

Come, Holy Spirit



The root of the word Pentecost is “50,” as in “The Great Fifty Days of Easter” that we celebrate after Easter Day. So Pentecost is the climax of the season of Easter, the day when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first apostles, which empowered that rag-tag band of men and women to spread the good news of Christ to the whole world.

Today we may not have great winds or tongues of fire resting on our heads, but we do believe that the Holy Spirit is no less involved in our lives — guiding, comforting and empowering. We at St. Peter’s need the presence of the Holy Spirit just as much as those apostles did.



Reading the story in multiple languages

We need it to uplift and uphold us we strive to do the work of the Kingdom, work that is both challenging and rewarding. So come on May 23 as we celebrate this wonderful gift. Wear the color red, the liturgical color that reminds us of the Spirit. It will be a joyous, festive day, with a renewal of our baptismal vows and a celebration of our youth.

If you can speak a foreign language, contact the Church Office, as we will read the story from the Book of Acts simultaneously in “many tongues.”

The Word of the Lord Recruiting Readers

We are currently in need of lectors for the 8 and 10:15 services. The proclamation of Holy Scripture is central to our weekly worship, and forms the heart of the Liturgy of the Word in the first half of the service of Eucharist. If you have ever considered this ministry, you are invited to attend a workshop and training on Sunday, May 30, following the 10:15 service.

A second training will be held at the end of the summer, most likely in August. All aspiring lectors are required to attend one of these sessions, and current lectors are also strongly encouraged to attend. RSVP to the Church Office at 783-4623.

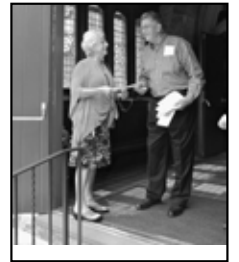
Hospitality Council Welcoming All as Christ

The St. Peter’s Hospitality Council is commissioned with the task of helping our church welcome all visitors as though they are Christ, because again and again the Bible reminds us that when we welcome strangers, we are also often welcoming God (Gen 18, Luke 24, Heb 13).

The Council consists of several “new arrivals” to St. Peter’s, as well as a few who remember what it was like to be “new” here, even though it’s been a few years. So they’ve taken right to this important work. Recently the council hosted Episcopal 101, a class for newcomers that had nearly two-dozen attendees.

Each week council members personally follow up with visitors who fill out a Welcome Card, and seek out new faces at worship and at Coffee Hour. And even more is in the works! But greeting new people at St. Peter’s is not just a job for the council. It is *our* work as a church. It is *our* work as the people of God.

So say hello to someone you don’t know, ask them to tell you more about themselves, and be willing to share what you’ve experienced at St. Peter’s.



Habitat for Humanity Two Great Events

South County Habitat for Humanity is celebrating 20 years of building affordable housing in our area, and they have two great events coming up. On May 20, Habitat will host their annual Bowl-a-thon at Old Mountain Lanes in Wakefield. Teams of four are invited to bowl together, with each member asked to raise at least \$50 in support of Habitat’s work. Teams can then bowl at either 3:00 or 5:30 p.m., with prizes awarded to the top fundraisers and teams. Free food, drinks, and bowling. Set up your own team of four, or call the Church Office and offer to participate in a St. Peter’s Team.

On Memorial Day, May 31, Habitat will have an entry in the Wakefield Parade, and you can help out! Show up at Hazard Field (School Street) at 9:00 a.m. in jeans and a t-shirt, and bring a cordless power drill. Parade walkers will “close order drill” (note the pun) in step. Contact Dave Binns to learn more: 783-1964.

Feeding Our Neighbors *A Collaborative Effort*

Recently the vestries of St. Peter's and St. Augustine's in Kingston met to discuss ways we might collaborate more intentionally. Our parishes are just a few miles apart, and our congregations can do more working together in service of God than we can apart.

Out of that "Vestry Pow-Wow" an idea was born: a cooperative garden on the St. Augustine grounds that would grow vegetables for the St. Peter's Food Pantry and for other local feeding operations. We have the empty lot, we've purchased the seeds and the need is certainly there.



Now we need willing hands to get to work and help us make this garden grow. If you are willing to help out on Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m, even if only occasionally, please get in touch with Susan Raesner

at 486-0949. She can tell you more about this fantastic ministry, and connect you with a pair of gloves, a shovel and a handful of seeds.

Hunger Awareness Day *Free Food, Live Entertainment*

You're invited to join with your neighbors for free pizza and ice cream at the Community Hunger Awareness Day dinner. Sponsored by the Hunger Task Force, this event will take place on the Village Green in Peace Dale from 5 - 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, with a rain date set for June 10. Make sure to bring your own blankets and chairs for an evening of music by local entertainers, and please bring along a non-perishable food item for the Jonnycake Center's emergency food pantry.

Hunger affects working families who are forced to make choices between food and basic necessities like utilities, medicine or rent. It does not discriminate against age, race, gender or ethnicity. According to a recent study by the US Department of Agriculture, one out of every eight households in Rhode Island faces hunger.

Hunger has been a silent epidemic for too long. It's time to step up and put an end to it. The Hunger Task Force needs your help to confront and eliminate hunger in our community.

St. Peter's Grounds *Garden Sanctuary*

The arrival of spring brings with it the flowering of our beautiful St. Peter's grounds. New life is springing



up in the "Cross Garden," the dogwood is adorned in splendor; the lily-of-the-valley is ready to fragrantly erupt near the narthex entrance, and the lawn is once again lush and green. Our grounds expand the feeling of sanctuary beyond the church's interior.

We have several people to thank for all that verdant loveliness. Our gardeners, Linda Adams, Justine Greenwell and Sue Raesner, who tend the Cross Garden; our lawn mower, Lou Clark, who generously mows the lawn every Friday from April to November; and the Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Council, John DiPanni, who keeps a caring and watchful eye over all aspects of our facilities.

Consider how thankful you are for the sanctuary we offer at the corner of Central and Caswell Streets, and consider how you might contribute to the care of our buildings or grounds.

To learn how you can get involved, contact John DiPanni at 782-8212.

Evening Under the Stars *Episcopal Conference Center*



The Episcopal Conference Center (ECC) will host its second annual Evening Under the Stars fundraiser on Saturday, May 15, from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$50, and go to support the annual operating expenses.

ECC is a cherished ministry of the Diocese of Rhode Island, where thousands of youth over the past six decades have deepened their faith in God, as well as their devotion to God's magnificent creation. The fundraiser includes dinner, a silent auction, lucky draw and the beauty of the woods in springtime. Call event coordinator Susan Moore if you would like to learn more or RSVP: 480-6242.