

St. Peter's

CONNECTION

VOL. 2, No. 9
November 25, 2011



Connecting the World with God's Love

THIS ISSUE:

Gift of Produce

Help sort, bag and distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to families in Katy on Dec. 16.

Stephen Ministries

Consider becoming a Stephen Minister and providing Christian care and listening to people experiencing life challenges. Training starts after the first of the year.

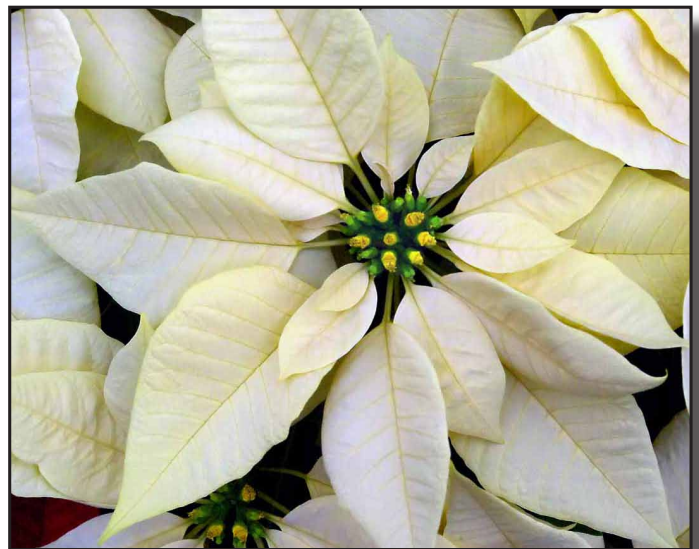


st. peter's
United Methodist Church

Advent at St. Peter's

O Come, Emmanuel

Advent at St. Peter's is a time of preparation and celebration. It is a busy time and also a time to slow down and experience the true meaning of this season. Please plan to worship with us and join us for music, family fun, a night of hope and an opportunity to make Christmas special for a needy child.



Christmas Conspiracy

The story of Christ's birth is a story of incarnation—the story of our Creator who loved the world so much that He came among us to demonstrate that love. With this incarnation came the hope, joy, peace and love that we celebrate with the lighting of the Advent wreath. The anticipation of Christmas was a time to tell the story of Jesus' birth and the story of God's amaz-

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

Preschool registration begins Jan. 9

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year for St. Peter's Early Childhood Development Center preschool is Jan. 9-20. Registration forms are available in the ECDC office. We offer classes that are developmentally and socially appropriate for children ages 15 months through 5 years. For more information, please visit www.stpkaty.org and click on the ECDC Preschool tab at the top of the page or call the ECDC Office at (281) 492-0623 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec. 4 is First for Food Sunday

This Sunday, Dec. 4, is the day to bring donations of nonperishable food items and toiletries for the Katy Christian Ministries Food Pantry. We will collect the donations in the Lobby.

You also may make a donation by check or cash. Please make checks payable to Katy Christian Ministries and place them in the offering plate. First for Food Sunday is the first Sunday of each month.

Greetings from the Holy Land

... the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. (Luke 2:15-16)

I know it's a little early to start telling the story of Christmas, but when you receive this edition of the St. Peter's Connection, our tour group from St. Peter's will be in or around the cities of Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Just below Bethlehem, from the village of the shepherds, Beit Sahour ("the place of the night watch"), we will tell the story of sheep keepers long ago and will sense and hopefully experience for ourselves the excitement they felt after the angel invited them to the birthday party of a Savior.

It's been three years since I last journeyed to the Holy Land. I've been about a dozen times since 1992, and whenever I depart the airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, to come home, I begin planning for the next opportunity to return. It took me three years this time, but we're finally here again in the "Land of Jesus" with our group of 55 people from St. Peter's. We'll return home in time for services on Sunday, Dec. 4, as all of us at St. Peter's will continue our annual symbolic Advent pilgrimage to Bethlehem.

For those not traveling on Thanksgiving weekend, you won't want to miss worship services this Sunday, Nov. 27! There will be a time in the Sanctuary services when I will offer a video greeting from the Holy Land. A friend of mine, Rev. Steven Spurlock who is a United Methodist pastor from Louisiana, will be the guest preacher this Sunday and will also be baptizing his grandson at the 11:00 service! Prior to his message (and assuming that we're able to successfully videotape, edit and e-mail the file from Israel to Katy), our media team will show the video greeting.

I look forward to another meaningful journey to the manger scene both literally and symbolically this Advent season. May the words of the shepherds be our words as well, "... let's go to Bethlehem!"

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for the privilege to be in ministry with you.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend, enjoy worship this Sunday and I'll see you in worship on Dec. 4!



Rev. Don Smith

Love everybody ...

Pasta Don

Advent *continued from page 1*

ing birth in Jesus.

So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams and shopping lists. And when December is all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off and an empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas?

What if Christmas became a world-changing event again? Welcome to “Christmas Conspiracy,” our Advent sermon series in our traditional worship services beginning Dec. 4.

Rainbow Tree

Junior high students have put up the Rainbow Christmas tree in the Lobby. Each year our junior high students organize this ministry, which ensures that 500 children have a present on Christmas Day. You can help by selecting a heart from the tree and purchasing a gift for the child listed. Place the heart tag on the wrapped gift under the tree by Dec. 11. These gifts are then delivered to Park View Village Apartments where the students serve each summer providing Vacation Bible School for the children. Some of the gifts are also delivered to another community in need nearby. For information, contact Heather Harmison at hharmison@stpkaty.org or (281) 492-8031.

Youth Choir Concert

The Youth Choir will present Lessons and Carols Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This program will combine Scripture readings with traditional and contemporary Christmas music.

KIDS JAM Children’s Choirs Musical

On Dec. 11 the KIDS JAM choirs’ presentation of “Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior” marks the beginning of Christmas on Bethlehem Boulevard. The musical begins at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary and features all of the children’s choirs.

Christmas on Bethlehem Boulevard

On Dec. 11, following the KIDS JAM Christmas Musical, Christmas on Bethlehem Boulevard will get under way. There will be activities for the entire family, including sleigh rides, a living nativity, face painting, crafts and snow!

‘Messiah’ Singalong

The Chancel Choir and Orchestra will lead this annual event Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. You will have the opportunity to sing this Christmas favorite with hundreds of people from throughout the community.

Travelers’ Service

If you will be traveling out of town for the holidays, you can still worship with your St. Peter’s family on Dec. 15 at

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Get help with your job search

Job Search Assistance is a group for anyone who is looking for work, including those who are looking for their first job as well as those who have work experience. You will receive information on how, when and where to search, what benefits to expect, and how to make the most of job fairs. We meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in S209. Nov. 30 is the last meeting until January. However, you can contact John Caudill at (281) 597-0097 or j.caudill@qualitec.com if you need assistance during this time.

Mothers’ Share Group

Come join other stay-at-home moms for fellowship, food and fun at Mothers’ Share Group. On Dec. 1 we will be socializing and playing Bingo. We’d love to see you there. Our meetings are Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in E221. Register at www.stpkaty.org or contact Melissa Gargani at (281) 578-7178 for more information.

KEYS

Senior Adults

Santa's Wonderland. The KEYS invite you to experience the millions of dazzling Christmas lights at Santa's Wonderland on Dec. 15. We'll have a Texas Christmas hayride and enjoy a delicious cup of hot chocolate. Cost is \$21 plus the price of your meal at Mallett Brothers Barbecue in Navasota. Payment is due by Dec. 12. Contact Patty or Joe Williams at (281) 395-4725 or jwilliams524@comcast.net for more information.

Brown Bag Bridge. Fifty Brown Baggers gathered for their November bridge game and to enjoy a day of fellowship. Winners were Shirley Beauford, high, and Bea Dante, second high. Congratulations, ladies! Our next play date will be Dec. 8, and we would love to have you join us. Call Martha at (281) 395-4825 for a reservation or e-mail her at mckit@comcast.net.

Pizza With the Pastors

Dec. 11, noon, E106

Interested in joining St. Peter's? Want to learn more about our church? Contact Rev. Lorna Bradley at (281) 492-8031 or lbradley@stpkaty.org.

Gift of Produce provides families with fresh vegetables

Your help is needed in distributing fresh produce to needy families in Katy. This is the second year St. Peter's has been involved in the Houston Food Bank's Gift of Produce program. Last year we distributed 16,000 pounds of fresh produce to 350 families in less than four hours.

This year we have ordered almost 25,000 pounds of food, so many hands are needed. We will be unloading, sorting and bagging the food as well as helping people carry the bags to their cars. We especially need Spanish-speaking volunteers.

The food distribution will be Dec. 16 at the Memorial Lutheran Church parking lot at 5810 Third St. The projected start time is at least by 2 p.m., but will depend on the delivery schedule.

If you cannot be there on Dec. 16, but would like to help, we are accepting donations to defray the cost of printing fliers, feeding the volunteers and purchasing paper bags. Each pallet of food costs only \$10 for delivery, thanks to the generosity of the Houston Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

To volunteer or make a donation, contact Genny Hatton at (713) 907-3085 or DeAnna McCollough at (281) 222-5575.



Singles Potluck Christmas Party Dec. 3

A Single's Journey Sunday School Class is hosting a Potluck Christmas Party in partnership with another local singles' church group on Dec. 3 from 6-9 p.m. Friends and children are welcome to attend this social event for singles in their 30s to 40s. For location and more information, contact Christin at cookiechristin@gmail.com or (832) 366-4786 or Jim at jim.p.mannion@att.net or (281) 734-3029.

If you are looking for a Sunday School class, we welcome you to join us Sundays at 11 a.m. in S205.

Advent *continued from page 3*

the Travelers' Service in *the element* in Lott Hall at 7 p.m.

'The Many Moods of Christmas'

On Dec. 18, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present this compilation of beautifully orchestrated popular and familiar carols at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. In addition, the concert will feature the Carillon Handbell Choir performing Christmas selections.

Night of Hope

For those who have suffered a loss and who find a traditional Christmas worship service to be difficult, St. Peter's is offering a Night of Hope service on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service is designed to help anyone who is grieving to find hope this season.

Christmas Eve Services

On Christmas Eve, St. Peter's has eight worship services to choose from. Traditional worship is offered at 5, 6:30, 8, 9:30 and 11 p.m. Communion will be offered at 9:30 and 11 p.m. Contemporary worship is offered in *the element* at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Communion will be served at both services. A special children's service is offered at 3 p.m.

We invite you and your family and friends to be with us at this special time as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ.



Upholding the Church

PRAYERS

Karen Champion, Jerry Dewitz, Dan and Loretta Dienst, Deborah Fortner, Mary Gentry, Mary Sue Harrison, John Hobbs, Jerry Kappes, Ann Kelly, Earl Patterson, Joy Prendergast and Judith Preto.

JOY

To Chris and Carrie Johnson on the birth of their son Jack Dryden.

SYMPATHY

To Dennis Bowling and family on the death of his mother.
To Heather Duffey and family on the death of her mother.
To Scottie Holton and family on the death of her mother.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Tony Bailey, Johnathon Baker, Tim and Alison Batig, Jared Behne, John Belsha, Amanda Berg, Colin Binion, Patrick Boutall, Will Brandt, Martin Busch, Randy Butcher, Sean Cain, Devin Camp, Andrew Camponelli, Darron Chamblee, Paul Corder, Thomas Cotten, Joel de Sola, Parker Allen Dial, Kathryn Donnelly, Brandi and Josiah Fast, Daniel Fritz, J.M. Floyd, Charles Fray, James Gilbert, Anita Marie Gilliam, Tyler J. Gorcie, Jason Gordon, Eric Graesley, Tye Grasshoff, David Gutierrez, Richard Harp, George Harrison, Steven Heath, Matthew C. Houghton, Matthew Ivester, Scott Lewis, Mike Linn, Andrew Locke, Ryan Lueders, Austin McCall, Jason McFadzen, Mick McNaughton, Adam Miller, Collin Mooney, Robert Near, Michael Neubert, Blake Nunes, Ryan O'Quinn, Neal Osburn, Austin Paynter/149th Division, Casey Pontious, Sherri Pontious, Don Rolleg, Jason Salter, Brandon Schumacher, Daniel Sewastynowicz, Joel Simmons, Dusty Stoddard, Shannon Thorthan, Patrick Bishop Turner, Bert Walker, Tom Walsh, Matthew Weible, Michael Wendt, Leonard Will, Jasen Wilson, Jason Woods and Marine Co. 1157.

Welcome to Our New Members

Cindy Belmar, Ben and Katie Coate, Christine Gill, Matthew and Jessica Gowen, Tim and Tiffany Harrington, Laura Judkins, Mark and Janet Olson, Mark and Lura Padgett, Brian Peek, Dave and Lee Witte, Scott and Christine Zuehlke

ST. PETER'S ATTENDANCE

November 13

Traditional Worship

8:30 201
9:45 256
11:00 473

the element

9:45 72
11:00 110

SPLASH 122

TOTAL 1,234

November 20

Traditional Worship

8:30 244
9:45 253
11:00 478

the element

9:45 65
11:00 128

SPLASH 65

TOTAL 1,233

Acts 17:6

ST. PETER'S STUDENT MINISTRIES

Second Annual Leftovers Bowl. On Nov. 27 at 5 p.m. all students and their families are invited to bring your leftovers from Thanksgiving and join us for a fun afternoon! If you gobbled all your leftovers up, you can bring something else to share with the group. We will also play Powder Puff Football and the guys will cheer. For more information, contact Heather Harmison at hharmison@stpkaty.org or (281) 492-8031.

Experiencing Advent in SPLASH

Kids 4 years old through fifth grade are invited to a special SPLASH children's worship service on Nov. 27 at 11 a.m. in Asbury Hall. We will be making Advent wreaths and learning what the season is all about. For more information contact Whitney Peper at wpeper@stpkaty.org.



Stephen Ministers provide care during challenging times



Stephen Ministers at St. Peter's have provided Christian care to hundreds of care receivers during difficult times. Perhaps you are feeling called to reach out to those in our community who are struggling with loss, illness, divorce, unemployment or other life challenges. If so, please plan to attend the next Stephen Ministries training session that will begin after the first of the year. The exact date and time will be available soon.

Stephen Ministries, which began in 1975, provides the structure, training and resources for a complete lay caring system. Stephen Ministers, who are lay caregivers, provide one-on-one Christian care to people facing a crisis or difficult situation. Currently, more than 11,000 congregations in more than 150 denominations have a Stephen Ministries program.

Information about Stephen Ministries is available at the St. Peter's website or at www.stephenministries.org. You also can contact Rev. Kim Meyers at kmeyers@stpkaty.org or (281) 492-8031. Please consider how you can help St. Peter's connect the world with God's love through Stephen Ministries.

Daily Bible Reading

Nov. 28-Dec. 4

MONDAY

Mic. 4:1-5

TUESDAY

Rev. 18:1-10

WEDNESDAY

Luke 21:34-38

THURSDAY

Isa. 40:1-11

FRIDAY

Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13

SATURDAY

2 Pet. 3:8-15a

SUNDAY

Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 5-11

MONDAY

Acts 2:37-42

TUESDAY

Acts 11:1-18

WEDNESDAY

Mal. 2:10-3:1

THURSDAY

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11

FRIDAY

Ps. 126

SATURDAY

1 Thess. 5:16-24

SUNDAY

John 1:6-8, 19-28



Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion

9:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship
the element
Contemporary Worship
Sunday School for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship
the element
Contemporary Worship
SPLASH
Children's Worship
Sunday School for Adults

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

St. Peter's Events Calendar

Sunday, November 27

5:00 p.m. Student Ministries Leftovers Bowl Wesley

Wednesday, November 30

6:30 p.m. Job Search Assistance S209

Thursday, December 1

9:30 a.m. Mothers' Share Group E221

7:00 p.m. Women of Joy S202

Friday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Mothers of Young Children E221

Sunday, December 4

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

7:00 p.m. Youth Choir Christmas Concert Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 6

6:30 p.m. Smocks for Life Asbury Hall

Wednesday, December 7

10:00 a.m. The Christmas Gathering Asbury Hall
UMW Luncheon Lott Hall

Thursday, December 8

9:30 a.m. Mothers' Share Group E221

10:00 a.m. Brown Bag Bridge Asbury Hall

Friday, December 9

9:30 a.m. Mothers of Young Children E221

Sunday, December 11

Noon Pizza With the Pastors E106

3:00 p.m. KIDS JAM Musical Sanctuary

3:30 p.m. Christmas on Bethlehem Blvd. Lott Hall

7:00 p.m. Messiah Singalong Sanctuary

*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 ...

Give a gift to a child. Take a heart from the Rainbow Tree in the Lobby and shop for a special gift for one of our Rainbow Kids. Gifts are due back by Dec. 11. Contact Heather at hharmison@stpkaty.org.

Provide a room for choir students. Housing and dinner are needed for the Pacific Lutheran University Chorale, which will present a concert at St. Peter's Jan. 26. Contact David Galasso at dgalasso@stpkaty.org.

Invite a friend. Invite a friend or neighbor to attend one of the many Christmas worship services and other events offered at St. Peter's during this season of Advent.