

St. Peter's CONNECTION

VOL. 1, No. 12
January 7, 2011



Connecting the World with God's Love

THIS ISSUE:

Youth Choir Talent Show

You won't want to miss this coffeehouse-style show of amazing musical talent on Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. in Lott Fellowship Hall.

Wednesdays are special at St. Peter's!

Small groups and dinner begin again on Jan. 19. See page 5 for details.



st. peter's
United Methodist Church

St. Peter's welcomes new staff

St. Peter's will begin 2011 with five new staff members who will help us connect the world with God's love.

Shawne Moore has joined us as Coordinator of Media Ministries. She brings years of video production and advertising experience to St. Peter's. She already has made an impact on our worship with the videos for the "Promises" sermon series.

Bill Land is our new Coordinator of Mission Ministries. Bill's knowledge of local area mission needs, businesses and his charter membership at St. Peter's make him uniquely qualified for this ministry.

Thad Brown, our Worship Leader in *the element*, has lived in the Katy area and served as a worship leader for many years. He brings both behind-the-scenes support and on-stage leadership in the area of contemporary

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St. Peter's newest staff members are, from left, Shawne Moore, Bill Land, Sydni Hagens and Thad Brown.

20775 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, Texas 77450
(281) 492-8031 www.stpeterskaty.org

Youth Choir presents Talent Show

On Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. come spend a cozy evening in Lott Fellowship Hall sipping coffee or hot chocolate, eating a home-made desert, and listening to some wonderful music from St. Peter's members at the Youth Choir Talent Show. Admission is \$5. Proceeds go toward the Youth Choir's summer mission trip.

Student Ministries Golf Tournament

All golfers are invited to sign up for Student Ministries' Fourth Annual Golf Tournament to benefit our Jamaica mission trip. The tournament, which is at Falcon Point Golf Club on Feb. 21, will include prizes, a silent and live auction, and dinner after the tournament.

Invite your friends and neighbors. Contact Jason Trice at (281) 492-8031, ext. 322, for more information.



Amazing ...

... I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

—Matthew 25:35

Christmas Eve at St. Peter's was a "ministry marathon," and I feel so privileged to have been a part of it. Numbers tell only part of the story, but they do reflect the excitement of our birthday celebration for Jesus:

- Seven worship services
- 3,300+ worshippers of which hundreds were guests of St. Peter's
- 300+ volunteers (ushers, greeters, instrumentalists, chancel choir, youth choir, children's choirs, communion servers, communion stewards, acolytes, children's volunteers, set-up and take-down teams)
- \$30,200 in offerings to support Katy Area mission organizations!
- ONE very large thunderstorm!

It is always a joy to journey to Bethlehem in mind, heart and spirit. What is especially exciting to me is that people who may attend church only once or twice a year would choose to celebrate Christmas Eve at St. Peter's United Methodist Church. My prayer is that, through hearing the Christmas story, singing carols, and lighting candles, the true meaning of Christmas came alive not only for our guests but for us as well. My hope is that, as we extended a hand of greeting and hospitality, the presence of Christ in us was felt by our guests and the presence of Christ in our guests was felt by us.

We never know when a "stranger" is in our midst. On any given Sunday, more than 150 guests are walking the halls and sitting in the Sanctuary and in Lott Hall. What they are seeking may even be a mystery to them—community, relationships with others, a relationship with Jesus Christ. May we always be prepared to welcome them as though we are welcoming the living Christ among us. As we do, then their lives will be changed for the better as will ours. As we warmly receive others, we are reminded that Christ, as well, is being welcomed.

I'll see you in worship!

Love everybody ...

Pastor Don



Rev. Don Smith



Rising to the challenge, class gives the gift of produce

Sometimes a simple suggestion can wind up making a difference in the lives of hundreds of families. Such was the case for a group from St. Peter's.

Last August Don Smith met with Mixed Blessings Sunday School class. Class members told Don the class focus was on missions and that they had participated in many mission activities. Don listened and then challenged them to start a brand new mission project.

Mixed Blessings took up the challenge and began to think about what they could do. Katy Christian Ministries seemed a good place to start since they had done mission work with this organization in the past. In the meantime, as they investigated what type of new project they could develop, they discovered that the Houston Food Bank sponsored a program called Gift of Produce. The Food Bank works with Houston-area fruit and vegetable growers to provide free produce to the needy once a year.

This fall the Mixed Blessings class members developed a plan to bring some of that produce to Katy to distribute to clients of the KCM Food Pantry. They chose a location, coordinated with the Houston Food Bank, spread the word about the program, and distributed the food.

Memorial Lutheran Church, Katy, provided space in their parking lot for the distribution of the produce. Mixed Blessings printed up fliers and handed them out at KCM. Randalls and Kroger grocery stores donated grocery bags and Randalls also donated sandwiches for the volunteers.

The class ordered eight pallets of food, which amounted to 15,687 pounds. They were able to hand out 40-pound bags of onions, carrots, cabbage, squash, potatoes, tomatoes, celery, bananas, grapefruit, apples, and honeydew melons to more than 360 families in less than four hours. Volunteers included members of the Mixed Blessings class, St. Peter's Student Ministries, students from a community college and some members of Memorial Lutheran.

Class member Genny Hatton said the weather was perfect, which made the volunteers' work easier and also contributed to the good turnout. "We were blessed to have lots of angels looking out for us," she said.



Driving vs. Alzheimer's

We will continue our series of seminars sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association with a program on issues related to driving. Please join us Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. in Asbury Hall. All are welcome. For additional information, contact Bev Deerhake at (281) 856-6217.

Alzheimer's Support Group

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet Jan. 17 at 1:30 p.m. in S209. Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients are invited to join us for a time of caring and sharing. For more information, contact Beverly Deerhake at (281) 856-6217.

Grief Share Group

This is a support group for those who have gone through the loss of a loved one. We will meet on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room beginning Jan. 18. For more information, contact Kim Meyers at (281) 492-8031, ext. 305, or kmeyers@stpkaty.org.



Brown Bag Bridge. Winners on our December play date were Scott DeWitz, high, and Willie Morrilon, second high. Our next play date is Jan. 13. Call Martha at (281) 395-4825 for a reservation.

Praise Parade

Praise Parade Song Play Group begins again on Mondays at 2:45 p.m. from Jan. 24 through Feb. 14. Praise Parade is for you and your child, ages 1 to 4. Register by contacting Anne O'Quinn at (281) 578-5972 or annieroonie@sbcglobal.net.

Mothers' Share Group

We are a group of moms that meet throughout the school year for food, fun and friendship. All moms are invited to join us on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in E221. Childcare is provided. For more information, please contact Melissa Gargani at msgargani@sbcglobal.net or (281) 578-7178.

New staff *continued from page 1*

rary worship.

Jason Trice, who has actually been at St. Peter's for more than three years, has accepted the Director of Student Ministries role after having served as Interim Director since June. Jason brings energy, enthusiasm and heart to this important ministry.

Sydni Hagens is serving as Assistant Director of Student Ministries. Sydni and her family have been members of St. Peter's for many years. She will attend seminary this fall.

Ann Olson, chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, said SPRC would like to encourage the congregation to welcome these new ministry leaders and give them support in any way possible. "We look forward to serving God with them," she said.



Jason Trice has been named St. Peter's Director of Student Ministries

St. Peter's Blood Drive is Jan. 9

Start the new year off by helping save lives through the donation of your blood. Everyone who donates will receive a long-sleeved T-shirt and also will be eligible for a drawing for tickets to the Cockrell Butterfly Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Walk-ins are welcome, especially from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Go to the Lobby to check in. If you would like more information about St. Peter's Blood Drives or about donating blood, please contact Marsha Asplin at (281) 492-0472 or mea1242@aol.com.

St. Peter's achieves high ranking in blood donations

Thanks to everyone who donated blood in 2010 at St. Peter's. Among the 417 churches in the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center area that sponsored blood drives, St. Peter's ranked fifth in total number of procedures with 557. Out of all the groups that sponsor blood drives, including corporations, hospitals, schools and churches, St. Peter's ranked 14th out of 2,566. Many St. Peter's members also donated blood at blood centers or their workplaces.

Thank you for making such a huge difference in the lives of those who depend on your lifesaving donations. Please make plans to continue your generosity in 2011. And if you have never donated blood before, please consider doing so this year.

Our first blood drive of 2011 is Jan. 9. You can contact Marsha Asplin at (281) 492-0472 or mea1242@aol.com for more information about donating blood.

Get ready for Wednesday nights!

Wednesday night small groups for adults will resume on Jan. 19, as will Wednesday Night Dinners. We encourage you to have dinner with your family and friends and then participate in a small group in 2011. Sign up today for all Wednesday Night activities at www.stpkaty.org. You also can register in the Lobby. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. with most classes beginning between 6:15 and 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Small Groups

“Crave” by Erwin McManus—Thad Brown, leader. This series will help you understand your deepest longings and open you to imagination and your own heart.

“That the World May Know” by Ray Vander Laan—Scott Rawlings, leader. Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the land of the Bible.

“Fearless” by Max Lucado—Steve Webster, leader. Can you imagine your life without fear? Learn to trust more in Jesus and shed unwanted fears.

“Mulligan: A Parable of Second Chances” by Ken Blanchard and Wally Armstrong—Paul Maley, leader. We all need a few mulligans, not only on the golf course, but in life. This series will improve your golf game and change your life.

“Job Search Assistance”—John Caudill, leader. This class is for anyone who has recently lost a job, who is looking for a better job, or who is looking for a first job opportunity. John Caudill has years of experience helping people find the right job for them.

For more information on small groups, please contact Scott Rawlings at rawlings@stpkaty.org or (281) 492-8031.

**Welcome to
our new member**

Charles Nelson

Preschool registration

Early Childhood Development Center registration for the 2011-2012 school year runs through Jan. 21. Forms will be available between those dates in the ECDC Office. We offer classes for children ages 15 months to 5 years. For more information, call the ECDC Office at (281) 492-0623 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

ST. PETER'S ATTENDANCE

December 24	
3:00	464
5:00	826
6:30	617
<i>the element</i>	179
8:00	529
9:30	478
11:00	249
TOTAL	3,342
December 26	
8:30	126
11:00	375
<i>the element</i>	80
<u>SPLASH</u>	24
TOTAL	605
January 2	
8:30	266
11:00	629
<i>the element</i>	154
<u>SPLASH</u>	65
TOTAL	1,114

Upholding the Church

PRAYERS

Ray Britt, David Burrough, John English, Rick Jage, Barbara Jones, Brian Jones, Tom Matkin, Philip Miller, Lee Palfreyman, Norwood and Judith Preto, Ann Reardon, Bette Sanchez, Jim Sawyer, Stacy Spilman, Hope Talton, Barbara Thoen, Rick Wark, Frank Womack and Blake Wunder.

JOY

To Beau and Andrea Blouin on the birth of their son Thomas Frazier. To Chris and Kelli Harren on the birth of their daughter Annslee Marie. To Matt and Sherri Leicht on the birth of their daughter Eleanor Paige.

SYMPATHY

To Hillary Austin and family on the death of her grandfather. To Brook, Stefan and Francesca Crichton and family on the death of their father and grandfather. To Joan McMicken and family on the death of her brother. To Lou Moore and family on the death of her sister. To Carol Nahoun and Erika Watson and family on the death of their father and grandfather. To Neil Stillman and family on the death of his father. To Doug and Marilyn Stockton and family on the death of their son Douglas Edward “Trey” Stockton.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Tony Bailey, Johnathon Baker, Jared Behne, John Belsha, Amanda Berg, Colin Binion, Patrick Boutall, Baker Brooks, Martin Busch, Randy Butcher, Sean Cain, Devin Camp, Kenneth Conley, Paul Cordner, Thomas Cotten, Joel de Sola, Parker Dial, Kathryn Donnelly, Brandi and Josiah Fast, Daniel Fritz, J.M. Floyd, Charles Fray, James Gilbert, Anita Marie Gilliam, Jason Gordon, Eric Graesley, Tye Grasshoff, David Gutierrez, Steven Heath, Matthew C. Houghton, Chris Hudson, Scott Lewis, Mike Linn, Andrew Locke, Ryan Lueders, Austin McCall, Adam Miller, Collin Mooney, Robert Near, Blake Nunes, Ryan O’Quinn, Neal Osburn, Austin Paynter/149th Division, Casey Pontious, Sherri Pontious, Don Rolleg, Jason Salter, Brandon Schumacher, Daniel Sewastynowicz, Shannon Thorthan, Patrick Bishop Turner, Bert Walker, Michael Wendt, Leonard Will, Jasen Wilson, and Marine Co. 1157.



United Methodist Women

Jan. 19—The Agape Circle will meet at the home of Beverly Deerhake at 10 a.m. Programs for the new year will be discussed and selection of a new Chair will be made. All women of the church are invited to join this group of busy, active UMW members, whose main goal is missions—local, nation and worldwide. For directions to her house, call Bev at (281) 856-6217.

Beth Moore Bible Study

“David: Seeking a Heart Like His”
Tuesdays

9:30 a.m. or 6:15 p.m.

Begins Jan. 18

Contact Anne O’Quinn at annieroonie.sbcglobal.net



Journey of a Lifetime to Israel

If you haven’t signed up for Pastor Don Smith’s 10-day tour of Israel in November, there’s still time. An information meeting will be held Jan. 16 at 12:30 p.m. in Asbury Hall. If you have already signed up, you do not need to attend this meeting. For information, go to stpkaty.org.



Men’s Life to look at what it means to be a man

Today the world is sending out conflicting signals about what it means to be a man. Many men are questioning who they are and what roles they fulfill in life—as a male, a husband, and a father. As we resume Men’s Life, we are going to be breaking down the book “Maximized Manhood” and begin to discover the destiny and potential of the man as he was meant to be. Men’s Life meets on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 18, at 6 a.m. in Lott Fellowship Hall. Leaders are Scott Rawlings and Rick Figueroa. For information, contact Scott at srawlings@stpkaty.org or (281) 492-8031.

Is your child ready for kindergarten?

The Early Childhood Development Center will host its annual Kinder Expo on Jan. 20 from 7-8 p.m. in Asbury Hall for parents of 4-year-olds and young 5-year-olds eligible to begin kindergarten in the fall. A panel of parents and kindergarten and transition program teachers will offer various perspectives on how to determine if your child is ready for kindergarten and will answer questions. Childcare for Kinder Expo is available by calling the ECDC office at (281) 492-0623 by Jan. 18.

Open Hearts Support Group

This group for families and friends of gays and lesbians will meet Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. in E225. We offer a safe and affirming setting for those who desire understanding and support as they seek to come to terms with a loved one’s homosexuality. For more information, please contact Elaine Saunders at (281) 492-8031 or esaunders@stpeterskaty.org.

NAMI Support Group will meet Jan. 16

The NAMI Support Group will meet on Jan. 16 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in S201. Our meetings are open to caregivers and family members of those dealing with severe mental illness. For more information contact Leon or Pat Alderfer at (713) 467-3764.

St. Peter's UMC Student Ministry

2011 Remedy kicks off for senior high students on Jan. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. On Jan. 16 St. Peter's will face off with Lakewood UMC in a **laser tag duel** from 5 to 8 p.m. at St. Peter's. On Jan. 23 Remedy will host a **Coffee House** featuring Luke Brawner from 5 to 7 p.m. in Lott Fellowship Hall.

Rooted for junior high students meets Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be a **meeting for junior high parents** on Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Wesley. **The Rainbow Tree** was a great success! Thank you to everyone who supported this mission. What an amazing sight to see Christmas gifts for 419 children. The packages were spilling over into the halls. A special "thank you" to the students and their families who helped deliver the hundreds of gifts! Don't forget to sign up for Student Ministries' Fourth Annual **Golf Tournament** to benefit our Jamaica mission trip. The tournament, which is at Falcon Point Golf Club on Feb. 21, will include prizes, a silent and live auction, and dinner after the tournament. Invite your friends and neighbors. Contact **Jason Trice** at jtrice@stpkaty.org or (281) 492-8031, ext. 322, for more information on any Student Ministries activities.



Fun and games with the kids at Katy Manor.

Daily Bible Reading

Jan. 10-16

MONDAY

Gen. 35:1-15

TUESDAY

Jer. 1:4-10

WEDNESDAY

Matt. 12:15-21

THURSDAY

Isa. 49:1-7

FRIDAY

Ps. 27:1, 4-9

SATURDAY

1 Cor. 1:1-9

SUNDAY

John 1:29-42

Jan. 17-23

MONDAY

Exod. 12:1-13, 21-28

TUESDAY

Isa. 53:1-12

WEDNESDAY

Matt. 9:14-17

THURSDAY

Isa. 9:1-4

FRIDAY

Ps. 27:1, 4-9

SATURDAY

1 Cor. 1:10-18

SUNDAY

Matt. 4:12-32

Training for early response to disasters

Would you be interested in volunteering as an early responder to areas affected by a hurricane or other disaster? The Texas Annual Conference is providing eight hours of training Jan. 15 at St. Peter's beginning at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$25.

Volunteers will be trained to go into areas three to five days after a disaster to help secure homes, clear debris and provide aid to people.

To register, see Patty Campbell in the church office. For questions, contact Clay Whitaker at claytonwhitaker@sbcglobal.net or (281) 452-2861.



Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School
for All Ages

11:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
Holy Communion served the
first Sunday of each month

11:00 a.m.
the element
Contemporary Worship
Holy Communion served the
first Sunday of each month

11:00 a.m.
SPLASH
Children's Worship

**St. Peter's
United Methodist Church**
20775 Kingsland Blvd.
Katy, Texas 77450

St. Peter's Events Calendar

Sunday, January 9

8:00 a.m. Blood Drive Lobby
7:00 p.m. Coffee With the Pastors E106

Tuesday, January 11

6:00 p.m. Driving vs. Alzheimer's Asbury Hall

Wednesday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Prayer Quilt Ministry S201

Thursday, January 13

10:00 a.m. Brown Bag Bridge Lott Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 14

6:00 p.m. SPARK Wesley Student Center

Saturday, January 15

8:30 a.m. Early Response Training Asbury Hall

Sunday, January 16

4:00 p.m. Women's Cancer Support Group S209

Monday, January 17

1:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group S209
7:00 p.m. Missions Committee Conference Room

Tuesday, January 18

9:30 a.m. Beth Moore Study S201
6:15 p.m. Beth Moore Study E106
7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group Conference Room

Wednesday, January 19

5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner Lott Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Job Search Assistance S204

Thursday, January 20

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Conference Room

Friday, January 21

6:00 p.m. SPARK Wesley Student Center

*Detailed weekly calendars of St. Peter's events are available
at the Information Desk in the Lobby and on the St. Peter's website.*

Ways to serve ...

Help Prepare for Communion.

We are looking for several people to volunteer to serve as communion stewards for the 11 a.m. worship service on Sundays. The stewards prepare the communion elements before the service and remove them afterward on the first Sunday of each month and during Christmas Eve and Easter week services. If you can serve St. Peter's in this way, please contact Kay Young at (281) 392-0160 or kyoung26@comcast.net.

Children's Worship Coordinator.

Children's Ministries is seeking an enthusiastic, spirit-filled leader for SPLASH children's worship. If you are interested in this part-time paid position, please send your resume to Jennifer Hollingshead at jhollingshead@stpkaty.org.