

A Chosen Generation



OCTOBER 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

What is a pastor? I inquired of myself
as I took a big dictionary down from a shelf.
I'll begin here and see just how it all reads.
What I discover should give me some leads.
"Feed" - "Shepherd" - "Nourish" are words that I found.
In the role of a pastor these must abound.
A shepherd tends sheep, which he nourishes, feeds,
and protects them from danger; a good pastor leads.

Chapter 4 of Ephesians we open to view
additional things that a pastor should do:
Equipping the saints (which all of us are)
to prepare us for ministry near and afar.
To build up Christ's body and help it to
be united in faith and maturity.

A pastor will shepherd his flock in Christ's love
in the hope of his pleasing the Father above.
His job is not easy; the enemy's there
to trip him, entice him and lay down a snare.

So let's lift up our pastor, encourage him, pray
That God's will in his life will always hold sway.
We're so blessed by his ministry, and when it's all through,
"Well-done" God will tell him, "A crown awaits you."

By Jane Yingst, Parishioner

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Pastor Appreciation Sunday: October 20

By Virginia Pillsbury, Senior Warden

A year ago, our church was without a priest. We prayed, we had meetings, we had a church survey, we wondered what God had planned for St. Peter's, as we also staunchly believed that He had a good plan for us.

Eleven months ago, Mtr. Natalie accepted the call to come as our priest-in-charge and after six months, she became our rector.

Thank you Mtr. Natalie for heeding that call and for loving us so generously and compassionately. Not only do you share God's love and the gospel message of Jesus every Sunday, but you do so throughout the week. Your care for

each of us individually, the physical plant of the church, and your vision for making St. Peter's a sustainable institution for future generations are all evidence of the fact that you belong here and are leading us in God's work.

We are thankful to have the Hispanic congregation as part of the St. Peter's family, and we are grateful for your interest and interaction with our outreach ministries.

We appreciate you, your wonderful husband Tony, your dear mother Carmen, and all of your family. God has made us all family here at St. Peter's.



Stewardship Campaign 2025

Mi Familia: Growing Together

By Virginia Pillsbury, Senior Warden

We will kick off our Stewardship Campaign on **October 20!** This year's theme is Mi Familia: Growing Together. We chose that theme because St. Peter's is family to so many of us. We work together for God's glory here at St. Peter's.

On Sunday, October 20, we will have our **3rd Sunday** bilingual service, followed by a potluck lunch, and Vestry meeting after. We will also celebrate the Mi Familia: Growing Together campaign as well as Pastor Appreciation Month.

Between October 20 and November 17, we will have weekly

speakers about stewardship and why giving is important and meaningful. We will also have a special Mi Familia Tree and for each pledge made, we will add a leaf to the tree. Those who pledge will also receive a car magnet.

On **November 16** from 10:00am to 12:00 noon, we will have a church-wide Thanks for Giving Mimosa Brunch.

For questions or to help, please contact Virginia Pillsbury at vpillsbury1126@gmail.com, or 904-307-6808.



For your convenience, scan the QR code here.



Thank you for supporting St. Peter's Episcopal Church and its Ministries.

stpetersjax.org

Christmas Play Rehearsals Start Sunday, October 6

By Leslie Oxford, Children's Ministry Director

We are working on putting together our first ever BILINGUAL Christmas play. This play will tell the nativity story with classic English and Spanish carols. We need your help to make this happen.

Parents/ Grandparents with kids:

If you have kids (or grandkids) ages 4-13, we would love to have them involved in this production. We are starting practices **November 3** to prepare for our Christmas play on **Saturday, December 14**.

Practice Schedule:

November 3 - 12-1pm

November 10 - 12-1pm

November 17 - 12-1pm

November 24 - 12-1pm

December 1 - 12-1pm

December 8 - 12-1pm

December 14 - Dress Rehearsal
11am - 1pm

PERFORMANCE
Saturday, December 14
1:00-2:00pm
cookie party to follow

NEED YOUR HELP!

Even if you don't have a child (or grandchild) involved in this play, we still need your help. St. Peter's has never had a bilingual Christmas play and it has been some time since our last Christmas production.

We are looking for volunteers who can assist with costumes, sets, music, tech., and more. If you are interested in helping, please contact Virginia Pillsbury, 904-307-6808, or email vpillsbury1126@gmail.com.

Most importantly, everyone is welcome to come to the performance on Saturday, December 14, from 1:00 to 2:00pm. It will be the perfect way to usher in the Christmas Season.



Miles of Diapers Program

By Virginia Pillsbury, Miles of Diapers Founder

Please bring diapers and wipes for our Miles of Diapers Program. Each month on the last Saturday, we will distribute diapers and wipes at our Core Outreach Village. Bring diapers and wipes to church on Sunday and leave in the Miles of Diapers basket. Especially needed are **Size 5 & 6** diapers.

Thank you for helping the community!



Church Calendar

2	Bible Study w/dinner	6:00 pm
4	Family Moving Night	7:30 pm
5	CHO Food Pantry - <i>Open</i>	7:30 am
6	English Service Spanish Service	9:30 am 12:00 pm
8	ECW Glory Circle	10:30 am
12	CHO Food Pantry - <i>Open</i>	7:30 am
13	English Service Spanish Service	9:30 am 12:00 pm
15	Newsletter DEADLINE	
16	Bible Study w/dinner	6:00 pm
17	Grace Circle Rakad Fundraiser - <i>Sweet Pete's</i>	11:30 am 6:00 pm
19	CHO Food Pantry - <i>Open</i> Workday - <i>Courtyard</i>	7:30 am 8:00 am
20	PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY Bilingual Service Stewardship KICK-OFF Vestry Meeting	9:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm
21	Virtual Prayer Circle	6:30 am
26	CHO Food Pantry - <i>Open</i> Core Outreach Village	7:30 am 8:00 am
27	English Service Spanish Service Trunk or Treat	9:30 am 12:00 pm 2:00 pm

OUTDOOR

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday October 4 at 7:30pm

WONKA

at St. Peter's Church
(5042 Timuquana Road)

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and join our outdoor movie night!
Snacks available for purchase.

What is Halloween all About?

By The Rev. Natalie Blasco, Rector



All women are welcome to join the following monthly small groups.

GLORY CIRCLE: Meet on the **2nd Tuesday**, each month. Next meeting **October 8**, at **10:30 a.m.** in Room 100. Study on Lesson 9 of Max Lucado's book, "3:16".
Contact: Ann Weeks, 904.287.7103 or email rowahw@aol.com

GRACE CIRCLE: Meet on the **3rd Thursday** each month. Next meeting **October 17**, at **11:30 a.m.** Location to be determined. **Contact:** Tina Griffin, 904.207-3223

VIRTUAL PRAYER CIRCLE: Intercessory prayer the **3rd Monday** of each month via conference call. Next prayer circle **October 21**, at **6:30 p.m.**

- † Call: 408-418-9388
- † Access Code: 799 169 983
- † Password: 37299826

Contact: Ann Weeks, 904.287.7103 or email rowahw@aol.com

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

Many times, I am asked what my favorite holiday is. Since most people expect for me, as a priest, to say Christmas or Easter, I am almost ashamed to say that it is Halloween. Now, before you judge me, let me tell you why.

When I was a child, my family lived at the church's rectory, which was located on church property, right across from the church building. The whole property was fenced off, limiting our access to the neighbors. My sisters and I attended the local public schools, where there were many Halloween-related activities throughout the month of October. So, by the time Halloween night came around, everyone was excited to go trick-or-treating; well, everyone except for the three of us. We couldn't go because we didn't live in a neighborhood where we could walk around to knock on neighbors' doors. We moved out of that house, when my father retired, but we were already grown by then.

Now, I know many people find it weird that a priest would like Halloween so much and others even question why a church would recognize the holiday at all. In all actuality, Halloween is a combination of pagan and religious feasts that evolved over time.

The earliest celebrations date back 2,000 years in the Celtic regions of Ireland, Northern France, and the UK. November 1st was their new year, and it marks the end of summer and the end of their harvest season. The cold bitter winter would be coming soon, marking a time of many deaths and they believed that, the night before, the lines between the worlds of the living and the dead were blurred. They commemorated the day by having large bonfires where they made sacrifices of crops and animals to their pagan gods, while wearing

costumes made of animal heads and skins. This celebration was called "Samhain" (pronounced "sow-in").

When the Celtic territories were conquered by the Roman Empire, the celebration of Samhain was combined with Roman celebrations to the Roman gods. But, by the 7th century, Pope Boniface VI proclaimed November 1st All Saints' Day or "All-Hallowmas". That meant that the celebration of Samhain became known as "All-Hallowmas Eve" and eventually "Halloween".

When the New World was discovered, this celebration was limited to the areas of the country that were saturated by Roman Catholics, such as Maryland and some of the southern colonies. Then, in the mid-19th Century, large scale immigration from Ireland began, due to the potato famine. These new immigrants brought with them their traditional festivities of Halloween, based on the Roman Catholic influences of All-Hallowmas. Over time, because of the popularity of the festival and the diversity of religions in this country, Halloween became a secular celebration for all to enjoy, with no mention of its "All Saints'" connection.

Today, most people have no idea that Halloween is meant to be a commemoration of the Eve of All Saints' Day, which is an important day in the liturgical calendar of our church. In fact, many know it to be more of a commercial holiday than a commemoration of anything important. All of those initial reasons for a celebration are no longer valid or relevant in our society.

I choose to think of Halloween as a day of fun, giving us the opportunity to dress up as our favorite characters, share some candy and a whole lot of love with our communities. In the meantime, we can also remember how our world has evolved over thousands of years and, through Jesus Christ and his disciples, the rest of the world, including the Celts, were able to share in the joy of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Trunk or Treat - We Need You!

By Virginia Pillsbury, St. Peter's Vestry Member

St. Peter's will sponsor this year's Trunk or Treat, scheduled for Sunday, **October 27** from **2:00 to 4:00 PM**. Please plan to participate!

Please bring individually-wrapped bags of candy; **NO peanuts** please! We also need volunteers to participate with decorated trunks.

If you plan to participate, please plan to be at the church and setup by 1:30PM.

Contact: Leslie Oxford,
leslieoxford91@gmail.com
or Virginia Pillsbury,
villsbury1126@gmail.com



Submissions for St. Peter's
NOVEMBER
issue of
A Chosen Generation

DUE: OCTOBER 15

The newsletter accepts submissions from all Area of Ministries (AOM) and any member of the church.

The newsletter is only as good as the content it receives, and that depends on the members.

Don't be shy – it's easy, it's good exposure and it's FREE!

Email your information to:
newsletter@stpetersjax.org

A Chosen Generation

Join the Movement!

By Leslie Oxford, Rakad Dance Camp Director & Choreographer

We are looking for new leaders at Rakad Dance Camp. We are looking for teenage girls who love Jesus and want to make a positive impact in our community.

#Rakad2025 #JoinTheMovement

Fall Applications **DUE: October 15**. Apply online at: tinyurl.com/RakadLeaderApp

Contact: Virginia Pillsbury, vpillsbury1126@gmail.com

EVENT RENTAL

Do you know that we have space to rent for your event?

If you or anyone else are seeking to rent a hall for a birthday, anniversary, baby shower, etc., we have two spaces for rental: Weeks Hall for larger events and our Church Library for smaller events.

For more information, contact JoAnne Rodriguez, 904-778-1434, ext. 101 or email jrodriguez@stpetersjax.org



Rakad Fundraiser Night

By Leslie Oxford, Rakad Dance Camp Director & Choreographer

Join Rakad for a night of delicious fun on Thursday, **October 17**, at 6PM. For \$16, you get to make your own candy at Sweet Pete's Candy

Store, located at 400 N. Hogan Street, Unit 1, Jacksonville. Get your tickets at <http://tinyurl.com/RakadSweetNight>

Rakad's
Sweet Spirit Night
at Sweet Pete's Candy

October 17th
@6:00pm

\$16 per person

<https://tinyurl.com/RakadSweetNight>



Wednesday

October 2 & 16

Starting with dinner
at 6:00PM

TOPIC: The Chosen

Contact: Virginia Pillsbury
904-307-6808 or email
vpillsbury1126@gmail.com

A Chosen Generation

Realm Connect

Submitted by JoAnne Rodriguez, Church Administrator



Join us for an evening of fun, connection, and making a difference!

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 2024 CHO Jax Social!

Our signature event is dedicated to fostering community engagement and supporting our mission of healing, growth, and compassionate service.

Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 PM

Haskell Building
111 Riverside Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more info coming soon.



Last year we announced our new Church Management Program Realm®, which primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way our members are involved in our church. Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, but it will also make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what is going on, and grow as a connected community of believers.

You will receive an email invitation from **Realm** soon so be sure to check your Spam or Junk folder, if you do not receive it in your inbox.

Get the Mobile App

The easiest way to access Realm is with your mobile device. Although it is not required, it certainly is a popular and convenient way to connect.

Let's Connect!

Stay connected to our church wherever you go by downloading the free Realm Connect – Our Church Community app for iPhone and Android devices. Use it to communicate with your groups, RSVP to events, manage your giving, update profile information, and more. It makes it easier for us to connect throughout the week and know what is happening.



Core Outreach Village

By Virginia Pillsbury, St. Peter's Partner Ministry Liaison

The Core Outreach Village is held in St. Peter's front parking lot the last **Saturday** of each month, from **8:00 to 10:00AM**.

This outreach aims at serving those in our community who are either experiencing homelessness or struggling with other living needs in their lives. The next Core

Outreach Village is scheduled, **October 26**.

Volunteers are always needed. All you need to do is come on the last Saturday of each month and share God's love with our community.



Last Saturday of Every Month from 8-10am
In the front parking lot of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
(5042 Timuquana Road)

- April 27
- August 3
- October 26
- May 25
- August 31
- November 30
- June 29
- September 28
- December 29



St. Peter's



Senior Warden
Virginia Pillsbury

Junior Warden
Collin O'Hara

Clerk
Linda Boyd

Treasurer
Tina Griffin

Vestry Meeting
the **3rd** Sunday each
month in Room 2.

Next meeting:
October 20
at 12:00 noon

AYF Band ‘Holding on to Jesus’

By Virginia Pillsbury, Senior Warden

Thanks to the Anglican Youth Fellowship for the musical beauty and ministry that they brought to St. Peter’s at our Sunday, September 15 service and again in concert on Wednesday, September 18. They also performed at Westminster Woods, Penney Farms, Community Health Outreach, and New Dawn Outreach.

We appreciate the work done by Mary Chowenhill, retired SAMS Missionary to Uganda, to help bring them to Jacksonville and we hope that they will return to us soon.



AYF Band Members



AYF Band with Walter & Virginia Pillsbury and Mary Chowenhill



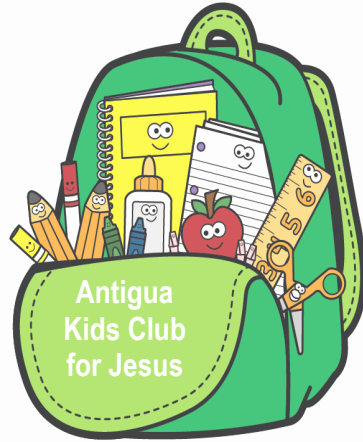
Mtr. Natalie introducing the AYF Band on Wednesday, September 18



AYF Band Performing at Community Health Outreach in front of Baby Luv.

First Steps Outreach Ministries, Inc.

By Sally Jackson, Missionary to Guatemala



We are so excited about the backpack drive for *Kids Club for Jesus* in the Antigua market! Please help support us by sponsoring one of these children of the *Club*. Sponsorship cost is \$50 per child but feel free to donate any amount, every penny helps! We need to fill **40** backpacks.

Donations can be made as follows:

- Cash or a check made out to: **First Steps Outreach Ministries** given directly to me or Jeanne Wright on Sunday.

- Check made out to **First Steps Outreach Ministries** and mailed to:
P.O. Box 10805
Jacksonville, FL 32247
- Via Zelle using:
firststepskc@yahoo.com

Your donation is tax deductible and greatly appreciated!

Blessings and much love,
Sally Jackson
904-701-9156
Sally's cell: 904-837-8820

Positive Family Pivot (PFP) Update

By Yamoni Napoleon, Founder and Director of PFP

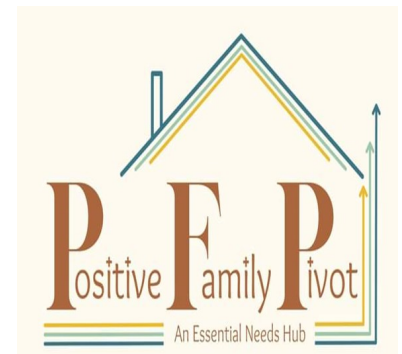
We have moved to an appointment only style shopping experience to better serve our clients. You will be able to shop on a bimonthly basis (every other month). This means clients CANNOT shop every month.

For security purposes, children are no longer allowed during your shopping time. Please make sure to make prior arrangements for someone to watch your children.

If you bring a friend, spouse/partner, grandparent, etc., you are only allowed to bring ONE additional person. This person will not be permitted inside to shop with you and must remain outside.

Infants under the age of one will be allowed inside during the scheduled appointment time but must remain in a carrier.

To schedule your appointment to shop on **October 12**, email us at positivefamilypivot@gmail.com



Thank-You-Notes

Thank you to the following:

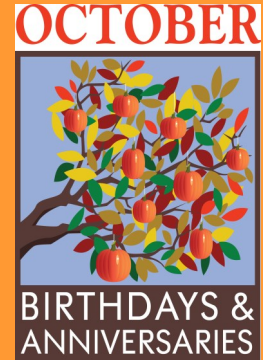
- Tony Buehler for the beautiful new website and for helping so graciously whenever asked to help!
- Leslie Oxford for all the behind the scenes things that you do to help everything at St. Peter's run smoothly.
- The Vestry for serving St. Peter's with love and care.
- Mary Chowenhill for bringing the Anglican Youth Fellowship to St. Peter's.
- Linda Boyd, Katharine Boyd, Tina Griffin, Marlene Miller, Angie Seymore, Jeanne Wright, and all who set up, clean up, and see things that need to be done and take action!

Virginia Pillsbury, Senior Warden

A great big THANK YOU to Larry Hamblin for pressure washing the church grounds on September 14. Your time and effort has not gone unnoticed and we are truly grateful for your services to our Lord Jesus Christ and for caring for our Church property.

Our sincere gratitude to Tony Buehler, David, Margie, and Michael Mena for your time, effort and hard work with cleaning up our vacant lot that was in desperate need of maintenance.

Mtr. Natalie and the Vestry



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Charles & Jayne Bickerstaff.22

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

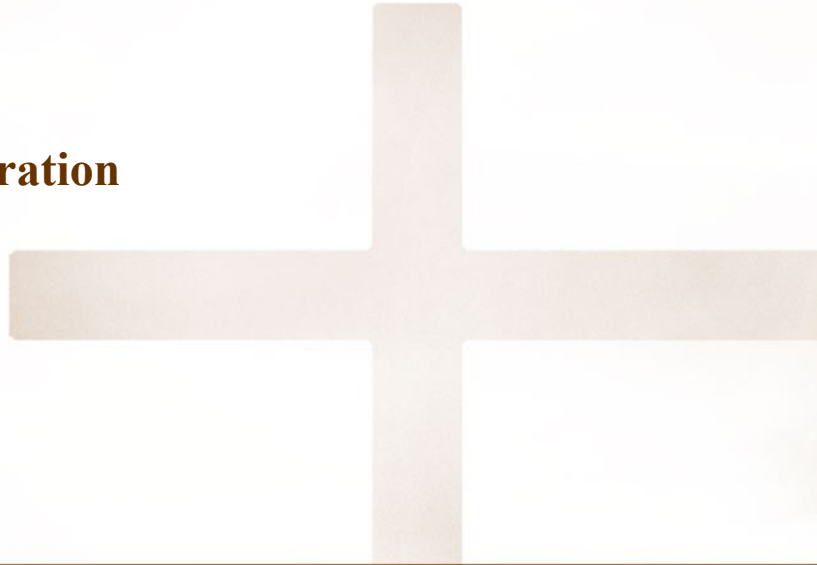
- Abbie Jones 1
- Mary Chowenhill 8
- Tony Buehler 9
- Larry Tipping 10

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

5042 Timuquana Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32210
Phone: 904.778.1434
Email: stpetersjax@gmail.com



A Chosen Generation



St. Peter's Service Schedule

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

† 9:30AM English Service

3rd Sunday Bilingual Service

† 12:00PM Spanish Service

Children's Ministry available.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

1st & 3rd Wednesday each month.

Starting with dinner at 6:00PM.

St. Peter's Business Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday | 9:15AM to 2:00PM

Closed Weekends/Federal Holidays

904.778.1434

Website: stpetersbytheriver.org

