – End of the Spear - <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0399862/>

March 7 – The Spirtfire Grill - <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0117718/>

March 14 – China Cry - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neymMsy23_0

March 21 – To be announced

March 28 - To be announced

“EXPERIENCING GOD”

This Bible Study will continue on Monday nights starting at 6:15 p.m. We will meet on January 16, 24, 30 and February 6 and 13. We will be covering Chapters 4 through 8. So if you have not joined us before, and are now thinking about starting, it’s easy. Simply get a book out of the library and read Chapter 4 in preparation for January 16th. Then stop by the church at 6:15 p.m. We’ll be in the Guild Room.

STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

This year I am hoping that a couple of people will attend a TENS Conference. What is a TENS Conference? TENS is an Episcopal organization of people who reflect on what it means to grow a healthy church and hosts an annual workshop that focuses on stewardship.

While I do not yet know the location of this year’s workshop, I know that they normally begin on a Friday and end on a Sunday. They are not close, and often involve travel. But if you think they will be talking about asking people for money, then think again. TENS helps the church realize that faith and stewardship are intertwined. So, you would learn that most of the stewardship talk will be about who we are as Christian and how we respond to Jesus’ Message.

There will be money set aside to help with transportation and accommodations when you decide to go. So think now about saying “Yes, I’d love to go!” And when you experience an inner prompting to go, then call me. I’m praying for you as I write this article.

I’ve also included an interview with a colleague of mine, Bishop Greg Rickel. I met Greg at several trainings over the years and he now is the bishop of Olympia in Washington State.

The first is an audio link of his conversation about generosity and the last three are videos of the same conference.

Audio - <https://s3.amazonaws.com/GrowMyChurch/+G+Rickel.mp3>

Video 1 - <http://growmychurch.wistia.com/m/Fa2AFE>

Video 2 - <http://growmychurch.wistia.com/m/hF2AFO>

Video 3 - <http://growmychurch.wistia.com/m/Ft2AFk>

Father David+

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT USES THE BIBLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH US

For some of us, the Bible is a great source of strength and direction, almost like a personal letter shapes our opinions and values. For people outside the faith, the Bible is often a dry and dusty book that is at best irrelevant.

Did you know that the bible has been a “Best Seller” year after year outselling many times all other popular books? I called Barnes and Nobel a few years back and talked to their corporate office. It’s true.

The Bible has shaped our language. Here are a few of such phrases ranked in order of popular usage . . . all are from the King James Bible.

The root of the matter – Job 19:28

Stand in awe – Psalm 4:4

Suffer little children – Luke 18:16

Get behind me – Luke 4:8

As a lamb to the slaughter – Isaiah 53:7

A thorn in the flesh – 2 Corinthians 12:7

A still small voice – I Kings 19:12

How are the mighty fallen – 2 Samuel 1:19

Turned the world upside down – Acts 17:6

Know for certain – Joshua 23:13

Unto the pure all things are pure – Titus 1:15

A man after his own heart – 1 Samuel 13:4

While many people have more than one Bible in their home, it’s still a book that is often under used even among the faithful. So this year, make a resolution that you will begin to rediscover the value of God’s advice to his people and read the Bible. Here are a few hints that I pray will help.

1. Get a translation that suits you. For many the King James has been a staple of faith for years. If this describes you, and you haven’t read this version recently, may I suggest a new version for you? I suggest “The Message.” While it is a paraphrase, it still embodies many of the subtle means found in the scripture. Other translations you might use are the New Revised Standard, the New International Version, and the Amplified Bible.
2. Don’t attempt to read the Bible from the beginning to the end. The Bible was written over time and is not presented sequential order, especially the Old Testament. While sections are presented sequentially (the first 5 books for instance or the Gospels) most of the Bible is best read out of order. Go to our web site for a listing of suggestions.
3. Read regularly. Habits take time to form, some say 30 days. So as you read, find a time of the day that will be best and with the fewest interruptions. Then spend 5 - 10 minutes reading.
4. Pray before you read. The Bible is written by humans, and also inspired by God. The Bible is not a novel, and is best read with God’s help. So ask for His help. Pray, “Lord, please help me to understand what I am reading.” Without the Lord’s help, what He has said may continue hidden.
5. Reflect on what you are reading. When something becomes interesting, or a new connection is made, realize that it is God himself who has helped you understand. While

some things may not make sense or seem reasonable at the time, with continued reading, you will connect the dots and the Bible will begin to make sense.

“TELL A FRIEND WEEK”

Take the time to tell others about St. Peter’s, your faith, or what is becoming more important to you in faith beginning February 6 to 12. So here is how you can do it with grace and ease. First, start today. No, don’t talk to anyone. But start now to notice how our Lord is involved in the life of the church. Reflect on an idea or theme you hear in church either in the readings, music or even a sermon. Take a moment to write these down. That way, when you say something, you will have something to share. Remember, you can even share what you are learning from reading the Bible.

SHARE-A-HOME

It is with regret that the Board of Directors of Share-A-Home of Lake Region, Inc. announces the closing of its Adult Care Facility on W. 50th Street in Ashtabula.

Share-A-Home has operated as an Adult Group Home serving various populations in the Ashtabula community for over 35 years. We are unable to sustain operations due to continually decreasing revenues and increasing costs. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Administrator Jill Jenner and her husband Bill and staff member Emily Henton for their many years of dedicated service. We wish Jill, Bill, Emily, and our residents the best of everything in all their future endeavors.

Martha Shippy, Treasurer, Share-A-Home Board of Directors

Northeast Area Mission Council

We will continue to collect the following items for distribution to veterans:

Lap robes

Lotion

Lip balm

Baby wipes

Please place items in the yellow box in the Narthex.

Your contributions are deeply appreciated!

Friggatriskaidekaphobia Trivia

Here are a few facts about Friday the 13th:

- In the 14 possible configurations for the annual calendar, the occurrence of Friday the 13th is this:
 - 6 of 14 years have one Friday the 13th
 - 6 of 14 years have two Fridays the 13th
 - 2 of 14 years have three Fridays the 13th
- No year is without one Friday the 13th, and no year has more than three.
- 2012 has three Fridays the 13th.
- We say “Fridays the 13th” because it is hard to say “Friday the 13ths.”
- Months that have a Friday the 13th begin on Sunday.



From The Old Farmer’s Almanac 2012 by Robert B. Thomas



Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

Judy Anderson	04
Bill Jenner (Share-A-Home)	05
Bill & Jill Jenner	05
Chelsea Mooney	05
Christopher Cobb	09
Rick Balog	10
Carrie Dickey	10
Emily Green	10
Raya Shaffer	10
Shianne (Isaiah) Shaffer	10
Roberta Benedict	12
Chris Shippy	12
Ernestine Bush	14
Todd Van Allen	15
Elinor Herzog	16
Leanne Gramley	23
Connie Dixon	25
Jeff Mooney	25
David & Gayle Erickson	27
Pat Hazeltine	29
Damon Baker	30
Benjamin Cobb	31

February

Debra Nelson	02
Kyle Van Allen	02
Heather Van Loocke	02
Diane Podgorny	06
Ed & Linda Galda	09
Elinor Tyler	09
Paul Scarberry	11
Lynne Rausch	12
Bob Hazeltine	14
Ralph & Lynn Humphrey	14
Phyllis Shimko	14
Jay Dee & Martha Shippy	14
Jacob Chiles	17
Sue Port	18
John & Barbara Korb	19
Wayne Pelton, Jr.	19
Don & Mary Kay Loose	21
Daivd Van Loocke	21
Gina Withrow	24
Alice Merrimen	25
David Nolan	25
Lisa Schaefer	25
Josephine Haight	26
Janet Schall	26
Bill Balog	27
Madeline Holler	27
Norma Carlson	28
Dylon Weber	28



January 16

February 14
Valentine's Day



Remember our
Presidents

February 20

Ground Hog Day 2/2