



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

302 MERCHANTS AVE.
FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889



Bishop's Visit and Parish Hall Rededication

The Bishop's visit on the 24th of July was a joyous time for our parish. Members Jolene Cannon and Angie Hoffman were received into the Episcopal Church. In-person worship went off without a hitch and Bishop Jeff Lee preached an amazing sermon. The Parish Hall (formerly known as the Undercroft) looked beautiful and was rededicated and blessed by Bishop Lee in service to this parish and the community. From the blessing liturgy:

Bishop, after much work and prayer by members of our parish, we gather now to bless and rededicate this renovated Parish Hall. It will be a center for our parish and in service to our community. It will be a place where we may come to know one another and give witness to our faith in Christ.

We gave thanks to God and to all whose work, prayers, gifts, and bequests made Phase 1 of this project happen. There is still more work to be done, Phase 2, but we will make sure funding is squarely in place before starting that Phase as we continue to serve God with our church building.

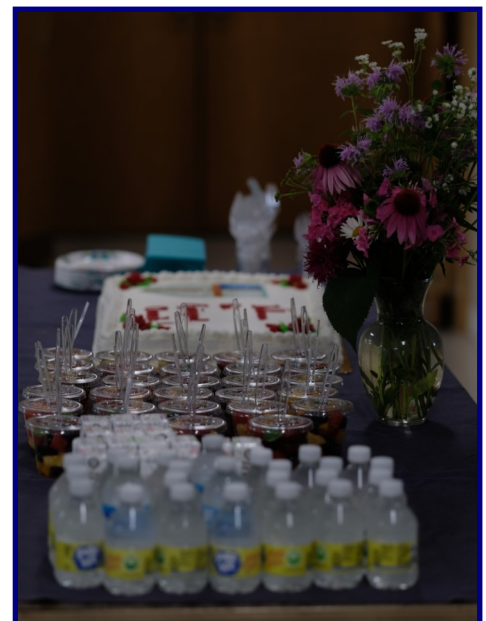


Angie Hoffman, Bishop Lee, Mother Mindy and Joleen Cannon gather for a picture in front of the mural in our newly dedicated Parish Hall.

Photo by Karen Buker



Beautiful and delicious refreshments were provided by Bev Wille.



Photos by Cole Jones

THE RETURN OF THE COMMON CUP

Beginning in September, we will offer communion in both kinds using the common cup. Dr. Bill Cannon was nice enough to provide information about transmission.

It is a well known fact that Covid-19 is spread via airborne transmission. If you breathe within 6 feet of an infected person you are at high risk of infection. It is not spread via objects, handshakes or sharing eating or drinking utensils. This is one of the reasons I have advocated for the return of the common cup at communion. Covid-19 is not spread via the holy sacraments. I know some people will be leery of sharing the common cup and that is fine for individuals to make the decision not to share but I, for one would like to return to normalcy.



Jesus said "I give you two new commandments. The first is Love God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength. The second is like unto it. Love thy neighbor as thyself. There are no greater commandments than these. On these commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Mask wearing is an outward sign of our love for God and neighbor. Cloth masks, or even standard surgical masks, do not protect us from contracting Covid-19. Only a properly fitting N95 mask does that. Rather, the more standard mask protects others from us if we ourselves are infected. I wear a surgical mask whenever I am out in public and will continue to do so until the CDC declares the pandemic over. Yes, I have been heckled for wearing a mask but I always tell my heckler that I wear a mask because I love them. Hecklers have been routinely disarmed by that simple statement and I have found no need to lecture further about minimizing disease spread and epidemiology.

Love God and love thy neighbor, Wear a mask as an outside expression of your love.

Yours in Christ, Bill

William J. Cannon MD (ret), FACP,FAAP

BUILDING MINISTRY

By Ellen Bogner and Terrie Knox

St. Peter's does not sit vacant from Sunday service to Sunday service. Our building itself is a ministry. The Holy Spirit does not leave our building when we do. By making our church available to people and groups we are bringing them into the presence of God.



The space is available for use during the week and at previously-arranged unscheduled times to the members of St. Peter's as well as the Fort Atkinson community.

Weddings and funerals are not the only times members can take advantage of our space. How about those times when family gatherings are a bit bigger than what is comfortable at your own house? For example: family birthdays, family reunions, anniversaries, etc. The newly refurbished Parish Hall could meet those needs.

A community organization that benefits through our building ministry is Alcoholics Anonymous. AA meetings occur several times a week in the parish hall. St. Peter's offers a safe place where those attending can share and grow and manage their addictions.

In the past we've had many important secular and church based groups that have met in our space. To list a few: Fort Atkinson Community Theater, Homeless Coalition of Fort Atkinson, Blood drives, and Fridays where high schoolers met to learn scripture with fellowship and food. We must remember that the building of St. Peter's is not just brick and mortar. It is one of our ministries. We can be pleased and grateful to be involved in this part of God's work.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Nine ladies gathered at the first St. Peter's Women's Fellowship meeting. It was held Wednesday morning, June 29th at the Knox house. A light repast was served and a good time was had by all.

The conversation around the table was far reaching....touching on gardens, history, and even the differences between male and female brains, to name a few.

We enjoyed meeting a guest who was looking into churches. It was a perfect chance to meet each other and hopefully encourage her to check out St. Peter's.

It is the Stewardship committee's goal to offer these gatherings periodically, alternating morning

meetings with evening meetings so that everyone has an opportunity to participate. It has been awesome to see how the Holy Spirit has already been working in the planning and the execution of

this event. And we are excited to watch how it evolves moving into the future.

The next gathering will be in the evening so that women who work can attend. It is set for August 16th at 6:00 p.m. It will again be held at the Knox house, W6305 Hoard Rd.,

which is just out of town between 89 and Banker Rd. A light meal will be offered. Women of the church, mark your calendars and come join us.

- By Terrie Knox



FIRST SUNDAY OUTDOOR NOON WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Please mark your calendars for August 7, and September 4! We will have fellowship between services consisting of coffee, a snack, and juice. If you're interested in hosting and cleaning up after coffee hour, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the double doors heading out of the nave. In case of inclement weather, we will have fellowship and the noon worship indoors. We will be reinstating regular Sunday after-service Coffee Hour in September.



Untranslatable Word

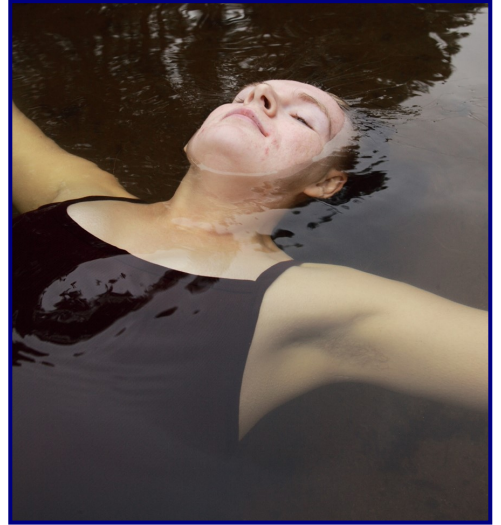
by Angie Hoffman

I came across a list of untranslatable words.

One that caught my eye was, *litost*, a Czech word meaning
a state of torment created by the sudden sight of one's own misery.

On the surface of the river the duck seems to glide peacefully
but below, its legs are paddling furiously.

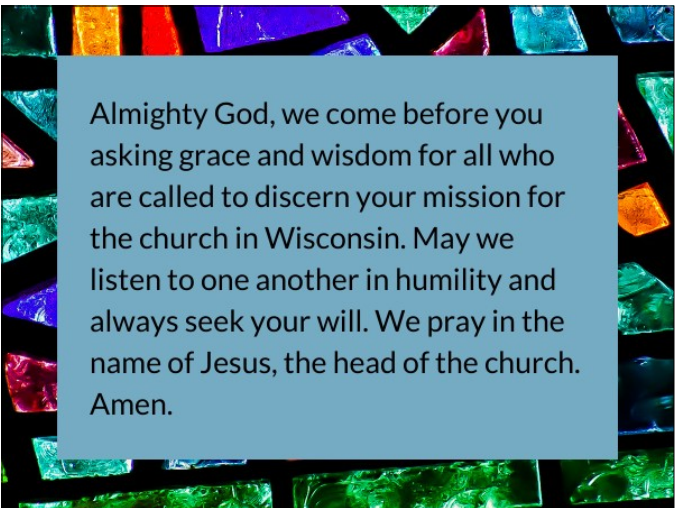
That sudden panic when we look below the surface and see
how close we are to drowning
how exhausted we are from treading, going against the flow.
We see our legs all wrapped, tangled in weeds.
It's murky, dark. Unrecognizable things swim by.
It is easy to give in, give up, be taken under.



But we are not ducks. We can flip onto our backs
allow the river to carry us.
Perhaps the closest translation would be the word, *grace*.

PRAYER FOR THE EPISCOPAL WISCONSIN TRIALOGUE

The “Dialogue” is composed of the three
Episcopal dioceses of Wisconsin that are
exploring how reunification to one diocese may
better equip us to be the church God is calling
us to be. Please pray with us.



Almighty God, we come before you
asking grace and wisdom for all who
are called to discern your mission for
the church in Wisconsin. May we
listen to one another in humility and
always seek your will. We pray in the
name of Jesus, the head of the church.
Amen.

PARISH UPDATES

Rector Mother Mindy—We are working toward getting back to normal despite the continued pandemic. Starting in September we will have weekly Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall, with the first Sunday of the month being outdoor Coffee Hour as weather allows. After polling members of the parish, and because of some immuno-compromised members in the parish, we will continue to mask during indoor services.

I am looking at book studies for week nights starting in September. I will do a Back-to-Basics Bible Study on Sunday Mornings starting September 11. I'll share the themes of the first few sessions in the near future. Some topic we will cover include: the structure of the Bible, how to look things up in the Bible, who wrote the Bible, what does "Canonical" mean, the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, the Prophets, the Law, the writings, Critical Biblical History, and Necessary stories in the Bible (hint: look at Children's Bibles.) Seasoned Christians and Brand-New Christians or Faith Seekers should get something out of the Back-to-Basics course.

Senior Warden Scott— We will be seriously looking at upgrading the audio for our online services. There is a persistent Buzz, of which we've tried to find the source and correct, but have failed. We are planning for Phase 2 of refurbishing the Parish Hall. The Hall looks nice and has been rededicated, but the work is not complete.

Junior Warden Breck—I am putting together quotes for replacing two furnaces. Because of better heating technology, we may be able to replace them both with one new furnace. We did budget for this replacement for 2022.

Treasurer Laurie—I've requested money from the auxiliary fund at the diocese. The monies from this fund was surplus money in the checking account that was invested about ten years ago. The requested distribution was expected; we knew we would have to draw out when we put together the 2022 budget. Phase 1 of the Parish Hall renovation is mostly, if not all, paid.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



On Sunday, August 28, teachers and students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to service to have them blessed. Any backpack for any age is welcome: preschool to doctorate programs, or even if you are auditing a course or having continuing education courses. Bring your backpacks and receive a blessing upon them and upon you for to have an amazing school year of fun and learning.

80th General Convention Report



Bishop Lee & the deputation from the Diocese of Milwaukee. Left to right: Scott Seefeldt, Sharon Henes, Bishop Jeff Lee, Bill Robison, Miranda Hassett, David Simmons, Mary Washbush, Tammy Prather, John Washbush, Pedro Lara, Matthew Buterbaugh

The 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church tackled a great number of things at its gathering in Baltimore, Maryland over the weekend. Due to concerns with Covid-19, the convention was shortened to just four days, and they conducted all of the committee hearings ahead of time. Diocese of Milwaukee Deputy John Washbush remarked, "A more unusual convention we are not likely to see." Despite its shortened duration, they were able to accomplish quite a lot. Here's a bit of what took place.

Elections in the House of Deputies: Julia Ayala Harris, from the Diocese of Oklahoma, was elected as the next president of the House of Deputies. Ayala Harris is the first Latina and the youngest person elected to lead the house. Also, deputies elected the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton as vice president. Taber-Hamilton, who is Shackan First Nation, is the first Indigenous and first ordained woman to serve as vice president. And congratulations to Deputy Sharon Henes from the Diocese of Milwaukee who was elected to serve as a lay member on the Court of Review!

Budget: The convention adopted a balanced \$100.5 million churchwide budget. Much of the new spending in the budget is tied to resolutions proposed by the Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth-Telling, Reckoning and Healing, among them resolutions establishing an Episcopal Coalition for Racial Justice and Equity and committed to telling the truth about the Church's history with Indigenous Boarding Schools and allocating resources toward healing the generational trauma from them. On Monday in the House of Bishops, they watched a [video from the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland](#) that presented some of the reconciliation work they've begun there.

Liturgy: The House of Bishops and the House of Deputies both worked on a constitutional change that calls for amending Article X of the constitution, which lays out how the Book of Common Prayer can be revised. Resolution A059 was passed in the House of Bishops and concurred the following day in the House of Deputies. This was a first reading of a constitutional change, meaning that it needs to come before the General Convention again for a second reading. From an article from the Episcopal News Service, “If the change passes a second reading at the 81st General Convention in 2024, Article X would, for the first time, define the Book of Common Prayer as “those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention.” In other words, liturgies that are not in the current prayer book – such as same-sex marriage rites and gender-expansive liturgies – could be elevated to “prayer book status,” whether they are replacing parts of the prayer book or standing on their own. Read more about this issue [here](#). Bishop Lee served as chair of the House of Bishops’ Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music that brought this resolution to the General Convention. Diocese of Milwaukee Deputy Miranda Hassett also served on the House of Deputies’ Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music.

Reunion: Both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops voted [to approve the reunion](#) of two dioceses, the Diocese of North Texas and the Diocese of Texas.

There’s a lot more coverage of the 80th General Convention available from the [Episcopal News Service](#), [The Episcopal Church's General Convention Hub](#), [General Convention Media Hub](#), and Deputy News. You can watch all the sermons that were preached at Convention [here](#). You can find photos and reflections from our deputies on the [Diocese of Milwaukee at General Convention 2022 Facebook page](#).

Source: *The Diomil Enews* July 14, 2022



175TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE



Becca Stevens

AUTHOR, SPEAKER, PRIEST, JUSTICE ENTREPRENEUR, AND
THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THISTLE FARMS

Diocesan Convention Updates

Our 175th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee will be held in Milwaukee on October 7-8. We're delighted to announce that our keynote speaker on Friday night will be Becca Stevens. Registration will be open soon, so stay tuned for that.

Vestry Meeting July 20, 2022
Hybrid: Zoom and In person



Present: Mother Mindy, Breck McHenry, Scott Fernhaber, Bev Wille, Terrie Knox.

Absent: Ginny Laurent, Matt Bills

I. Check-ins –

II. Prayer-Mother Mindy opened with prayer after check-ins

III. Minutes – Breck moved to accept as presented, Terrie seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Financial Reports – Breck said J. M. Carpets bill was lower than expected.

We are below budget in our member contributions. In the hole for about \$62,000 for the year. Auxiliary Fund and Endowment Funds have lost due to the downturn of the market. This doesn't surprise anyone as it was expected that the market would correct.

V. Business –

A. Ready Electric Bill- Mother Mindy explained the labor costs, which was 63 hours. There were multiple people working at the same time. We actually got a discount on the labor, they charged us below their usual rate. Breck moved to approve the payment of the bill, Bill seconded. Scott asked how the bill got so high, when the estimate was originally \$4,000, but that was only for the materials. Bev commented that if the work was well done and the materials they put up are good quality, then, that is not a bad price per hour. Vote to approve the cost passed unanimously. Barb will also sign the check request form as Vestry Clerk.

We have requested money from our Auxiliary Fund at the Diocese. Jill Heller responded that Laurie's email request was sufficient to process. We need to respond to her today to process the transfer.

B. Bishop's Visit – Mother Mindy asked if there is anything we want to ask the Bishop while he's here. There will be Fruit and cake reception. Bev offered to bring the fruit salad and pick up the cake. Barb will let Festival know when on Saturday she will come.

C. Parish Picnic – Do we wait until next year? All agreed to wait another year.

D. Social Media Intern -It has been discussed how important our online presence is in order to bring younger people in. Proposed that we do the same thing as with the Choral Scholar Program.... give them a scholarship and an unpaid internship. Terrie asked what would be the amount for the Scholarship. Perhaps an average of 5 hours a week. Might take a bit more at the start. Bill wondered if that person could also be given the job of running the cameras for the weekly Mass. Different skill set, and is a separate issue. Now Matt has been trained to do the AV. This helps a lot. Terrie reminded us that it is an INTERNSHIP...so does not have to be up to the usual pay grade. Unlike the choir scholars this intern would not have to be in-person. Proposed figuring \$15/hr. for the amount of hours in a semester, and pay it as a lump sum. Bill made the motion that we pursue finding a Social Media Intern from the university starting in the Fall, Bev seconded. All in favor.

- E. New Normal - Most people would be willing to go either masks or no masks. Some would prefer to continue to mask because they are around someone who is more vulnerable. Should we continue to require masks? Bill pointed out that masking is for the protection of those around us, not for ourselves. Scott agreed that we should continue to wear masks. Terrie can see both sides and she doesn't care. Breck said that it seems to be that we are teaching people to not come to church, but, should be required to wear masks in worship. We should have coffee hour without masks. Bev - in order to include those who are uncomfortable going without masks, we could offer a Ziplock bagged treat for them to take home. Bill said the common cup should be safe....Covid is spread through breathing, not through saliva. Question: should we move back to having communion at the altar rail? But...also continue to bring the elements to those who are not mobile. First Sunday Breakfasts? No, let's wait.
- Bible Study - in small groups Mother Mindy has not required masks. Scott encouraged others to do things the way they want as far as masking, but he will refrain from those activities. We will revisit this conversation in October.
- Weekly coffee hour: In September we will start weekly coffee hour with the mandate that we Keep It Simple: KISS. We will do it in the Parish Hall. It will be better for spacing out.

VI. Oral Reports -

- A. Breck: Jr. Warden Report - AC for Gathering Room broke and since it was old, it needed to be replaced. Fiedler Heating and Cooling provided a replacement for about \$4.000. Still trying to fix exposed flashing on Rectory.
- B. Scott: Sr. Warden- Quote for new sound system received - will discuss next month. Bev agrees we've made great progress in what we put online. Most agreed that the buzz isn't causing most people distress....but, Scott said "yes it can".
- C. Mother Mindy is getting "caught up". Would like to get a Bible Study going. "Back to Basics Bible Study".

Action Steps:

1. "Yes" to Jill Heller re: distribution of funds from the auxiliary fund.
- Develop Job description for the Social Media Intern. Scott is interested in helping with this. Mother Mindy asked Terrie and she said yes.
- Mother Mindy asked Bill to put together a paragraph or so regarding the common Cup for Communion. Bill was asked if he could also add something about continuing to mask for the Service.
- Bev is bringing fruit Salad on Sunday. We will order 2 BCP's for Angie and Joleen. All agreed we should do this. Bev will pick up cake. Have it ready by three o'clock.

Prayer - Breck prayed to close. Scott will do it next month.

Adjournment: Bill moved, Terrie seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Werner

The Really Big Picture

By Laurie Gudim

“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him” – Colossians 2:8-10

This fragment of today’s reading from Colossians stood out for me as something to ponder, today. It invites me forward into deeper understanding.



I am still reeling from the first images from the James Webb telescope, and especially the one of that tiny quadrant of space that contains hundreds of galaxies. The universe just got exponentially larger for me – and I had already thought of it as being pretty large.

Joining a contemplation of God and of Christ with the Webb telescope images is like jumping from a dock into very cold water. I am completely under water, unable to see, shocked breathless. For suddenly I see that God is author of billions upon billions of suns and planets, worlds beyond our ability not only to see but even to imagine. Creation just goes on and on, vast beyond any kind of reckoning.

How can Christ be the embodiment of deity when God is so very, very huge? What does it mean that within a human-sized being the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily?

As I’ve sat with that question over the past several days, I’ve come up out of the icy depths of my profound shock. I’ve begun to grasp a human-sized way of approaching the hugeness of creation. It has to do with the Cosmic Christ.

I imagine Christ to be present in all of creation – in the miniscule bits as well as the big ones – present in every grain of sand, every wind on an alien planet, every ray of distant suns, and every creature anywhere. Christ is within everything as Christ is within me. And I can access Christ within me. I cannot understand him, but I can find him in the spaces of my own heart. That is where I do come before him. There, I talk to him, hear his wisdom, and begin to understand his call to me.

In the language of Colossians, I come to fullness in Christ as I give way in my heart to him. He is my true center, the true north to which my inner compass always points, the Healer, the Dream Maker. I have felt a deep joy as I’ve sat with the images from the James Webb telescope. And those images have led me to others. Did you know that at NASA.gov, which is where one can learn about all the NASA missions, one can click on a link to the International Space Station? And did you know that a web cam at that site looks down on our planet in real time as the Space Station orbits around it. One can see the ocean, the clouds, land masses, the lights of cities at night, and much more. It’s like looking down from the window of an airplane, only from much higher up. It is awesome!

In my mind, the philosophy and empty deceit about which Colossians warns us is most prevalent these days in understandings of God and Cosmos that are too small and that don’t allow Christ to speak directly in our hearts. Whatever our ego perspectives are, they can never fully comprehend the Creator. They can never totally grasp all that is. Christ, in whom the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, is our teacher and our guide. May we enjoy the fullness to which we come in him.

Source: *The Episcopal Journal*, July 24, 2022

LAY EUCHARISTIC LEADERS SCHEDULE

AUGUST 7

**10:00 AM IN-PERSON &
LIVESTREAM**

Lector: Bev Wille

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

**11:00 AM OUTDOOR FELLOWSHIP/
COFFEE HOUR**

12:00 OUTDOOR SERVICE

Lector: Ginny Laurent

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

AUGUST 14

**10:00 AM IN-PERSON &
LIVESTREAM**

Lector: Sharon Williams

AV Technician: Bob Krumm

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

AUGUST 21

**10:00 AM IN-PERSON &
LIVESTREAM**

Lector: John Donohue

AV Technician: Matt Bills

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

AUGUST 28

**10:00 AM IN-PERSON &
LIVESTREAM**

Lector: Ginny Laurent

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

ACTIVITIES AT ST. PETER'S

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM

Morning Prayer in the Gathering Room

Sunday, August 7

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube
(Masks Required inside the church)

**Outdoor Fellowship/Coffee Hour
Following 10AM Service**

12:00 PM Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, August 14

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube

Wednesday, August 17

6:00 PM Vestry Meeting

Hybrid: In-Person and on Zoom

Sunday, August 21

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube
(Masks Required inside the church)

Sunday, August 28

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube
(Masks Required inside the church)

August 2022 Newsletter

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

302 Merchants Avenue

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested



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CHURCH**

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Rector: Mother Mindy
Valentine Davis

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ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

To Lead Each Person into a Living Relationship with Jesus Christ,
Train Them as Disciples, and Make Jesus Known to Others.