



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Peter's Episcopal Church,

Many of you have commented to me about how much you LOVE St. Peter's Episcopal Church and how important this faith community means to you! The excitement in our parish right now is at an all-time high as we are ready to welcome to our parish staff a part-time **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY** to create and provide programs for our parish **YOUTH, TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS**. This move will impact our youth in so many ways. The most exciting part is that the staff position will be shared with another Southcoast Episcopal parish: St. Gabriel's in Marion. We are excited to be joined together in this collaborative ministry with St. Gabriel's.

Adding a Youth Minister position onto our staff will be an increase of **\$15,000** in our parish's annual budget and **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to make this dream a reality. This is an essential investment in the life of our parish because our children and teens are SO important to us and this step will also help them to be "rooted" in the church well into adulthood. Also, having a staff Youth Minister will also draw many young families into the life of our parish and will lead to even more growth. Our mission at St. Peter's is always about making **NEW DISCIPLES**.

I, personally, would like to invite you to make an investment in our parish to support this work. In late December, we sent a letter to all households in our parish asking everyone to support our 2022 Stewardship Campaign. We are reaching out to all parishioners once again to ask you to make either a weekly or monthly pledge for 2022 to your parish to help us support this new position!

Even if you are already pledging to St. Peter's, we ask all parishioners to renew and complete this form every year.

In addition to the Youth Ministry position, you may have noticed that our **PARKING LOT** has deteriorated so much in the last two years that our church building is now surrounded by **MUD**. It is not welcoming nor is it hospitable to people who are joining us for the first time. This is a project that we need to address as a parish in 2022.

We need you so much! In the Episcopal Church, the ministries that take place in individual parishes (as well as the general operations) are supported by the generosity of our members. **STEWARDSHIP** is our call, as followers of Jesus, to share our **TIME, TALENT and FINANCIAL TREASURE** with our faith community.

There is no right or wrong amount to give each week. I once heard a very wise, old priest tell his parish that a good guideline is (if you are working) to dedicate the first hour of your work week to God. That is such great advice. Imagine if we all made the commitment to donate our first working hour on Monday morning to God. This would make a huge difference in the life of our church. Please consider it.

As we do every year, we are asking our parishioners to complete the enclosed pledge card to help support the ministries that take will take place here in 2022. This year is **MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER** as we are standing at the crossroads to a bigger and better future!

We invite you to complete the **2022 STEWARDSHIP FORM** (enclosed in this mailing) by placing it in the collection basket at Mass in the next two weeks. You can also mail it into the Parish Office. We hope to have all the forms returned by **MARCH 1, 2022** so we can finalize plans to make this dream a reality.

Also, we urge you to consider **ONLINE GIVING**. Online Giving is safe and secure. It helps you to make a planned, consistent, faithful, weekly or monthly commitment to our parish. So many parishioners have moved away from using archaic budget envelopes and are now engaged in Online Giving as a way to faithfully and consistently support our parish each week.

The important thing is completing a pledge card is not the amount, but the consistency. It makes a huge difference when even if someone gives a small amount, their contribution comes in every week. The expenses to run such a large plant are immense.

These last two years have been difficult living through a pandemic but we have made it through! Your support for our parish has remained so strong and we are grateful for that. It is now time to bring others on board in financially supporting our mission. I would like to thank you for ALL the ways you have supported St. Peter's in the past. Remember, this is OUR church ad we each have a part to play. Thank you for being a witness to God's love in this community. Please be assured of my deep gratitude for whatever you can do!

We have grown so much in the last 8 years. Let's continue to make St. Peter's a beacon of light in our community! I am honored to serve as your pastor! God bless you all!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott A. Ciosek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(The Rev.) Scott A. Ciosek
Rector