

# St. Peter's CONNECTION

VOL. 7, No. 24

July 14, 2017



*Connecting the World with God's Love*

## THIS ISSUE:

### **A Week With Richard**

Jason Trice shares his experience of how God was at work at U.M. ARMY.

### **Safe Sanctuary Training**

We are providing three opportunities to be trained in Safe Sanctuary procedures for all of those who will be volunteering with children this year.



st. peter's  
United Methodist Church

## Growing through small group study



Joining a small group such as a Sunday School class is a way to grow in your faith and to connect with other St. Peter's members. The New Beginnings Sunday School class, which meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in S209, will begin a new study July 23 on the book "When Did God Become a Christian?: Knowing God Through the Old and New Testaments" by David Kalas. This study identifies some common experiences, troublesome passages, and natural reactions that we all encounter while reconciling the God of both the Old and New Testaments. It explores the unity of Scripture, biblical history, and the two primary attributes of God, love and holiness, to help clarify the integrity of the nature of God. Please join us July 23 for this 12-week study.

20775 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, Texas 77450  
(281) 492-8031    [stpkaty.org](http://stpkaty.org)

## Team forming for Katy Back to School 5K

We are putting together a team to participate in the Katy Back to School 5K, which is Labor Day, Sept. 4. It is a chipped timed race on a certified course benefitting Katy Students Run.

KSR focuses on transforming the lives of high school students in the Katy area by developing character and promoting healthy choices through training for the Aramco Houston Half Marathon. Through mentorship, unconditional acceptance, and training for a half marathon, KSR empowers youth to set and achieve life-altering goals.

If you would like to run or walk with our team, contact Kim Poer at [kmpoer@stpkaty.org](mailto:kmpoer@stpkaty.org).

## Alzheimer's Support Group

We will meet July 17 at 1:30 p.m. in S209 for a time of caring and sharing. For more information, contact Beverly Deerhake at (281) 372-8389.

## *The test has been passed for you*

Dear Friends,

I have been talking a lot about grace lately in the traditional services. I came across this story about grace today and thought I would share it with you.

*I left work early so I could have some uninterrupted study time right before the final in my Youth Issues class. When I got to class, everybody was doing their last-minute studying. The teacher came in and said he would review with us for just a little bit before the test. We went through the review, most of it right out of the study guide, but there were some things he was reviewing that I had never heard of. When questioned about it, he said that they were in the book and we were responsible for everything in the book. We couldn't really argue with that.*

*Finally, it was time to take the test.*

*"Leave them face down on the desk until everyone has one, and I'll tell you to start," our prof instructed.*

*When we turned them over, every answer on the test was filled in! The bottom of the last page said the following:*

*"This is the end of the Final Exam. All the answers on your test are correct. You will receive an 'A' on the final exam. The reason you passed the test is because the creator of the test took it for you. All the work you did in preparation for this test did not help you get the 'A.' You have just experienced ... grAce."*

*He then went around the room and asked each student individually, "What is your grade? Do you deserve the grade you are receiving? How much did all your studying for this exam help you achieve your final grade?"*

*Now I am not a crier by any stretch of the imagination, but I had to fight back tears when answering those questions and thinking about how the Creator has passed the test for me.*

*Discussion afterward went like this: "I have tried to teach you all semester that you are a recipient of grace. I've tried to communicate to you that you need to demonstrate this gift as you work with young people. Don't hammer them; they are not the enemy. Help them, for they will carry on your ministry if it is full of GRACE!"*

*The teacher said he had never done this kind of final before and probably would never do it again, but because of the content of many of our class discussions, he felt like we needed to experience grace.*

Have you thanked your Creator today because of the grace you have experienced?



Dr. Pat Sparks, Senior Pastor

Blessings,

*Pat*



Our Guest Information desk is a good first stop for anyone attending St. Peter's for the first time. Maps, Sunday School descriptions, and other information are available to help guests learn more about our church. The desk depends on volunteers, who are available to hand out information and answer questions. If you would like to help, please contact Kim Poer at [kmpoer@stpakty.org](mailto:kmpoer@stpakty.org).

## Do you need Safe Sanctuary training?

Are you volunteering this school year in **Sunday School**, **SPLASH**, **SPLISH SPLASH**, **IMPACT**, **Student Ministry**, or **KIDS JAM Children's Choir**? St. Peter's requires all volunteers to have two references, a background check, and mandatory training on our Safe Sanctuary policies before they can participate in a ministry. We take the safeguarding of our preschoolers, children, youth, special needs children, and senior adults seriously. To ensure all volunteers have met the requirements to work with children, we are providing three training sessions to choose from: **Aug. 2, at 9:30 a.m., Aug. 6 at 12:30 p.m., and Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

Please plan to attend one of these sessions **if you are volunteering or even thinking about volunteering** in an area that involves any of the above groups. Completing the screening process ahead of time gives our ministry teams a group of volunteers who are available at any time to help and ensures St. Peter's stays in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary policy. Background checks and training are good for one year. If you are unable to attend, we have an online training video you will be required to watch followed by a test. If you have questions, please contact Ann Nix at [anix@stpkaty.org](mailto:anix@stpkaty.org).

Thank you for giving your time and your talents to the ministries of St. Peter's!

## Adoption Support Group

The Adoption Support Group is for families thinking of adopting, in the process of adopting, or who have completed adoptions. It is designed to uplift, support, and encourage families who have been led by God to adopt a child or children.

We will meet July 17 at 6 p.m. in S201. For more information, please contact Whitney Peper at [wpeper@stpkaty.org](mailto:wpeper@stpkaty.org).

## Women's Cancer Support Group

The Women's Cancer Support Group will meet July 16 at 4 p.m. in S205. This group offers hope and support to women who are cancer survivors.

We share our journey in the cancer experience with each other, gaining strength and courage from one another in our battle with this disease.

Please join us or refer someone you know who could benefit from this group. For more information, contact Kim Poer at [kmpoer@stpkaty.org](mailto:kmpoer@stpkaty.org) or (281) 492-8031.

# KEYS

Senior Adults

**Antiques and Art.** On July 20, the KEYS will tour the 10,000-square-foot Heights Antiques store, where you can shop for everything from fine china to cowboy boots. We will then have lunch at Luby's Cafeteria in the Galleria. A cultural afternoon is planned at the Museum of Fine Arts, where you will take a self-guided tour to your desired areas of interest. The bus will leave St. Peter's parking lot at 9:15 a.m. and return by 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person plus your lunch. Payment is due at registration, which is at the KEYS bulletin board in the Lobby. If you have questions, contact Mark and Lura Padgett at (281) 647-9555.

**Skeeters Outing.** On Aug. 15 the KEYS will attend a Skeeters baseball game in Sugar Land. Cost is \$15 and covers entrance to the game, a chair-backed seat, and a food voucher for a hot dog, chips, and drink. The bus will leave St. Peter's at 6 p.m. and return by 10:30 p.m. Payment of \$15 is due at registration, which begins July 23 at the KEYS bulletin board in the Lobby. For more information, contact Patricia Walker at (832) 517-6608.

## Taking applications for Director of Discipleship

St. Peter's is looking for an innovative leader to fill our new Director of Discipleship position. Through sound spiritual guidance, the Director will align program areas and core leadership with the central vision driving our three worship venues. This individual will provide one-on-one spiritual training to equip our core lay leaders to shape others into disciples and will help those people within our congregation who are seeking to discover their vocational call, whether within or outside of St. Peter's.

Candidates should have a strong Wesleyan theological background; a seminary degree is preferable. They also should have strong interpersonal skills. We are anticipating an early September start date.

For more information, contact Executive Pastor Rev. Jamison Doehring at [jdoehring@stpkaty.org](mailto:jdoehring@stpkaty.org).

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## Favorite Bible Verses

### John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

*I like this verse because it's so hopeful and just wipes out any doubts, fears, or sadness and replaces them with "matter of fact" assurance!*

—Heather James

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### Jeremiah 29:11

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

*This verse helps me to remember that God wants the best for us and that we can trust God with our future.*

—Pat Sparks

## Favorite Bible Verses

*Once again the summer issues of the St. Peter's Connection will feature favorite Bible verses. Please share your favorite verse along with a few sentences about why it is your favorite. Submissions can be sent to [esaunders@stpkaty.org](mailto:esaunders@stpkaty.org).*

## Making a difference through teaching

Cindy Shelley and Maryann Fanty are co-leaders of Monday Morning Bible Study. In this study group, members volunteer to lead the weekly lessons and guide the discussion.

Cindy saw the opportunity to lead the group as a way to serve God and the church. “Being a facilitator for this small group,” Cindy said, “I’ve been blessed to see the identity of the group develop through study, encouragement of each other, and a sense of belonging. There is a thirst for knowing God’s word through biblical study, where all share in the leadership.”

Maryann said she wanted to increase her knowledge of the Bible as well as get to know the women in the group better. “I feel that I have really grown in my walk with Christ,” she said, “as we have learned from each other how to apply what we learn in class to our daily lives and have had a lot of fun along the way.”

Cindy and Maryann are among the many small group teachers and leaders who are helping others grow in their faith through Bible study. If you would like help St. Peter’s provide Bible study and small group options for adults, please contact Kris Bagley at [kbagley@stpkaty.org](mailto:kbagley@stpkaty.org).



Maryann Fanty, left, and Cindy Shelley lead Monday Morning Bible Study.

## In Our Prayers

### PRAYERS

Marci Barnes, Jim Basham, Dennis Bowling, Gordon Buffington, Claire Cook, Lorkeshia Davis, Faunelle Deaton, Jenifer Franklin, Joe Hawkins, Mary Ruth Heger, Art Henderson, Mike Iburguen, Brian Jones, Oscar Jones, Lisa Leitch, Ralph Long, Ralph Lovell, Joe Mireur, Kathy Powell, Janice Remmele, Virginia Reper, Katherine Sadowski, Fay Smith, Cheryl Swift, Jim Thompson, and Annabelle Turner.

### SYMPATHY

To Cathy Hein and family on the death of her mother.

To Ruth Pickthall and family on the death of her husband, Neil Pickthall.

To Leah Talhelm and family on the death of her father.

### PRAYERS

#### FOR OUR MILITARY

Chris Barnes, Tim and Alison Batig, John Belsha, Will Brandt, John Buck, Jonathan Burdette, Skyler Cook, Austin Foster, Westley Freeze, James Gilbert, Tyler J. Gorcie, Dylan Greismeyer, Stephen Travis Harding, Adam Higdon, Mike Linn, Blake Nunes, Cameron Nunes, Ryan O’Quinn, Melissa Ouellette, Matthew Platz, Noah Platz, Shawn Platz, Hamilton Rencurrel, Jack Ritchie, Don Rolleg, Ben Saunders, Jacob Shinkle, John Simmons, Justin Simon, Theo Speas, Jason Steele, William J. Wafer III, and Jasen Wilson.

## ST. PETER’S ATTENDANCE

### July 2

Traditional Worship	
8:30	191
9:45	215
11:00	374
The Element	
9:45	55
11:00	90
SPLASH	37
West Campus	78
<u>West Campus Kids</u>	<u>29</u>
TOTAL	1,069

### July 9

Traditional Worship	
8:30	152
9:45	165
11:00	361
The Element	
9:45	70
11:00	110
SPLASH	47
West Campus	91
<u>West Campus Students/Kids</u>	<u>35</u>
TOTAL	1,031

## Phone bank

The St. Peter's/Rescue Houston phone bank ministry works to fight human trafficking. You have one more opportunity to participate in this ministry this summer. The Phone Bank will meet on Aug. 9 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in E225.

This woman-to-woman ministry reaches out to those women actively trafficked to pray over them and provide them a helpline number. Phone bank participants are encouraged to bring a cell phone and/or laptop computer. Training and a review of safety protocols are provided.

Contact [sreastlando8@att.net](mailto:sreastlando8@att.net) for more information.

## Volunteer with Children's Ministries

Children's Ministries could use some more volunteers to serve in a variety of areas. There are opportunities as Sunday School teachers, SPLASH and SPLISH SPLASH volunteers, and helpers at one of our two Children's Ministries desks during any of the services on Sunday.

Please contact Elizabeth Bucher at [ebucher@stp-katy.org](mailto:ebucher@stp-katy.org) to volunteer.

## A Week With Richard: U.M. ARMY 2017

*The following is a post by Student Ministry Director Jason Trice on his blog Pocket Toast.*

I've experienced a lot of change in the past year. It's been good change, but change nonetheless. That's one reason I was looking forward to U.M. ARMY this summer. While each camp is different, there is one thing that I can always count on being the same—God shows up in BIG ways. This year He did again.

For those who don't know, U.M. ARMY is a weeklong mission trip for high school students. I first attended in 1994 when I was 16 years old, and I fell in love with the organization. I had yet to give my life to Christ at that point, but I believe U.M. ARMY is responsible for teaching me the value of service. I actually skipped the camp my first opportunity to go because it sounded boring to me, and I decided I would rather play baseball. In 1994 my friends wouldn't let me miss it. They couldn't stop talking about how much fun they had, so I decided to give it a try. That is when I learned that serving is a gift to both the receiver and the giver.

Since the summer of '94 was more than a few years ago, I have played just about every role that you can at U.M. ARMY. My favorite role and the one I try to get every year is Work Team Adult. This allows me to work closely with students and to build a relationship with the person whose home we are working on. This year we were sent to the home of a man named Richard.

Richard came out of his home when he saw the van pull into his yard. He walked with me around the house, and we discussed the work that we would do. The house belonged to his mother, and he was taking care of her. Due to his own challenges and the responsibilities of taking care of his 99-year-old mother, the house had become overgrown with ivy. In fact, the entire property was overgrown and resembled what I like to call the East Texas Amazon. It was a jungle.

We had a huge work team, and Richard had enough to keep all 12 of us busy. After only three hours of work, the place already looked different. As we peeled away the ivy, the red brick began to shine through. It was fun to see such progress on our first day.

When we came back on Tuesday, Richard greeted us again. He was walking a little more upright, and he seemed excited to see the team. Richard began to share parts of his life with us, and he has an incredible story. The first thing that you notice when you pull up to his house is that he has a small obsession with boats. He has 17 of them sitting in his front yard. He originally bought them in hopes of having them restored, but taking care of his mother took precedence, and the boats began to deteriorate and were covered by brush, ivy, and small trees.



## Richard *continued from page 6*

Each day we cleared more and more land. And guess what? We found four more boats. He had 21. It's not every day you find a boat doing yard work, much less four. Richard insisted he only had 17, so we didn't correct him, but that gave the team a good laugh.

By Wednesday, we had all grown to love Richard. He began to tell us the good and the bad of his 76-year journey. It was clear that life had thrown a lot at Richard. He has survived cancer, a stroke, the loss of his company, and a huge heartbreak. You could tell that he was enjoying watching our team. In fact, he joined us in the Texas heat to help us transform his yard.

On Wednesday I invited Richard to join us for a U.M. ARMY tradition. We asked if he would be willing to have dinner and worship with us on Thursday night. He said he would love to, and then he immediately left to run an errand. When he returned, he told me he went to get a haircut so he would look presentable in church. It was just a haircut, but something in Richard was different. He didn't look like the same man who shook my hand on Monday morning. He was smiling and appeared more confident.

On Thursday, we got rained out. Each group participated in small projects around the community that were indoors, and we were unable to visit Richard. We remained hopeful that he would still join us for dinner and worship despite the poor weather.

Sure enough, he arrived right at 6:00. Our team of 12 squeezed around the table and laughed and visited together with Richard. It's a scene that only a camp like U.M. ARMY can create. A 76-year-old man dining with 11 teenagers from all over Texas that he met only four days ago. We enjoyed our dinner and then headed upstairs for worship.

I sat next to Richard, and I cannot tell you how it impacted me to hear him singing hymns of praise to our great God. We sang "Amazing Grace," "Come Thou Fount," and "It Is Well." Richard sang every word, and I could tell that the Holy Spirit was moving in him. After the service, I walked him out.

Before we got to the door, Richard began to speak. He told me that he had been at the end of his rope and was ready to give up. He said he was embarrassed to have people come over, and he had become a shut-in. He told me that this week had given him a new lease on life.

I looked at Richard as tears began to stream down his face and told him thank you. I told him how grateful we were that he allowed us to share this week with him and that he had blessed us in so many ways.

This is what happens at U.M. ARMY. God put the perfect team together to send to Richard. He knew the personalities and the gifts that were needed. I also believe he knew how much we needed Richard.

Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

Both Richard and my team of 11 teenagers modeled humility all week long. I believe that when we find humility, we meet with Jesus. It's where he is able to get our whole attention and give us a glimpse of the Kingdom.

Thank you U.M. ARMY for another awesome week! God is good!

# Daily Bible Reading

**July 17 – 23**

**MONDAY**

Genesis 28:10-22

**TUESDAY**

Isaiah 44:6-8

**WEDNESDAY**

Romans 8:12-25

**THURSDAY**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**FRIDAY**

Isaiah 27:2-6

**SATURDAY**

Psalms 5

**SUNDAY**

Ephesians 6:10-17

**July 24 – 30**

**MONDAY**

Genesis 29:15-30

**TUESDAY**

1 Kings 3:5-15

**WEDNESDAY**

Romans 8:26-39

**THURSDAY**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**FRIDAY**

2 Kings 4:42-44

**SATURDAY**

Psalms 123

**SUNDAY**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26



# 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

## 10:30 a.m.

St. Peter's West Campus  
at Cinco Ranch High School

## 11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

The Element  
Contemporary Worship

SPLASH Children's Worship

Sunday School for Adults

## St. Peter's Events Calendar

### Sunday, July 16

3:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Ellis Music Suite
4:00 p.m.	Women's Cancer Support	S205

### Monday, July 17

T Bar M Camp begins

Sunny Days begins

1:30 p.m.	Alzheimer's Support Group	S209
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6:00 p.m.	Adoption Support Group	S201
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### Tuesday, July 18

7:00 p.m.	Trustees	Conference Room
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### Thursday, July 20

7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee	Conference Room
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### Sunday, July 23

3:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Ellis Music Suite
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### Wednesday, July 26

6:00 p.m.	Family Vacation Bible School	Lott Hall
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### Thursday, July 27

6:00 p.m.	Family Vacation Bible School	Lott Hall
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### Friday, July 28

6:00 p.m.	Family Vacation Bible School	Lott Hall
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Detailed weekly calendars of St. Peter's events are available on our website.

## Coming soon ...

**Aug. 13**

Promotion Sunday

Blessing of the  
Backpacks

**Aug. 16**

First Day of School  
in Katy ISD

**Aug. 20**

Third-Grade Bible  
Presentation