



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Ashtabula, Ohio

# The St. Peter's

# EPISTLE

*September-October 2011*

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

## Prayer for Autumn Days

Sr. Joyce Rupp, OSM

God of the seasons,  
there is a time for everything;  
there is a time for dying and a time for rising.  
We need courage to enter into  
the transformation process.

God of autumn,  
the trees are saying goodbye to their green,  
letting go of what has been.  
We, too, have our moments of surrender,  
with all their insecurity and risk.  
Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves  
lying in colored patterns on the ground,  
our lives have their own patterns.  
As we see the patterns of our own growth,  
may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights,  
there is always the dimension of mystery  
and wonder in our lives.  
We always need to recognize your power-filled  
presence.  
May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain,  
many gifts of growth lie within the season of our  
surrender.  
We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.  
Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south  
for another season, your wisdom enables us  
to know what needs to be left behind  
and what needs to be carried into the future.  
We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers  
touched with frost and windows wearing white  
designs,  
may your love keep our hearts  
from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life,  
you believe in us, you enrich us,  
you entrust us with the freedom to choose life.  
For all this, we are grateful.  
Amen

Autumn is a time for Prayer



## Autumn Begins September 23



Pride in my hometown, St. Peter's Church. I read the Epistle from cover to cover a few days ago. I'm so glad we still get it. Since Karen began with it, it has become better than ever. So many informational articles and interesting stuff. I am excited for you all because of the many different things that seem to be happening there. Almost excited enough to move back from Dayton – but not quite! Not only excited, but proud. Keep moving and growing! We still miss you all, but being near to family is a wonderful feeling! Love, MaryLou Fowler

Dear Friends in Christ: It has been a very great blessing to be with you this summer; to have been privileged to work closely with Father David, make pastoral calls to our absent brothers and sisters and bring the Holy Communion to our sick and home-bound, play with our awesome St Peter's Strikers (I never imagined I would have so much fun! or hit the ball, for that matter), and spend time with our guests from Belize, Trevor and Dominic. Four months is a long time to be away from you, and I will miss your company and fellowship more than I can say.

Thank you all for your love and prayers; I would especially like to thank Father David and Lorraine for their Christ-like hospitality these two months, and to the members of the St Peter's Church Foundation for their generous support. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you, for I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ, Matthew Hynd

### **SEEKERS**

Get ready for the 3rd Monday of every month (4-5:00 p.m. in the church Guild Room) beginning in September (19th). Our first book will be What difference Does it Make? by the same authors of our last book, Ron Hall, Denver Moore, and Lynn Vincent. This is a collection of stories of hope and healing: more of the story behind Ron's struggles with an alcoholic father, a stint in an Angola prison with Denver, more of the story behind how they began writing and how it's changed their lives, how they make continue to make a difference, and how we can make a difference. We CAN make a difference! **Join us as we read and discuss how!**

The 2nd book will be Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent. This is the story of a young boy, not quite 4, and his visit to heaven after nearly dying from a ruptured appendix. **Come join us for a look at heaven through the eyes of a child.**

The Church Office will be closed on  
Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in observance  
of Labor Day.

**Breakfast & Choir will begin on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>  
and Coffee Hour continues this fall.**

### **CHOIR**

I have truly enjoyed my first year as music and choir director for St. Peter's. I have happily watched our choir members grow in numbers, talent, and confidence and look forward to another fantastic year serving this congregation. Thank you to all of the members of the choir (permanent, guest, and itinerant) for your contributions of song, spirit, and laughter. It is a joy to choose music for you!

I'd like to take a moment to especially thank several members of the choir for their service the past year. Dale Schall graciously offered his voice in leadership of the psalms during the season of Lent. I truly enjoyed his choices of psalm settings and the very special feeling that the congregational responses added to the season. Martha Shippy also chose a sung congregational response to the Prayers of the People during the Easter season which I enjoyed for its simplicity and reminder of our risen Lord in its wording. Ken Niemi twice offered his talents during the summer and performed moving and beautiful songs with his guitar, at least one of which was a Ken Niemi

original piece! We also welcomed our new church pianist, Chris Mead, who lends new eyes and ears to our musical selections and will, in the coming year, be offering some compositions of his own.

We are truly blessed to have so many talented musicians in our midst! I know, however, that there are many more who harbor hidden talents in the pews. St. Peter's choir will resume making a joyful noise during ten o'clock services on Sunday, September 18th. All voices are welcome as long as you can carry a tune! Please join us for choir practices at 7:00 pm on Thursday evenings beginning September 1st.

If you have any questions, comments, or requests please call Danielle Weiser-Cline at 440-228-5591 or email her at [daniweisercline@gmail.com](mailto:daniweisercline@gmail.com)

### **CHURCH BOILER UPDATE**

A special thanks to Jim Carlson, our Sexton, who diligently worked to prepare the boiler room for the asbestos and boiler removal. He worked very hard to clean-up and empty almost all of the entire boiler room contents. Kudos to Jim!



SafeAir was here on Thursday & Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, and removed the asbestos and the old boiler. Rabe Inc., out of Erie, PA, successfully bid on replacing the church boiler and will begin installation on Wednesday, September 7, 2011. Anticipated completion will be around the middle of September. A little inconvenience may be experienced during this time frame as most of our bathroom sinks will not have hot water available.

I would personally like to thank the boiler committee for their dedication to our church needs, and the many who made monetary contributions to this project. Without the help of many, the church boiler project would not have happened. Because of your generosity, we are now working on funding for Phase 2, a new boiler that will heat the Guild Room and two offices.

Thank you – Larry Seymour, Sr., Junior Warden

### **OUR YARNING CIRCLE**

We continue to meet Tuesdays between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. in the Guild Room and hope to see all –men and women...young and mature-- who would like to help. We welcome your visit to see what we're doing. We have depended on generous donations of yarn to complete our works and we have been busy---so our supply of yarn is dwindling. All donations of yarn –any color- would be greatly appreciated.

We offer yarn and needles or hooks for anyone who is interested in learning how to knit or crochet. In the last months we have been and are continuing to create prayer shawls and children's blankets for the women and children who will reside in Beatitude House in early 2012. We continue to present shawls and lap blankets to anyone in need of comfort. Please let us know of anyone in need.

If joining us on Tuesday is not possible, we welcome your contribution of knitted or crocheted 6 by 6 inch or 12 by 12 inch squares as well as completed shawls and 36 by 36 inch blankets any color or combination you choose. Or, if sewing is your area of expertise, we also have a variety of squares on hand that need to be sewn together.

God Bless, Sandra Buckel



### **UNIFORMS DELIVERED**

The Monday afternoon sewing group continues the weekly gathering. We have completed 13 shirts, 10 skirts, and 8 pairs of pants!!! These listed items have now been turned over to the representatives from Belize who were visiting in Ohio and should be by this time actually in Belize!

While we are excited about that, we will continue churning out the items as best we can. Summer has reduced our attendance but like the coming school year that should return to normal levels. As always, we would love to have others join us - many hands make the fun (work) enjoyable!  
Ann Balog



### **ST. PETER'S STRICKERS BASEBALL**

*2011 Season—May 31<sup>st</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>—at Columbus Street Field*



Dominique, Trevor, Pam & Peter

Under coaches Danielle Balog and Rick Balog our church softball team played 9 regular season games and 2 tournament games. Our record was 1-10. We were a mixed group of old and young, girls and boys, and we enjoyed a wonderful camaraderie as a team. We played more as a family, meaning that the games were more about having fun together than winning. The team had a group of fans that attended many of our games to root us on, including the Seymour's, Looses, Weidig's; Hazeltine's ; Bertholf's and more!

Our players were Danielle Balog; Pete and Pam Bean; Connor, Rex, Rex Jr, Christie and Carrie Dickey; Larry Korland; Jay Bertholf; Neil (Camp Cavalry); Julie Vernick; Ann Balog; Rick Balog; Bill Balog; Martha Hazeltine; David McGrath; Jason Shippy; Wayne Pelton Jr and Sr; Matthew Hynd; and Tim Green.

Chosen for the All-Star team were Ann, Neil and Connor. Ann pitched five innings in the All-Star game, which lasted 9 innings as the score was tied after the regulation 6 innings. Pam and Pete brought Trevor and Dominique, our visitors from Belize, to the game. A good time was had by all!

Rick Balog

### **HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES**

Hobart and William Smith Colleges are two closely-associated liberal arts colleges in upstate Geneva, New York. Hobart was founded as *Geneva College* for men in 1822 as a feeder to the General Theological Seminary in New York City, both projects of pioneer church-planter John Henry Hobart, the third Bishop of New York. After the Revolutionary War, the Church of England in America almost disappeared; Hobart worked tirelessly to rebuild the Church and organize parishes throughout the frontier of New York. Today, many of the College's alumni are members of the Clergy, and the College continues to play an important role in the Diocese of Rochester (the Bishop, Prince Singh, sits on the Board of Trustees). As a junior at this wonderful school, I am a Classics major, studying Ancient Greek, Latin, and Philosophy, and represent the College to the Diocese of Rochester's Annual Convention. You can read more about the Episcopal Church's nine undergraduate colleges at [cuac.anglicancommunion.org](http://cuac.anglicancommunion.org).

Bishop Hobart's zeal for His Lord and the Church is commemorated in our Church calendar on September 12, the anniversary of his death in 1830 from exhaustion. Before he made his last journey into the wilderness of upstate New York in poor health, he was told "You are undertaking too much!" He responded "How can I do too much for Him Who did everything for me?"

Matthew Hynd '13

### **NORTHEAST MISSION AREA COUNCIL**

Diane Box and I recently attended the quarterly meeting of the Northeast Mission Area Council (NeMAC) held at Cedar Hills in Painesville Township on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were privileged to have the opportunity to meet the chaperones from Belize at that time, including Trevor who would subsequently be one of our guests the following week. NeMAC plans to continue to nurture ongoing relationships with the campers and counselors who spent the week at Camp Cedar Hills.

For those of you who may not realize, NeMAC was formed a couple of years ago from the vestiges of the prior diocesan Lake Deanery. Its purpose is to support global and domestic missions. Parishes in northeast Ohio are encouraged to send two representatives to all meetings in an attempt to promote awareness of the mission of the Episcopal Church at the diocesan and national levels. Diane and I were appointed at the Annual Meeting to represent St. Peter's.

An appeal was made for support for the Bishops Annual Appeal. Everyone should have received correspondence regarding this in the mail – or information is available in the church office. Proceeds from the Bishops Annual Appeal help support the Episcopal Community Services locally (ECS helps support our own Fine Arts Concert Series – a grant has been written for Share-A-Home of Lake Regional also) and several relief efforts globally, including the devastation in Haiti a couple of years ago and the damage caused by tornadoes and flooding in the United States this past spring. Our next meeting is in November – date pending. Martha Shippy

NeMAC continues to collect items for the Veterans Administration – in Lake and Cuyahoga Counties. Items needed are lip balm, lotion, and baby wipes. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so by leaving a donation in the yellow box in the back of the church (under the table where we sign cards). Also needed are lap robes for veterans in wheelchairs. Lap robes should measure 3 feet by 4 feet and may be knitted, crocheted, quilted, or tied (similar to the fleece blankets we made last year). I am told that a full-size prepackaged kit as sold at JoAnn Fabrics will make two lap robes. Finished lap robes may be dropped off at the church office. The collection of all items will be ongoing.

### **TILES FOR BELIZEAN CHURCH**

Many thanks to all who contributed to the collection of funds to help tile the floor of Beverley Brown's newly constructed home church in Belize. Beverley mentioned the project when she visited with us several weeks ago. Through your generosity, St. Peter's was able to raise enough money to purchase 100 tiles. Each tile cost \$3.00 in Belizean currency (the equivalent of \$1.50 in American currency).

In discussing our beautiful baptismal font, Trevor happened to mention in conversation that the basin of the commemorative baptismal font at his church fell from its pedestal a couple of years ago much to the horror of all who were sitting in the pews, not only causing irreparable damage to the basin itself, but damaging the pedestal also. Their baptismal font now consists of a washbasin perched precariously on the damaged pedestal. Perhaps our next project should be to raise funds to help replace the baptismal font?!?!?! Stay tuned..... Shalom ~ Martha

### **SHARE-A-HOME OF LAKE REGION**

Many thanks to all who have helped give Share-A-Home a facelift. Major kudos to St. Peter's Foundation and the City of Ashtabula who have collaborated to replace the sidewalk in front of the facility and to the City of Ashtabula for its repair work done on Marion Drive to make navigating the area much safer. We can't thank you enough. Also – thanks to the Mission Group which worked on August 21<sup>st</sup> to spruce up the front porch. It is greatly appreciated.

Mega blessings to the parishioner who responded so generously to our plea for a gas stove. As requested, you shall remain anonymous. However, your cheerful attitude and prompt meritorious service will not go unlauded. The Lord does indeed love a cheerful giver. May He bless you and yours in a myriad of ways.

On the horizon – we have applied for and received grant money from the Morrison Foundation to replace the flat roofs on the facility, areas of which are leaking. These repairs should be made soon! We are grateful to the board members of the Morrison Foundation for their support in this effort.

Special thanks to fellow Share-A-Home board members Jim and Norma Carlson, Debra Nelson, and Marguerite and Larry Seymour who have helped make this all happen. We will continue to strive to maintain this facility, which has been such a fixture in the Ashtabula community for over 35 years. We ask your prayers for our success.  
Sincerely ~ Jay and Martha Shippy

### **ST. PETER'S FOUNDATION**

The Foundation met for the Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. A grant was made from the Wood Scholarship Fund to Larry Seymour, Jr. of \$5,000.00 for the college year of 2011-2012. The following grants were made from the St. Peter's Church Foundation:

Matthew R. Hynd of \$3,000.00 for the college year of 2011-2012.

Martha Shippy of \$2,000.00 for the college year of 2011-2012.

The Vestry of \$5,000.00 for Project #1 – replacement of the church boiler.

The Vestry of \$800.00 for sidewalk repair on West 50<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Vestry of \$2,600.00 for assistance with church maintenance.

The next regular meeting of the Foundation will be October 26, 2011 at 4:00 pm at St. Peter's.

Don Loose, Chair

### **PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYER IV**

An Excerpt from Chapter 1 of *The Book of Privy Counseling* written by an anonymous English monk in the 14<sup>th</sup> century:

When you go apart to be alone for prayer, put from your mind everything you have been doing or plan to do. Reject all thoughts, be they good or be they evil. Do not pray with words unless you are really drawn to this; or if you do pray with words, pay no attention to whether they are many or are few. Do not weigh them or their meaning. Do not be concerned about what kind of prayers you use, for it is unimportant...whether you formulate them interiorly, by thoughts, or express them aloud, in words. See that nothing remains in your conscious mind save

a naked intent stretching out toward God. Leave it stripped of every particular idea *about* God (what he is like in himself or in his works) and keep only the simple awareness *that he is as he is*... This awareness, stripped of ideas and bound and anchored in faith, shall leave your thought and affection in emptiness except for a naked thought and blind feeling of your own being. It will feel as if your whole desire cried out to God and said:

That which I am I offer to you, O Lord,  
without looking to any quality of your Being  
but only to the fact that you are as you are;  
this, and nothing more.

Let that quiet darkness be your whole mind and like a mirror to you... He is your being and in him, you are what you are, not only because he is the cause and being of all that exists, but because he is *your* cause and the deep center of *your* being. Therefore, in this contemplative work think of yourself and of him in the same way: that is, with the simple awareness that *he is as he is*, and that *you are as you are*. In this way your thought will not be fragmented or scattered, but unified in him who is all.

(In short, it is less important what you are and more important simply that you are. Likewise, it is more important that we are aware God is, than our image of whom or what he is.) Peace ~~ Martha

### **WHERE DID ALL THE COOKIES GO?**



Many thanks to the parishioners of St. Peter's who provided 54 dozen cookies to support the Service Learning Day sponsored by After School Discovery. School, community and church representatives - as well as 300 students and parents and our visitors from Belize – took part in the day, learning about opportunities to give time and volunteer efforts to the Ashtabula Community. The participants were fed on that day through the 'Summer Feeding Program' of Ashtabula County Children Services; the meal was paid for – in part – by a grant for summer programs through *Episcopal Community Services*. Episcopal Community Services is supported by you through the Bishop's Annual Appeal.  
Roger Smith

### **BEATITUDE HOUSE**

The organizational meeting of the Ashtabula Advisory Committee for Beatitude House was held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to review architectural drawings, to discuss the finances around the project, to hear an update on building permits, and to hear that Spring 2012 is a target time for opening Beatitude House in what was once the St. Joseph Elementary School on the grounds of St. Joseph Church on Lake Avenue.

Sr. Patricia McNicholas visited our parish and spoke to us about Beatitude House and its mission. DVD's about Beatitude House are available for borrowing in our church office. Please take the time to view one of these DVD's in order to better understand why we have chosen to support this mission.

St. Peter's parishioners are busy making prayer shawls and blankets for the residents of Beatitude house – homeless mothers and their children. The Vestry has voted to have our church 'adopt an apartment' in Beatitude House. That means that St. Peter's will outfit the apartment with things necessary for everyday living: dishes, sheets, pots, pans, etc.

An inventory list is on its way from Beatitude House administrators. At the appropriate time, that list will be made available to our parishioners so that all will have an opportunity to be a part of this needed mission. St. Peter's has asked for the privilege of naming that particular apartment. Parishioners are asked to submit their suggestions to Marguerite in the office.

Outfitting the apartment will occur each time a resident successfully completes the program required at Beatitude House. It makes sense that life utensils would go with the 'graduate' when she leaves. She will come to Beatitude House with nothing, and will need some tools to accompany her on her journey.

## **BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

Many ministries throughout our diocese are supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Through St. Peter's, After School Discovery has been the recipient of two grants from Episcopal Community Services: The Summer Grand for the Service Learning Project, and Ramp It Up, a program where youngsters help to build and install wheelchair ramps for Ashtabula citizens who need them. Our own "Great Music without Barriers" receives a grant to help our outreach ministry to CELEBRATE students in the city schools. Share-a-Home has applied for a grant to Episcopal Community Services to assist with some needs for our neighbors across the street.

Even though you may have received a request in the mail to participate in the annual appeal, our own representative to ECS (Roger Smith) will speak from the pulpit about the importance of participating in this fund drive. In terms of the number of persons who contributed to the appeal last year, only 3 churches in the entire diocese had more participants than our own St. Peter's. Four years ago, we had one person who contributed; last year, 32 gifts were made from the St. Peter's family. Thank you.

Grandparents Day  
September 11



## **"AMAZING" MOVIE AND A MEAL!**

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" was the first of a series of movies and light meals at St. Peter's. A delicious meal and a movie (with popcorn) were shared by 30 people on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> in the Guild Room. They watched Donny Osmond's performance as Joseph, the one we have been reading about beginning with Genesis, Chapter 37.

Future movie night titles being considered are "Paperclips"; "Letters to God"; and "Saving Sarah Cain". If you have one you'd like to suggest, please let Fr. David know its title.

Roger Smith

## **LOG CABIN DAYS**

The Episcopal Service at Log Cabin Days at the Blakeslee Cabin is on the schedule for Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 6:00pm. It has been the custom that the Rector of St. Peter's Church leads a service from the 1789 Book of Common Prayer. Blakeslee Cabin is on Seven Hills Road and is the site of the first gathering of St. Peter's parish founders in 1813, and perhaps as early as 1810. Please join Fr David Evans in prayer.

## **FUNDING FOR HEATING AND COOLING UPDATE**

As of Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, thirty-seven gifts have been made / pledged to the Capital Fund Drive to replace the boiler in the Church and to redesign the heating and cooling systems in the Guild Room and office complex.

A total of \$35,148.61 has been pledged to support the needed changes as presented to the parishioners via the letter from the Senior Warden. That amount assures us that the boiler replacement/asbestos abatement for the

church is a go. As a matter of fact, the old boiler has been removed and the asbestos contained therein has been abated. Its replacement is on the way.

We are left needing \$8,671 in order to redesign the heating and cooling for the Guild Room and office complex. Rick Balog has been working diligently to complete a grant application to the diocese. The application has been submitted; we prayerfully and gratefully await the decision of the Loans and Grants Committee of the Congregational Development Commission of the Diocese of Ohio.

If both projects are completed, it is estimated that we will save \$3,900 annually on our heat bill. As an aside, we have signed a one year contract with a natural gas supplier that – based on last year’s usage of gas delivered to the burnertip – will save us an additional \$580. Like you at home, the Vestry is trying to make wise decisions.

Roger Smith

### **ANOTHER HAPPY USE FOR PARISH HALL**

On Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, our friends from Hiawatha Church of God in Christ will host an anniversary dinner in our Parish Hall for their pastor. More than 100 folks are expected to attend this gala event. We welcome them to use our facilities. Let’s keep our friends, their pastor and this event in our prayers.

### **GREAT MUSIC WITHOUT BARRIERS**



The St. Peter’s Fine Arts Committee gets has been able to schedule some concerts for the remainder of this calendar year as well as working to engage performers to join us in 2012.

As the “Epistle” is being printed, we are negotiating to finalize an October 2011 date when students from the Conservatory of Music at Baldwin-Wallace College will present a percussion concert here at the church (2:00 p.m.). Watch the Sunday Bulletin and [www.stpetersashtabula.org](http://www.stpetersashtabula.org) for an update.

Sunday, November 13 (2:00 p.m.) will find an opera program on the schedule/November 14 with CELEBRATE students at 4:00 p.m. in Parish Hall.; December 11 will be our annual Christmas/Holiday Concert (Dessert at 6:00 p.m. and Concert at 7:00 p.m.).

We will seek to have Cleveland Institute of Music students in late winter or early spring of 2012; Nicholas Ciraldo, a classical guitarist from the University of Southern Mississippi will present a concert on May 20<sup>th</sup> (2:00 p.m.) and again on May 21<sup>st</sup> for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders of the Discovery Cove Program, an arm of After School Discovery and CELEBRATE.

October 2012 (date to be finalized; 2:00 p.m.) will find Mr. Eric Zuber, Third Prize winner in the Cleveland International Piano Competition; Chopin Prize winner in the Cleveland International Piano Competition; and the Junior Jury Prize winner in the Cleveland International Piano Competition at the grand piano in St. Peter’s Sanctuary.

Great Music without Barriers is funded in part by Episcopal Community Services and the St. Peter’s Church Foundation.

***HEAR YEE, HEAR YEE, HEAR YEE!***

**THE TIME HAS COME TO GATHER, CLEAN, & FIX!!!!!!**

It is time for St. Peter's Fall Clean-Up and Fix-up Day. Windows and doors need to be washed, glass and furniture need polished, refrigerators need cleaned inside & out, floors need washed, brass needs polished, carpets need vacuumed, weeds need pulled, yard needs edged, and on and on and on. We have chosen Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> as our next Clean-Up & Fix-Up Day. We are asking you to meet here at 10:00 a.m. in Parish Hall to divide into chore associated teams. Lunch will be served about 12:30 p.m. Please join us for our Fall Clean-Up and Fix-Up Day. This should keep the St. Peter's sparkling until Spring Clean-Up & Fix-up Day. Any questions call Larry Seymour, Sr. at 964-2281 or 645-0271. For your convenience, if interested in helping your fellow friend and parishioner, a sign-up sheet will be posted on the church hall bulletin board, where you can indicate where you would like to help.

**THANK YOU!!**

On behalf of St. Peter's Church, I would like to thank Jay Bertholf for doing such a great job mowing and trimming the church lawn. This has allowed me the time to complete other jobs inside the church. I am most appreciative. And on top of that, Jay has saved the church about \$300 in lawn care to date. Be sure and tell Jay thank you when you see him.

Jim Carlson,  
Sexton



**BELIZEAN MESSAGES**

Belize-Ohio 2011

*Love God. Love Your Neighbour. Change the World.*

When I was asked to go to Ohio, and while considering it, there was some trepidation as to what would I be doing and how would my going to Ohio benefit both dioceses in this new companion diocese relationship. How my faith would be perceived by the people I would meet. None the less, I prayed about it and God saw it through. Arriving in Ohio and not knowing who or what challenges awaited, my fears subsided after the first 5 seconds of meeting Fr. Peter Nielsen and his Family at the airport in Cleveland. I felt quite at home. Their warm smile and greetings made us all relax. At around one a.m. the Belizean contingent had its first meal with its new host family the Nielson's at Denny's, which was more than what we had bargained for. It was all laughter and smiles around that table as if though we were being served laughing gas. Needless to say, my entire first week at Cedar Hill, in Painesville was so surreal.

My Second week was spent with the Bean Family, who are parishioners of St. Peter's in Ashtabula. Again, I was quickly embraced by Peter and Pamela Bean. My charge, Dominique Gabourel and I were adopted by this nice couple and it was as though we were a family and had never left home (Belize).

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>, August we were welcomed by Rev. Canon David Evans and the parishioners of St. Peter's Church and what a warm welcome did we receive. Having brought greetings from Bishop Philip Wright of Belize, I was awed that a few of the parishioners, especially Martha Shippy, had met him. After church was over, I chatted with Martha and a few of the ladies and everyone was elated about our arrival and wanted to know more about Belize from a native's point of view.

Around 1 p.m. on Sunday the 8th, Dominique and I accompanied Peter on some home visits. We Visited and shared the sacraments with Mrs. Virginia Houghton and Mrs. Linda (Doxsie) of which both were moving experiences. Mrs. Virginia, who was a former parishioner of Christ Church, has been bed ridden for 8 years. She was more than happy to welcome us to her home. It was while visiting her that I had a eureka moment or, as some would say, that moment closest to Christ. I felt the Spirit of God hovering around the room. I say this not because of her hospitality but simply because of her resilience to overcome loneliness and attitude towards living. She has kept her faith even though at times she thought the church had forgotten her. Yes she had contemplated death before and wished it to be peaceful, but her relationship with God also allowed her to rekindle those ties she had with the church and her church family. In this meeting I found that often times we tend to reach out to those who are already in our circles and then forget those who are on the fringes/edges clinging on to their faith but have no one to minister fellowship, or share their sorrows or joys. As disciples, missionaries, ambassadors of Christ, we must learn to seek those in the sheepfold that are in distress and loosing heart in their faith. Who knows maybe you will just be awed in their rebounding faith and vigor and breathe new hope into their life?

I also had the opportunity to visit the Ashtabula Dream Centre on West 57 Street, with Matthew Hynd. We met one gentleman by the name of Sellers Jادkins Jr. who was humbled by our presence that day and quickly put us to work. Matthew, Dominique and I were tasked to sorting out clothing for the needy under the careful eyes of Miss Hattie- Mae. Having done that, we did a bit of observation and liked what we saw. It was an orderly, efficient and effective way of reaching out to the community. Mr. Jادkins, was very appreciative of our assistance and so invited us to lunch at their soup kitchen and there we chatted with a few of the people benefiting from the services provided by the Dream Centre and they were very much appreciative of it in more ways than even I could have imagine. It was not just about a plate of food or a pair of jeans or a t-shirt. It's about saving lives and allowing someone to be alive and thanking God for yet another day. Though time was running out on us we did get to see the operation at the bike shop at the Dream Centre. The children from the community bring their bikes in to be repaired and mended and it's a good initiative that constantly needs funding also. It takes roughly 5 minutes to patch an inner-tube and in those five minutes you could minister to a child in more ways than one. The only downfall is that there need to be more young adults volunteering at the Centre.

Now that God has blessed me with the opportunity to visit Ohio and the people of St. Peter's in Ashtabula, the question remains, where do we as a Companion Diocese, go from here? Surely, I would like for this new relationship to be one of reciprocity, where we can both benefit from each other. May God continue to bless both our countries, our diocese, Bishops, priests but more so US, who will be doing his work for many years to come. I take this time to extend a heartfelt gratitude to all those who made this trip possible and our stay in Ohio a very pleasant one. Notably, Fr. Peter Nielsen, Rev. Jeff Baker, Canon David Evans, My host family, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bean, and Mr. & Mrs. Larry Seymour, Mrs. Martha Shippy and everyone at St. Peter's Church in Ashtabula who made my stay there awesome. Thanks everyone. Love & Blessings Always, Trevor J. Stephen

We had a very enjoyable visit with our Belizean visitors Trevor Stephen (Chaperone) and Dominique Gabourel (Student). Dominique is a "cool" thirteen year old whom we nicknamed Captian Hollywood as he wore a baseball cap and large sunglasses, and he loves basketball. Look out world - here comes a star!! Trevor was the chaperone and you could not ask for better company. Trevor shared information about the city of Belize, his faith, The Diocese of Belize, the schools, and shared pictures of his family. Our list of 14 grandchildren has grown to 16 as we now include Trevor and Dominque.. What a blessed experience. *Larry and Marguerite Seymour*

September 5

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH PICNIC**  
**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Camp Calvary, North Kingsville**

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH PICNIC**  
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10:00 a.m.  
Camp Calvary, North Kingsville  
Bring a dish to share

**Bring a dish to share.**



**GIRL SCOUTS IS CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!**

Come join the fun!!!! We will be having an event at the Ashtabula Towne Square on September 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. for sign ups.

Please let me know if you would like your daughters to join our troops: Daisy K-1st grade; Brownie 2nd-3rd grade; Junior 4th-5th grade; Cadet 6th-8th grade; Senior 9th-10th grade; and Ambassador 11th-12th grade. National dues are \$12. Meetings will be at St. Peter's Church beginning Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. with meetings being held the first and the third Saturdays thereafter.

Contact [gretaseaman@yahoo.com](mailto:gretaseaman@yahoo.com) or call 440-645-3502 cell or 440-536-4534 home. We have lots of fun scheduled for our 100th birthday celebration. Come join us. Thank you, Greta

**WANT BETTER GRADES? GO TO CHURCH.**

Excerpts from the article in Christianity Today, May 21, 2002

*"Studies show that poor children who are active in a local congregation thrive in body and mind, as well as spirit."*  
Amber Anderson Johnson

In a recent study, researchers Mark Regnerus and Glen Elder Jr. demonstrate that when youth from low-income neighborhoods attend church, their academic performance improves.

The study, commissioned by the Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, relied on data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health to examine the relationship between religion and academics in nearly 10,000 students. Regnerus and Elder found that the poorer the neighborhood, the more church attendance helped kids to improve academically. The findings held true even after controlling for obvious influences like a student's relationship with parents.

Furthermore, improving academic performance seems to flow more from "doing" church than from merely believing. That is, the church's social life influences youth from poor communities more than doctrine does. In neighborhoods where libraries and schools are often depleted and after-school jobs are hard to find, the church is the main resource-rich presence in the community.

Beyond faith and schoolwork, studies show that church involvement improves the physical, social, and emotional health of students.

**Strength Training.** “What you have in the role of the religious community is a selected group of people who share values and are committed to the success of the child,” says Elder, a researcher at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. “Somebody always has his hand on your back.” Elder and others believe the church strengthens a child’s ability and resolve to overcome difficulty. Stronger character translates into better grades.

“Academics is about discipline,” says Regnerus, a professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. “So is attending church. The act of going every week is about rising every Sunday and doing a routine thing.”

Church attendance also convinces low-income students that their lives matter, and that they have choices and hope for a better future.

**Care and Confidence.** “Sometimes it’s just a matter of helping them have the confidence they need to succeed,” says Romanita Hairston, Seattle-based executive director of World Vision’s U.S. programs. “Confidence also comes when teenagers are given church responsibilities. Even the smallest leadership opportunities can give students skills they will need to mature into productive adults.

**Curbing Violence.** Students from poor neighborhoods who attend church are also less likely to engage in violent behavior, says Byron Johnson, director of the Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, which sponsored the Regnerus/Elder study.

“Religion is one of the best predictors of avoiding crime and delinquency,” Johnson says.

And the longer the church involvement the greater the curbing of violence, he says.

The effects of church involvement seem to apply to poor rural communities as well. Elder, the previous research, examined the emotional health of students from rural Iowa after the farm crisis of the 1980s jolted their community. Elder found that religion increased resilience as youth faced adversity. “The church was part of what allowed them to rise above disadvantage,” he says.

“Going to church is an indicator that [students] are teachable, Elder says. “And if they’re teachable at church, they’ll probably be teachable at school.”

### **“Daughters of the King” Retreat “Returning to the Land of Our Souls”**

**Who:** All women in the Episcopal Church have been invited by the “Daughters of the King” of St. James in Painesville to

**What:** A retreat

**Where:** At Cedar Hills Camp and Conference Center, Vrooman Road, Painesville

**When:** October 15-16, 2011 –registration 9:00 a.m. October 15<sup>th</sup>

**Retreat leader:** Dare Cox

**Cost:** \$99.00 includes lunch, dinner, and brunch

\$130.00 includes lunch, dinner, and brunch with lodging

A \$20.00 deposit is necessary to hold a spot.

Make checks payable to: Daughters of the King

Mail to: c/o Sandy Goodale

28 Bryn Mawr Dr.

Painesville, OH 44077

Registration forms are available on the bulletin board across from the church office.

***St. Peter's Rummage Sale*** will be held on September 8th, 9th, and 10th. I want to thank everyone for all their donations to our rummage sale (donations accepted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.). This year the money earned will be donated to the new boiler (heating system) fund. Thanks again, Carol Wardell.

***African Ministry Jewelry*** will be on display from October 23rd to November 6th. I think we all look forward to shopping from the African Ministry jewelry and carving collection. Please keep this in mind for your early Christmas shopping. Many beautiful items have been sent to us in the past and they promise an even nicer selection this year. Any questions contact Carol Wardell at 992-9311.

The image features the words "BIG SALE" in a bold, three-dimensional, red font. The letters are thick and blocky, with a slight shadow beneath them, giving them a 3D appearance. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

<b>September</b>		<b>October</b>	
Jim Carlson	01	Cathy Pelton	04
Dorothy (home bound) Crowell	01	Clarissa Adams	05
Rick & Ann Balog	03	Karen Webb	06
George & Barbra Ducro	03	Carol Jackson	07
Deanna Balog	06	Cheryl Buck	11
Linda Galda	06	Margaret Burnham	11
Howard & Carolyn Rigdon	08	Mary Kay Loose	11
Alison Burnham	10	Howard Lines	15
Isable Holler	14	Linda (home bound) Doxsie	17
Bill & Sherry Snitcher	16	Flores Mike	17
Vince Miers	18	Sherry Snitcher	17
Karen Bertholf	19	Jim and Norma Carlson	20
Ken Niemi	21	Lorraine Evans	20
Jeff & Danielle Cline	23	Jay Dee Shippy	21
Richard Rose	24	Rick & Katrina Tatters	21
Jay & Karen Bertholf	26	Cn. David Evans	23
Conner Dickey	27	Brian Van Allen	27
Steven Searl	27	Melinda Kapalin	28
Janice Biekno	28	Jim Flower	29
John & Lisa Schaefer	29	Kathy Thomas	30

October 31

Sweetest Day October 15

*Columbus Day*  
*October 10*



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

### "THE LITTLE THINGS"

As you might remember, the head of a company survived 9/11 because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts.

One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off.

One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an accident.

One of them missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change.

One's car wouldn't start.

One couldn't get a taxi.

The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work, but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. *THAT IS WHY HE IS ALIVE TODAY.*

*Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone, all the little things that annoy me. I think to myself, this is where God wants me to be at this very moment.*

Next time your morning seems to be going wrong,

You can't seem to find the car keys,

You hit every traffic light,

Don't get mad or frustrated;

It may be just that

God is at work watching over you.

May God continue to bless you

with all those annoying little things

and may you remember their possible purpose.

REMEMBER THE HISTORY OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

## **For Sale:**

**A very beautiful professional puppet theater used as a business prop to entertain children and adults of all ages. The puppet theater is hand crafted with a black wooden frame. A decorative black stage curtain complements the unit as well as a very full burgundy velvet skirt trimmed with fringe. The portable unit is collapsible for easy transporting.**

**Dimensions are - sides: 27" x 6', front: 4' 10" x 6' tall. Area where puppets perform is about 52" (height of center stage frames, plus stageboard which is placed on top of center frames). When collapsed, stage is 51" high, 27" wide and folds to 6" in depth. Stage will accommodate up to 3 adults or 4 children. In order for puppets to be held in front of the puppeteer in the most comfortable position, a standing puppeteer should be about 5' 6" in height. However, this stage will accommodate any size puppeteer. Suggestions for a too-tall puppeteer: take off shoes, bend knees, or sit on a chair or stool. Suggestions for a too-short puppeteer: wear shoes with wood or foam blocks attached, or stand on a sturdy box Price \$450.00 If interested, please call Rosemary Mead - cell 440-812-6899**