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THE KEYS OF ST. PETER

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

In early May, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released an advisory about contemporary loneliness in America. He makes a distinction between ordinary loneliness, which we all face from time to time, and a more profound condition: social disconnection. He writes, "I think the time you get concerned is when you start experiencing a feeling of loneliness for prolonged periods of time. If you feel lonely, you pick up the phone and call a friend, and then it goes away, or you get in the car and go see a family member, that's OK. That's loneliness acting like hunger or thirst, a signal our body sends us when we need something for survival. It's when it persists that it becomes harmful."

Citing a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a study by the Cigna group, and several other published reports, Dr. Murthy points out that social isolation increases the risk of dementia by 50%, heart disease by 29%, and stroke by 32%. In terms of its impact on the whole health of a person, he claims that it is equivalent to smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. Loneliness costs the US economy an estimated $406 billion a year in decreased productivity. It costs an estimated $6.7 billion in Medicare benefits for socially isolated older adults. Surprisingly, loneliness is twice as likely to be experienced by young adults: 42% of people aged 18-34 report ***always*** feeling left out, as opposed to 16% of people aged 55 or older.

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WWW.SAINTPETERSCOLUMBIA.ORG

St. Peter's
Episcopal Church
Columbia, Tennessee

While COVID protocols certainly increased the number of lonely people, these figures are not that much larger than before 2020. In fact, American social isolation has been increasing for decades. In his 2000 non-fiction book *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, author Robert Putnam surveys the decline of "social capital"—the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a society which make that society function—since 1950. Social capital involves things that everyone shares: identity, understanding, norms, values, trust, cooperation, and reciprocity.

What is the remedy to loneliness? Obviously, community. And the first of Dr. Murthy's "six pillar plan" attempts to address the erosion of tangible resources for American community: boosting (funding, I imagine) volunteer organizations, addressing policies regarding public transit and education, and investing in physical elements like libraries and green spaces. These things are good as far as they go. But his sixth pillar is the most important, the most elusive, and the least likely to be effectively created or supported by government programs of any kind: a "culture of connection" in which Americans "cultivate values of kindness, respect, service, and commitment to one another."

While expressed with words that might be described as "secular," these values are religious; specifically, they are Christian. In Western culture, there is no such thing as a secular virtue, if by secular we mean separated from and independent of the influence of the death and Resurrection of Christ. In his book Dominion, historian Tom Holland traces the inarguable fact that the Cross shook and transformed the pagan Roman culture (and eventually other cultures) so fundamentally that it is impossible to divorce the most benign contemporary moral qualities and issues from It. In no other culture prior to Christianity did God (or "the gods") identify with anyone less than the powerful, the wealthy, and the triumphant. But the followers of Jesus declared that, on the Cross, God forged an eternal union—total solidarity—between Himself and the helpless, the poor, the lost, the enslaved, and even the criminal.

Roman culture saw this as absurd and disgusting. But the crucified and Resurrection God-made-man Jesus turned Roman culture on its head such that we now take for granted the things that would have appalled Rome. Do you believe in human rights? Care for the poor? Rehabilitation of the criminal? The Romans didn't. In fact, these weak humans were considered as expendable as imperfect newborns whom the Romans left in designated place in cities to die from exposure.

The only lasting, meaningful community in our culture comes from those who gather around the Altar Cross of Christ "who made there, by his one oblation of Himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world (BCP, p. 334)." The Church, which is forged by the Cross, which is the ultimate expression of the Love of God, is where we go when we feel lonely.

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, even as thou and he are one: Grant that thy Church being bound together in love and obedience to thee, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom thou did send, the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever (BCP, p. 204).

Faithfully, in Christ,
Chris Bowhay+

Additional Nursery Workers Needed!

Our smallest saints need you! We have availability in our Nursery for anyone who would like to care for babies and young children up to age 5. If you're interested, please contact the office.

Sunday School Teachers!

Have you ever wanted to shape young lives? Do you enjoy art projects and youthful discussions? Are you willing to share your love of St. Peter's with our youth and children? If so, you may be our next Sunday School teacher! Reach out to Jane if you're interested in learning more about our Sunday School classes and to see where you might fit in. We would love to have you!

Christian Senior Living guide

Are you or a loved one looking for information on Christian senior living facilities? Visit this article from Caring.com to learn more about your options. The article shares information on finding a quality senior care facility that honors Christian values. https://www.caring.com/caregivers/guide-to-christian-and-catholic-senior-living/

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship meets Thursday, June 1st, in the Parish Hall at 5:00 PM. Our meal will be blessed at 6:00 PM. Join us for great food and fellowship. All men are welcome. Bring your appetite!

Honoring Connie Hardin and Glenn Perry

During our Whitsunday service, we set aside some time to honor two very special people in the life of St. Peter's - Connie Hardin and Glenn Perry. Connie and Glenn have served St. Peter's for decades and their leadership has been invaluable! Connie has served as the head of the Flower Guild and ensured the altar was adorned with beautiful flower arrangements for Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and everything in between. Glenn has been our organist for 40 years and played faithfully for many of those same Sundays, weddings, and funerals. Our church would not be the same without their presence and devotion. On behalf of the entire congregation of St. Peter's, we appreciate you and we are eternally thankful for you!

Intentional Communion Class

On Sunday, May 21st, the participants of our first Intentional Communion Class took Communion together. These youth spent the last four weeks learning about Communion, reviewing the different parts of the order of service, the names of all the items on the altar that we use during Communion, and even the name of the Vestments and other garments that Father Chris wears during the service. Thank you to Jane for organizing and leading this class!

Help the Family Center by bringing in boxes of cereal! We'll have a collection box in the Bishop's Room. Please contact Vicki Kenney if you have questions.

Please welcome our newest member of the Vestry: Dr. Ken Vickers

Dr. Ken Vickers is a professor of history, Coordinator of the History Program, and Chair of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Tennessee Southern. He has been at UT Southern (formerly Martin Methodist College) since 2005. His areas of specialization are the American South and West, Southern Literature, and Religion in America.

Ken has been a leader in the Diocese of Tennessee for many years as a member of the Vestry at the Church of the Messiah in Pulaski, a member of the Diocesan Standing Committee, and currently in his second term as a member of the Cathedral Chapter, which is like a Vestry for Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville.

Raised in Middleton, Tennessee, Ken and his wife Mendy have been in Pulaski since 2005. They are both drawn to the reason, logic, and order of the services found in the Book of Common Prayer and have been members of St. Peter's since 2022. Most importantly, they are the proud parents of Eudora Welty, an adolescent miniature dachshund.

Dr. Vickers will fill the remainder of what would have been the second year of Carol Baker's three-year term. At our Annual Parish Meeting in January 2024, the congregation will elect one person to fill her final year.

WHITSUNDAY PHOTOS

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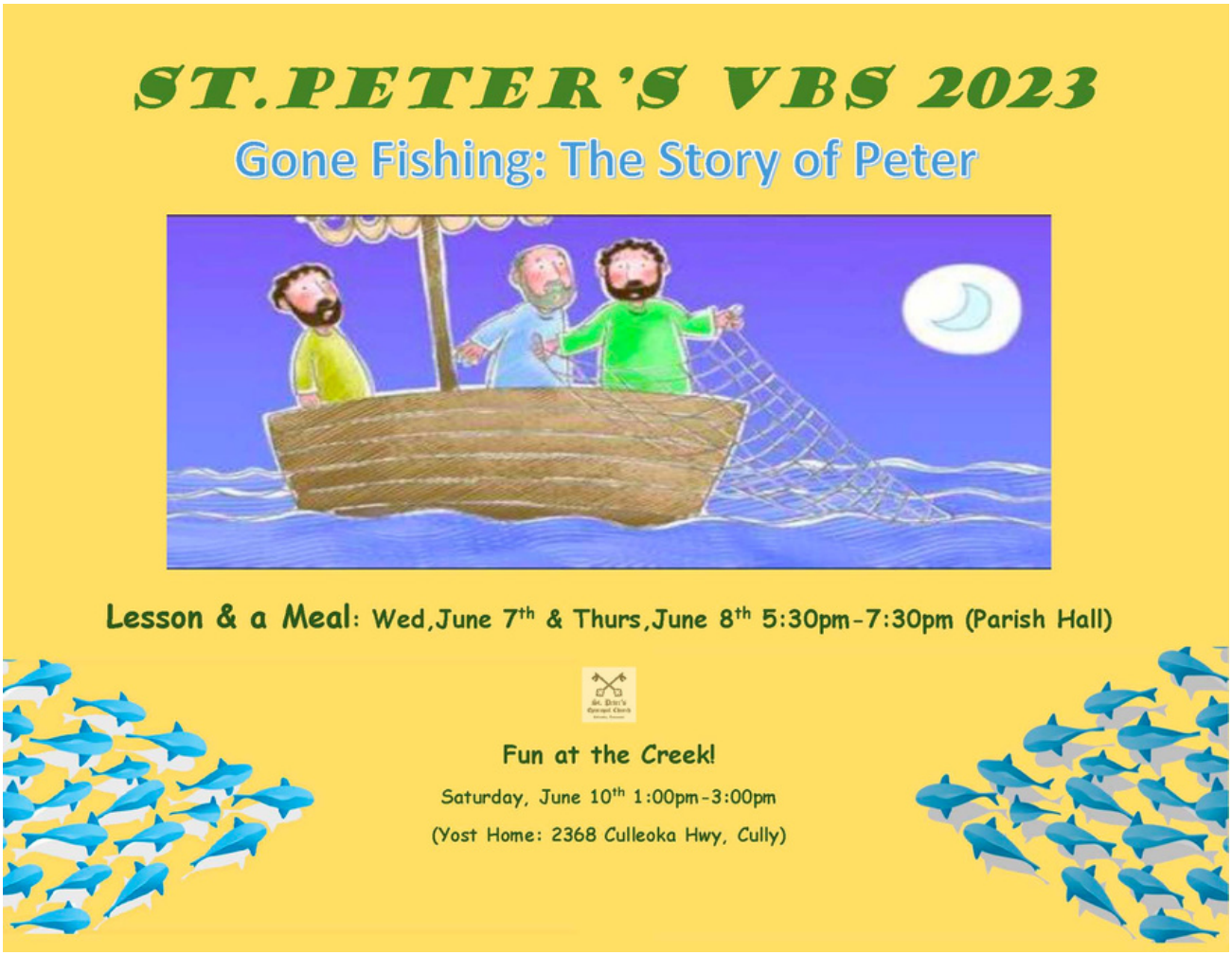

Join us this summer for another super fun VBS! We will host two evenings at the church for our youth and children to learn the story of Peter and have a lot of fun along the way.

Any adults who want to volunteer can contact Jane - *we can't do it without you!*

On Saturday, June 10th, from 1:00pm-3:00pm we will wrap up VBS with creek play at the home of Clay and Stephanie Yost, 2368 Culleoka Highway.

Registration is live at **https://www.saintpeterscolumbia.org/vbs2023**!

VESTRY
JUNE 2023

St. Peter's
2023 Vestry Members

Mike Sharpton, Senior Warden
John Finney, Junior Warden
John Breyfogle, Clerk

Ginger Moon
Mark Sells
Jane Rodriguez-Keeton
Jennifer Ballard

Dave Glowacki
Peggy Harmon
Becky Clayborne
Wilks Halliday

Sarah Robert
Larry Trotter
Lucia Vining
Ken Vickers

Financial Summary for April 2023

Below please find a very broad overview of St. Peter's financial activity in the month of April 2023. We will receive the May Financial Report at our Vestry meeting on the fourth Tuesday in June. This summary is drawn from our Treasurer's Report to the Vestry which is much more detailed. Those who would like to see it may find it in the hallway that leads to the Church Office where it is always posted.

	April	Year to Date
All Revenues	$27,959.49	$138,619.03
All Expenses	$39,853.29	$178,235.97
Net Surplus (Deficit)	($11,893.90)	($39,616.94)

Thank you for your gifts to God through your gifts to St. Peter's. If you have any questions about our finances, please contact either our Treasurer, Melanie Lucas-Evanko (melanieevanko@gmail.com) or our Senior Warden, Mike Sharpton (sharpton_mike@yahoo.com).

Our Lord said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

If you have any other questions, please call St. Peter's or send an email to office@saintpeterscolumbia.org.

Faithfully,
Chris Bowhay+

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Vestry Meeting Bullet Points from May 23, 2023

- Approved purchase of Acolyte Vestments due to increase in acolytes.
- Approved $11,300 to paint church interior from distributions from Thompson Fund and the General Endowment Fund.
- Approved requests from Outreach Committee to issue grants of $1,000 to the African American Heritage Society of Maury County from the Outreach budget line item and also $1,000 to the Center of Hope from the Hales' Fund.
- Elected Ken Vickers to fill the remainder of this second year of Carol Baker's three-year term. (The third year of her term will be filled at the next Parish Meeting in January 2024.)

Noel Patterson and David Wiegandt	6/11
Karen and Joe McNamara	6/16
Judy and Tom Dake	6/17
Sherri and Gibran Naddy	6/19
Susan and Bob Tuke	6/21
Stacy and David Bartol	6/22
Betty and Frank Pigford	6/25
Judy and Bud Rich	6/26
Sarah and Bob Thompson	6/27

Amy Hutto	6/1
Georgia Kelley	6/3
Megan White	6/3
William Money	6/4
Jill Shockley	6/4
Bill Fancher	6/5
Mary Campbell Webster	6/5
Anna Yost	6/6
AnnaBelle Williams	6/7
Barry Kenney	6/10
David Bartol	6/12
Hailey Herring	6/12
Irene Zongor	6/12
Donna Brown	6/13
Janet Shadoin	6/15
Leoni Westbrook	6/15
Robert Sweeney	6/16
Ashley Ross	6/17
Virginia Sharpe	6/17
Maitland Westbrook	6/18
John Finney	6/20
Betty Pigford	6/21
Larry Trotter	6/21
Reagan Clayborne	6/23
Liz Lovell	6/23
Lois Orr	6/24
Larkin Finney	6/26
Gilbert Pacheco Jr	6/26
Rusty Vest	6/26
Sue Clark	6/28
Sarah Groth	6/28
William Kelley	6/29
Mark Keeton	6/30
Sami Naddy	6/30

June 2023 Lay Schedule

Sunday, June 4

Sun, 8:00 AM

Dave Glowacki	Server

Sun, 9:15 AM

Carson Hutto	1st Crucifer
John Russell Tuck	1st Torchbearer
Ann Christopher Robert	1st Torchbearer
Sam Wrather	2nd Crucifer
Avah Gonzalez	Book Bearer
Asher Abdallah	Lector
Asher Abdallah	Intercessor
Litton Robert	Server
Mark Downs	Verger

Sun, 11:00 AM

Kate Whatley	1st Crucifer
TBD	1st Torchbearer
TBD	1st Torchbearer
TBD	Book Bearer
Anne Ciccoline	Lector
Kate Whatley	Server
Bryan Young	Verger

Sunday, June 11

Sun, 8:00 AM

Ted Trainor	Server

Sun, 9:15 AM

Joyner Wallace	1st Crucifer
Cooper Ross	1st Torchbearer
Elliott Hutto	1st Torchbearer
Emmie Wallace	2nd Crucifer
Rylan Ross	Book Bearer
Carson Hutto	Lector
Carson Hutto	Intercessor
Litton Robert	Server
Mark Downs	Verger

Sun, 11:00 AM

Kate Whatley	1st Crucifer
Madeline McWhorter	1st Torchbearer
Anne Ciccoline	1st Torchbearer
Lacey Crawford	Book Bearer
Anne Ciccoline	Lector
Kate Whatley	Server
Bryan Young	Verger

Sunday, June 18

Sun, 8:00 AM

Roy Crews	Server

Sun, 9:15 AM

Margaret Berry Kennedy	1st Crucifer
Nathan Tarter	1st Torchbearer
Katherine Tarter	1st Torchbearer
Cooper Ross	2nd Crucifer
Elliott Hutto	Book Bearer
Carson Hutto	Lector
Carson Hutto	Intercessor
Maximo White	Server
Mark Downs	Verger

Sun, 11:00 AM

Madeline McWhorter	1st Crucifer
TBD	1st Torchbearer
TBD	1st Torchbearer
TBD	Book Bearer
Anne Ciccoline	Lector
Madeline McWhorter	Server
Bryan Young	Verger

Sunday, June 25

Sun, 8:00 AM

Bob Thompson	Server

Sun, 9:15 AM

Ann Christopher Robert	1st Crucifer
Litton Robert	1st Torchbearer
Asher Abdallah	1st Torchbearer
John Russell Tuck	2nd Crucifer
David Tuck	Book Bearer
Maya Keeton	Lector
Maya Keeton	Intercessor
Maximo White	Server
Mark Downs	Verger

Sun, 11:00 AM

Madeline McWhorter	1st Crucifer
Allyiah Crawford	1st Torchbearer
Anne Ciccoline	1st Torchbearer
Lacey Crawford	Book Bearer
Allyiah Crawford	Lector
Madeline McWhorter	Server
Bryan Young	Verger

June 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:00pm-Men's Fellowship 6:30pm-Scouts 7:00pm-NA	2 12:00pm-Gardens of Columbia, Parish Hall	3 12:00pm-Gardens of Columbia, Parish Hall 7:00pm-NA
4 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite II	5 7:00pm-NA	6 5:15pm-Estes Committee 6:00pm-Outreach Committee 7:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	7 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 12:00pm-NA 5:30pm-VBS	8 5:00pm-Building and Grounds Committee 5:30pm-VBS 7:00pm-NA	9	10 1:00pm-VBS Creek Party, Yost home 7:00pm-NA
11 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:15pm-Vestry Finance and Governance	12 7:00pm-NA	13 11:30am-Lunch Bunch 7:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	14 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 11:30am-DOK 12:00pm-NA 5:30pm-DOK	15 7:00pm-NA	16	17 7:00pm-NA
18 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:15pm-Vestry Exec Committee	19 7:00pm-NA	20 3:00pm-Crossroads to Home Committee 7:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	21 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 12:00pm-NA	22 6:00pm-Membership 101 7:00pm-NA	23	24 7:00pm-NA
25 8:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15am-Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am-Holy Eucharist Rite II	26 7:00pm-NA	27 6:00pm-Vestry 7:00pm-AA 7:00pm-NA	28 10:30am-Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 12:00pm-NA	29 7:00pm-NA	30	

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