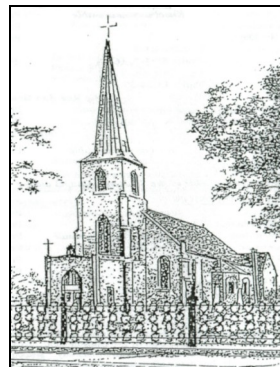


## SCHEDULE FOR OUR ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

- Weekly bulletin inserts with articles about stewardship and stories of how God is changing lives at St. Peter
- Saturday, October 6, Graveyard Clean up part 2, 9 am – 11:30 am, Short Communion service at 11:30 am
- Sunday November 4, Guest Stewardship preacher, Mike Redpath, at 8 am and 10 am.
- Saturday, November 17, Prayer Vigil at 5 pm
- Sunday, November 18, Pledge Sunday – ingathering and blessing of pledges at 8 am and 10 am.



## The St. Peter's Stewardship Newsletter for September 16

*As we approach our Annual Pledge Sunday on November 18, each week we will have a stewardship newsletter with a story related to the theme of our fall pledge campaign and a reflection on stewardship. In the spring, these newsletters will continue as we work towards a year round approach for stewardship.*

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### *Our Fall Pledge Campaign Theme*

Lives are being changed at St. Peter's  
Come join in

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### PASTORAL CARE

Lives are being changed at St. Peter's where we try to live as a community of Christ. This is why we give of our treasure to support this community. One of the ways we change lives is by the pastoral care of our clergy, our Eucharistic Visitors and with one another. Pastoral care encompasses many forms, hospital visits, phone calls, having coffee, bringing communion, but one of the times people are most in need is when they have lost someone and need funeral services. At St. Peter's both members and strangers are ministered to. Often, we get notes of thanks that show us how much our ministering was appreciated. Here are a few quotes.

"Thank you for all that the team at St. Peter's did for our family. Your support and guidance were invaluable."

"Thank you for your thoughtful and meaningful words at our Dad's service. You brought life and comfort during this difficult time. Your kindness has made a difference in our lives."

Our pastoral care is just one way where we reach out to others. As we approach Pledge Sunday November 18, 2018, please pray about what you will give for 2019 to St. Peter's where lives are being changed in so many ways. Come join in.

## Through the Looking Glass

It isn't quite the Looking Glass that provided the gateway into Alice's Wonderland, but the nearly wall-sized window that sits between our breakfast nook and the small deck behind our garage seemed that way for a bit. As I entered the kitchen after a good night's sleep, I looked down to the rain dampened deck to see if Morris, the wild little Tabby who we have befriended, was sitting at the furthest corner where he usually waits to be fed. No Morris. And then I broke into laughter. There was Morris, sitting on the small table right outside the window, staring in.

Our indoor cats, Sassy and Mr. Fuzzy, occasionally stood up against the window and stared at Morris. We don't know what cats think, if much of anything. But I imagined Mr. Fuzzy, our handsome grey and white, with hints of apricot, short-haired love ball pondering his life and Morris'. Mr. Fuzzy was in Morris' place himself just a few years ago. He, too, was a visitor to our deck; a little bedraggled waif with a wound on his back. Eventually he proved himself quite tame; tame enough to bring into the garage, get veterinarian care, and hold in isolation from Sassy while we figured out what to do for him. Once we failed at locating any previous owner, we went through the necessary medical steps to make it safe for us and Sassy to adopt him.

So there is Mr. Fuzzy, warm, loved, played with, cuddled...looking out the window at a very damp Morris. The wild little orange guy shows enthusiastic affection for people but doesn't know enough to not scratch and bite without warning. I wonder if Mr. Fuzzy has any idea of how well off he is. Does he look at Morris and say "Wow, that could be me." Or is he so used to being spoiled that he looks down on Morris as some sort of second-class cat. Does he, maybe, even think of Morris as deserving his fate because of his behavior, or his somewhat beat up appearance?

No, we can't know what cats are thinking. But I do know that humans are sometimes challenged by similar situations. We are blessed, and we get so used to it that we take it for granted. We forget that it is a loving God who blesses us continually. Or we are blessed and we look down on those who have not embraced the blessings, who, perhaps, have squandered them... who wind up cold, and wet, and hungry. Many of us are generous in caring for those less fortunate, yet still can be less aware than we should of how blessed we are.

Sometimes it might as well be Alice's looking glass that separates us from an understanding of just how blessed we are, even when it may seem that we are falling a bit short on blessings. For example, when we see a television program about the poorest poor in Somalia, do we immediately think "Thank you Jesus! How very blessed I am." Or do we think "Those poor people." The sense of compassion for the poor is certainly healthy, but it is even healthier for that compassion to come from a conscious sense of thanksgiving for how abundantly blessed we are.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow".... always, in every moment, in all things.

Written by Mike Redpath