

October 2018

October will be a wonderfully busy Month!

Combined Episcopal Service at St Alban's

This Sunday, September 30 at 9:30 am. These gatherings of all of us are wonderful fellowship and fun! All are welcome. Renew relationships with long-time friends and develop new friends. Share in the body of Christ.

Rite 13, Journey to Adulthood -- Ongoing

All last year, Monique McDonald and Joe Chambers led a combined J2A program for our gathered Episcopal Churches. They met on a regular basis, alternating between the Cathedral and St Peter's. This culminated in a mission trip to St Louis over the summer. The program was successful and powerful for those involved. The leaders and youth who have not graduated are committed to continuing the program. Any interested youth are encouraged to contact Joe or Monique and check this out. The group is small, but friendly and mighty. Thanks be to God for this gift to our congregations.

St Peter's Choir -- Ongoing

Is back and we are enjoying their marvelous music. We have some new members, please consider joining them. Their enthusiasm is catching. The choir practices every Sunday before church at 9 am and once a month after church.

St Francis Pet Blessing- Sunday, October 7, at 10 am

This is one of my favorite activities. I love to get to know pets and their people. Please bring these members of your family with you. If you feel they may be shy, they could stay in their carrier until time to bless them. We will have both an 8 am and 10 am service, but will only bless the animals at 10 am. I will also happily bless pictures of pets, as well as cremains. With St Francis we celebrate all creation. I am praying for a beautiful and colorful fall day!

CROP WALK- Sunday, October 7, Freight House

Begins at the Freight House in Davenport, Registration starts at 1:00 pm, the Walk starts at 2:00 pm. Ending Hunger One Step at a Time! You may sign up online www.crophungerwalk.org/quadcities. More information and envelopes for recruiting pledges are available at St Peters, ask friends for support! Bring your envelopes and funds raised on the walk day. Bring or send with parish walkers food donations of peanut butter and jelly. Recruit others to join in! St Peter's has a long history of providing for the hungry and participating in Crop Walk. Celebrate this mission.

Underwear Because We Care

The collection of underwear for those in need begins now. A box will be in the back of the church. Typically, clothing donations rarely include the basics of underwear and socks. So, this annual drive seeks to gather of a variety of sizes of all undergarments, underpants, t-shirts, bras, and socks, in order to address the need to have clean and decent garments next to the skin. Please bring donations to the church. We will hear more about this Sunday at St Alban's. They are leaders of this project.

Next Vestry Meeting - October 14, after the 10 am Service

Fall Concert - October 14, at 2 pm

Our concert of the season is fast approaching on October 14 at 2pm. Make plans to come hear oboist and University of Memphis faculty member Michelle Vigneau, hornist and Memphis Symphony member Robert Patterson, pianist and St. Peter's music director Perry Mears and mezzo-soprano and QCA-native Kelly Hill in a lovely afternoon of chamber music. The concert is free and open to the public.

Messy Church - October 14, at 5:30 pm

Our holy play for all ages begins with a light meal, story-telling, crafts or dramatic acting out of the story, followed by an informal Eucharist. This low stress exploration of faith and our Christian story allows us to learn from one another, the young have as much to teach as the old, and middle-aged. Check it out, ten people attended and participated in the gathering last month.

Stewardship Begins

Carolyn Krenos-Bodnar and Ghada Hamdan-Allen will be leading our stewardship campaign this year. They will have the support of Denis Greene (free of charge) and the diocesan fund-raising program GILEAD. More will be shared soon on all of this! Thank you to everyone.

Diocesan Convention and Presiding Bishop, October 27-28

Our Diocesan Convention will gather in Des Moines in and around the downtown Marriott and St Paul's Cathedral. We have delegates, alternates, and other interested volunteers who will be attending. Our conventions have become wonderful gatherings of the family of Iowa Episcopalians who share ideas about how to do church in secular society as well as the love of God. It's a celebration you don't want to miss. You can still decide to come as an observer! I'd recommend it! Unlike most previous conventions, this one will be on Saturday and Sunday.

Presiding Bishop-We have the unique gift of having the Most Reverend Michael Curry participating in our Diocesan Convention. He will be with us both Saturday and Sunday, sharing his unbounded hope and enthusiasm. Presiding Bishop Curry will preach at the Convention Eucharist at 11 am on Sunday, October 28th. This Eucharist will be live-streamed to all congregations. Thanks to an anonymous benefactor the Diocese has made sure every congregation has internet access, a large screen tv and a mini-pc.

For this event, everyone who is not at the convention may also participate in it in their parishes at the same time as it is happening. The service will be shared live via a live-streaming service in local sanctuaries. Each church will be able to print out ahead of time the same bulletins, sing the hymns together, pray together, listen to the Presiding Bishop preach, and share communion at the same time.

The week before we will consecrate the bread and wine during our usual Sunday worship. Then these will be distributed at St Peter's at the same time they are distributed all across the diocese and in the convention hall. We will be worshipping together. What a technological miracle and profound event! This day provides all sorts of opportunities to imagine ways to add your own style to the event. One

congregation plans to bring food for tail-gating in the church as part of the celebration!

Vestry Highlights

Growing Iowa Leaders-Invite, Welcome, Connect-Since January 2018, the diocese, with funds from a benefactor has been holding training sessions to deepen and build spiritual growth within congregations. Video's of these sessions are being prepared to be posted on a diocesan page. With the new equipment we will be able to do this training together to improve our future at St Peter's. The corollary curriculum for this training is called Invite, Welcome, Connect. Leaders and members of the parish will have opportunities to learn skills for growth through online resources with our new tv and mini-pc.

Reserved Parking Sign-A new Reserved Parking sign has been installed in front of the church. We have a couple of church members, one at 8 am and one at 10 am who bring to church members with physical limitations. This parking space is reserved for them to help get into the building easily. Please be considerate the request for a reserved spot.

Two services-Some people notice that when we all gather for one service at 9 am over the summer, and the choir does not vest and process, that on some Sunday's the church has more people in the pews. The perception is that the church seems more successful and possibly more inviting to visitors when everyone is in the pews together at the same time.

Due to this, some have proposed we only have one service at 9 am all year. Neither priest nor vestry can arbitrarily change service times without a period of listening and discussion. While appearances matter, welcoming and incorporating new people is not just a matter of how many people are in the pews at any given service. (See Invite Welcome Connect).

Among the many factors to consider is that some members find either eight or nine in the morning too early their imperfect bodies to be able to get up and out. Ten is just barely okay, some health problems make even that too early. Other folks prefer the quiet meditative early service at 8 am. Or do we address the choir? If choir doesn't vest or process, that fills a few more seats. All of these possibilities have pluses and minuses which we need to weigh together. Which is to say, while changing service times appears to be helpful solution, it might cause as much good as harm. Please give me feedback, and this will be a topic of discussion with everyone.

Building Hours

In case you don't have a key and need to get in the building:

Ellen Curry's work hours are Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am - 1pm. During these hours the building is locked, but if you ring the bell by the front door, she will come around and let you in.

Elaine Caldbeck is in the Building, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and Tuesday 9-9:30 am, 11:30-1:30. As with Ellen, the door is locked, so ring the bell. (Tuesday mornings I, Elaine, attend a 10:00 am lectionary scripture discussion for preparing to preach with several other clergy). I can be reached by phone, email or text, nonetheless.

Perry Mears works in the church teaching piano, with the front door unlocked:
Mondays: 3:30-8 pm, Tuesdays: 3:30-8 pm, Wednesdays: 3-6 pm and Thursdays:
3:30-6:30.

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STAY CONNECTED: