

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”  
—Ephesians 4:2-3

Issue 4, Fall 2016

# ST. PETER'S COVENANT CHURCH

## Fall 2016 Newsletter

### Trunk or Treat

Led by Daphne Fox

As the weather gets colder and pumpkins get bigger – we get closer to St. Peter's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat Festival! After last year's fantastic success and great turnout, we're ready to do it again! This year's Trunk or Treat will be held the Saturday before Halloween, October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 p.m. As per usual we are looking for volunteers to be on the planning committee, members to decorate their trunks, and any additional help you would like to provide! A sign-up sheet for the committee will be available downstairs in the parlor or you may reach out directly to Daphne Fox ([daphnecamillefox@gmail.com](mailto:daphnecamillefox@gmail.com)).



We've got a lot of great ideas for Community Outreach to make this year's event even bigger and would love your help and support!

### Welcome New Members!

We are very thankful for the following persons who obtained membership in St. Peter's Church this past spring: Eric and Susan Boyer, Daphne Fox, Elizabeth Fox, Woody Garis, Peter and Leanna Goodrich, and Joe and Colleen West.



### Inside this issue

New Members .....	1
Trunk or Treat .....	1
Good News Club .....	2
Summer VBS .....	2
Sunday School .....	2
NT Reading Plan .....	3
Pastoral Search .....	3
Announcements .....	4
Mission/Evangelism .....	4
Pastor's Message .....	5

## Sunday School

*Are you sometimes perplexed with the teachings of Jesus? Do you really want what He wants? Do you really want what He's offering?*

This fall, all are welcome to attend adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. We are exploring Kyle Idleman's The End of Me—Where Real Life in the Upside-Down Ways of Jesus Begins. In his book, Idleman specifically examines Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In addition, he unpacks many other counterintuitive truths from Scripture.

Join us for this special Bible study and time of fellowship!

## Good News Club in Review

*An Interview with Marnie Kostishion*

The "Good News Club" was an after-school Bible club held at John M. Grasse Elementary School throughout the month of March. Members from St. Peter's, in conjunction with Child Evangelism Fellowship, made this Bible study possible. Each week included a Bible lesson, Bible story, recreation, and snack. Thirteen students in grades K-5 were able to attend.

Many thanks to Lori Fox, Katelyn Derstine, and Marnie Kostishion for making Good News Club a success! We look forward to working again alongside John M. Grasse Elementary School this fall.



## Vacation Bible School

*God is with me wherever I go!*

In late June, over twenty children engaged in a "Deep Sea Discovery." As they "dove" into God's Word, they learned how God has been with His people every step of the way. Key themes throughout the week included: God knows me! (Genesis 6-9), God hears me! (Jonah 1-3), God strengthens me! (Matthew 14), and God loves me! (John 21). Many thanks to Elaine Scott for organizing such a special event and also to each volunteer who helped to make this year's VBS a success!



## New Testament Reading Plan

Starting September 25 through November 13 St. Peter's Covenant Church is participating in a read-along of the New Testament, together! Each week readers will get together to explore and share what we've learned to help deepen our understanding of the context and our relationship with God. Sign up is extremely easy through <http://cbe.covchurch.org/> where you'll have access to tools like daily emails and videos, a link to the Facebook Page for the Covenant Community Bible Experience to join other churches and members in discussion – even resources such as a Parent's Guide so your children can read along as well! You can even *listen* to every reading using FREE mp3 audio tracks that make the daily reading so simple; you could just play it on your commute home from work. Reach out to Pastor Fox if you'd like help signing up or downloading the readings so you can join along. The sign up sheet is in the parlor.

## Pastoral Search

*Highlights Provided by Dave Scott*

Pastoral Search Committee: Dave Scott, Chairman, Duane Derstine, John Fox, Alan Kratz, Janelle Lear, Joe Leposa, Marilyn Morrison, Jane Smith, Tracy Wolfgang

The committee met with Howard Burgoyne, Superintendent of the ECC, in June and has had four meetings since then. We prepared and distributed a fairly detailed survey of the congregation in July and received 58 responses. Based on the survey responses regarding our current situation and future goals, we completed a comprehensive Profile of St. Peter's on a form provided by the ECC. The Profile will be reviewed and approved by Consistory in September and then sent to the ECC. The

ECC maintains a database of ministers willing to accept a call and will use our Profile to match us with prospective pastors that meet our preferences, priorities, and needs. We anticipate receiving profiles of prospective candidates in October and will begin preliminary screening and interviews shortly thereafter. As the process continues, if anyone has any comments or questions, there is a suggestion box in the parlor or they can send the committee an email [stpeterspastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterspastorsearch@gmail.com).



## Within the Fellowship

### Baptisms:

- \* Braelynn Patricia, Seth and Michele Mumbauer's daughter, was baptized on July 24.
- \* Cadence Mary, Tim and Devon Trumbower's daughter, also baptized on July 24.
- \* George Arthur Heusser, the son of Mark and Jenny Heusser, was baptized on August 21.

### Wedding Bells:

- \* Levi Schultz and Janelle Loveless were married at St. Peter's Church on August 13, 2016.
- \* Jaime Smith and Ryan Owens were married at St. Peter's on September 3, 2016.

### In Memorium:

- \* Sarah Benischeck passed away on April 19, 2016.
- \* Betsy Renner passed away on July 1, 2016.
- \* Ada Smeltzer passed away on August 19, 2016.

## The Mission and Evangelism Committee

*By Tom Trumbower*

The month of October is mission month. Last year we, as a church, did a project called open 1000 doors. When we opened a door for someone we would also pray for that person. Hopefully some people are still practicing this idea. This year we have another challenge for St. Peter's. The project is called 10,000 thank yous or God bless yous. 10,000 sounds like a lot but just as last year, when we opened well over 1000 doors, we can say thank you or God bless you 10,000 times. In your morning or evening prayer, do you thank God for the day? Do you thank God for your meals each day? Are you mindful of the people around you and are you giving thanks for what they do for you? There are opportunities each day to be thankful and to express your appreciation with a simple thank you. The last couple of weeks I've been saying God bless you to strangers, family, and friends. This is more challenging, as you will find. Make these simple phrases a part of each and every day. Many different Bible verses about being thankful, let me give you just one. Psalm 50:23 "But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors Me (God). If you keep to My path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God.

Also, we will be praying for one another in October. The first Sunday in October when you come into church we will ask you to pick a name out of a basket of someone from St. Peter's. We would ask that you pray for that person daily, for the whole month. Everyone will have someone to pray for them.

The dinner for the AA group will also take place on a Saturday in October.

Saying thank you, God bless you or praying for one another are simple things to do but not always easy. Let us be a thankful church, a church that blesses people and a church that prays for one another.



# Confessing Christ at Caesarea Philippi

*Praying for Our Country by Pastor Fox*



Scripture commends us to pray for kings and all in authority. When the earlier church was admonished to do so there was no concept of a Christian nation. Christians were a tiny minority often asked to pray for leaders who were oppressive, and would possibly persecute Christians

Through her history the Christian Church has existed in both hostile and supportive cultures. It is possible for the church to thrive or to languish in either type of culture. As Christians in the United States we have a unique perspective, and a unique expectation of the culture in which we live. Our nation was founded, and for much of its history had a Judeo-Christian consensus.

## Spotlight Recipe

*From the Church Cookbook:  
Blueberry Cream Muffins, by  
Elsie Keeley*

### Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 c. sour cream
- 2 c. fresh blueberries

In mixing bowl, beat eggs. Gradually add sugar. While beating, slowly pour oil; add vanilla. Combine dry ingredients; add alternately with the sour cream to the egg mixture. Gently fold in blueberries. Spoon into greased muffin tins. Bake at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes. Yield: 24 muffins.

How do we pray for our country when there is no longer a Judeo-Christian consensus, and fewer people believe in God, or are involved in a local church? We are still called to pray for those in authority, but is there more?

Theologians speak of the three institutions that were divinely instituted by God – Family, Church, and the State. These three institutions exist in all the various cultural or political settings. Each has its God-given place and role (or sphere). Abraham Kuyper the Dutch theologian and political leader coined the phrase “the sovereignty of each sphere” – with regards to the importance and role of these three divinely ordained institutions.

Think of a three-legged stool. Each leg needs to be equal in length and strength for the stool to remain sturdy. In a culture with a cooperative Judeo-Christian consensus the image of a sturdy three-legged stool would make sense. As each equal (sovereign) leg of the cultural stool worked together for a stable society and culture.

In our country as the two legs of family and church have become weaker. The image of our culture as a three-legged stool is not that of a stable well balanced stool, but of a stool with one very long leg, and two weaker, shorter legs. Using Kuyper’s metaphor we see the leg of “State” usurping many of the prerogatives of the sovereign realms of Family and Church.

So how do we pray? I am praying for a true religious awakening in our land, and with it a renewal of the family and church.