

CALLED TO MINISTRY MORE THAN 'GOOD PREACHING

by Alex Cain | Charles Simeon Institute Summer Fellow

Sometimes it seems as if I was the last person to know that I would go into ministry. When I told my old student minister—I graduated two years prior and had spent that time volunteering for him—that I thought God was calling me into ministry, he knowingly smiled and said, “I’m not surprised.” When I told my parents, afraid that they would be upset with me for changing my career path, they too knowingly smiled and said, “We wondered how long it would take.” Even the pastor of a country church I briefly attended as a first grader looked at me in my child-sized suit and clip-on Looney Tunes tie and told my Mom, “He’s gonna grow up to be a preacher some day.”

Even so, the path to ministry has not been a clear and paved one for me. My family spent most of my childhood out of church, and I did not even become a Christian until the summer between my sophomore and junior years of high school. That most transforming event took place just before the height of my rebellious season in life, which took God’s kind hand of discipline to bring me to His senses and set my life aright. This was a hard time in my life, but I’m grateful for it nonetheless—*felix culpa*.

Looking back, I can see that God had a plan all along (surprise, surprise). He brought my family to a church which would pour into me, particularly through the student minister, who gave me and many others myriad opportunities to serve and grow in our gifting. Whether it was through teaching Sunday school, leading teams at camp, or even preaching at the student services, he provided space in which to minister and support along the way. Once I got to Bible college, I was put on a preaching rotation for a local retirement community, and Sunday pulpit supply opportunities were opened up to me through supportive adjunct professors. This trend would follow me to seminary in St. Louis, where I’ve learned a still more important aspect of ministry.

Until my time at Covenant Theological Seminary, the goal has been to be the best preacher I can be, but Covenant showed me the importance of the minister’s role as an image of the Suffering Servant, who “sustains with a word him who is weary” and does not break a bruised reed, but is “gentle and lowly in heart.” St. Peter’s has helped build upon and strengthen this importance, for which I am deeply grateful.

This summer fellowship has been another key point in my ministerial training. Here, I have found support from priests and parishioners alike, and I have been exposed to many areas of pastoral ministry in addition to learning how to preach Anglican homilies. A crucial component to success in any area of life is the cycle of going out and trying new things on one’s own and then returning to a supportive place where reflection and improvement can be honed. With much encouragement and guidance, St. Peter’s has provided a space for me to do so; thank you for your support!

For a brief bio of Alex, please see the last page of today's service bulletin.

2023 VESTRY SLATE



VANESSA ZEIN-ELDIN

Vanessa and her husband David have been married for 33+ years and love being parents to two adult children. They have been members of St. Peter's since its founding in 2005. Vanessa earned her Bachelor of Fine Art at the University of North Texas and enjoyed a career in graphic design. She now finds joy in creating mosaics and teaching workshops in her Art Shed. Currently at St. Peter's, Vanessa serves as the Artisans Guild co-chair; leads a high school girls Engage Group; serves in the Parish Visitors Guild; is a delegate to Diocesan Synod; and participates in an Acts Group. She meets weekly with her accountability group; has co-facilitated Beth Moore studies at St. Peter's; and has participated in Bible Study Fellowship for many years.



GREG SUMMERS

Greg grew up in Tallahassee and returned home several years ago after careers as an Air Force officer (23 years total, active and reserve combined, Lt. Colonel) and as an educator. He was a navigator and later taught political science at the United States Air Force Academy. That faculty experience was the bridge to working in civilian life at several private, church-affiliated schools as teacher, Department Chair, Dean, and Head of School. At St. Peter's, he is a Verger and Docent. Greg leads an Engage Group of middle school boys and previously led a 12th grade group. He teaches Youth Confirmation, serves as Living History Coordinator for Family Bible School, and is a Lay Mentor for Charles Simeon Institute Summer Fellows. On the diocesan level, Greg is Chair-elect of the Dynamos Steering Committee.



DEWITT MILLER

DeWitt is the President of Miller Glass Company. He has been a member of St. Peter's since its founding in 2005. He has been active in an Acts Group and men's ministry, serving as a men's retreat co-chair. Additionally, he has served as a Verger, on the Search Committee for our Dean, and as a delegate to Diocesan Synod. He is married to Kathy and has two grown children and four grandchildren.



JIM MAPLES

Jim and Elizabeth were married 55 years ago, in St. John's Episcopal Church, in Tallahassee. They have two adult sons and two grandchildren. Jim is semi-retired from a career as an executive in the building materials, manufacturing and distribution industry. He has been an active member of St. Peter's since its founding in 2005. His involvement has included: Vestry, owner's representative for the construction of the Cathedral, Acts 2:42 group, Men's Bible study, usher, chair of the Men's Mission Council, the Dean Search Committee, LEM-V, and volunteer in various mission outreach activities. Jim is currently serving his 10th year on the Board of Trustees of Trinity School for Ministry.

Women's Fall Retreat

Hosted by St. Peter's Daughters of the Holy Cross

October 6-7, 2023



...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12

HIGH SCHOOL: CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

At St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral, catechesis is a vital part of our high school ministry. It is a time of formation when the faith is passed from the parents to the students. This is when the church sees the students become full members. This is such an important time in their lives and in the lives of their families.

To equip these students to make the confirmation vows, we have a catechesis class which focuses on three aspects: (1) MENTORSHIP, (2) BIBLE READING, AND (3) THE CATECHISM. This is a powerful and formative process that can shape a student's imagination of what it means to be a Christian.

We will be having a parent and student information meeting on *August 13th between services*. If you are unable to attend, please contact Fr. David Marten to schedule a one-on-one meeting. I recommend thinking about who you would like to ask to be your mentor right away, since they will be asked to attend the Spiritual Gifts Workshop with you on *Saturday, August 26th*.



WISH LIST

CURRENT NEEDS TO SERVE INFANTS 1-7 MONTHS

NEW ITEMS

- SIZE NEWBORN, 1, 2, 3, 4, AND 5 DIAPERS
- BABY WIPES (WE NEVER HAVE ENOUGH)
- BABY FINGERNAIL CLIPPERS
- BABY HAIRBRUSH OR COMB
- BABY THERMOMETERS
- BABY BOTTLE BRUSHES
- COTTON BALLS AND COTTON SWABS (SMALL BAGS)
- BABY WASH, LOTION, AND SHAMPOO
- INFANT CAR SEATS
- STROLLERS
- PACK AND PLAY
- BOUNCY FLOOR SEATS

USED OR NEW ITEMS

- BABY BOY AND GIRL CLOTHING: ONESIES, SLEEPERS, AND OUTFITS
- SIZE MEDIUM, LARGE, XL MATERNITY CLOTHES (WE NEVER HAVE ENOUGH)
- CRIB SHEETS/BASSINET SHEETS
- BABY BATHTUB
- DIAPER BAG
- BABY CARRIER/SLING
- PLASTIC BABY HANGERS
- *OTHER SMALL ITEMS A NEW MOM WOULD NEED AND YOU NO LONGER NEED*

WORSHIP

VISITING THE CATHEDRAL?

Welcome—we're so glad you're worshipping with us today! Our nursery is available during Sunday morning services for children newborn through Kindergarten. We hope you'll join us on the lawn for coffee & other refreshments between morning services! Whether today is your first time or you've been coming for awhile, we are so glad you're here!

CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST & CARE MINISTRIES



If you have any pastoral needs or know of someone who needs pastoral care and prayer, please contact Care Ministries Coordinator, Alice Sanderson at ASanderson@StPetersFL.com

Please call the Cathedral Office at 850.701.0664 or email ASanderson@StPetersFL.com to be added to the Cathedral Prayer List. **YOU CAN ALSO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST OR CARE MINISTRY NEED AT [STPETERSFL.COM/PRAYER](https://StPetersFL.com/PRAYER)**

Military: Lucas Bell, Jose Betancourt, Lt Col. David Chichetti, SSG Corey Daws, Lt. Col. Daniel Dean, Capt. James Dilworth, Capt. John Easterbrook Jr, Airman Drew Edwards, Sgt. Michael Gaskins, SSgt Corey Owen, Capt. Griffin Jax, Capt. Savannah B. Jax, Capt. Parker Jax, Capt. Chandler B. Jax, 1st Lt. Carson Jax, PFC Sam Henri, 1st Lt. Rebecca Jax, Gabriel Melendez, Col. Burt Newman, Major Gen. John Richardson, Capt. Oliver Rushing, Spc. Andrew Sanderson, Lt. Cmdr. Chris Smith, SFC Dewey Spence, Lt. Patrick Swain, Capt. Parry Thomas, Lt. Cmdr. Blake Van Brunt Jr, MM3 Tommy VanLandingham, SN Benjamin Waddill, PFC John P. Warren.

Parishioners, Relatives, and Friends: Irma Daleen, Marilyn O'Leary, Allen Quinsey, Kim Wilson, Ed Moore, Clayton & Philip Jax, Bart MacFarlane, Pat, Fred Thomson, Jim & Helen, Tom McHaffie, Cindy & Ben, Bill Pandolfi, Mary Meloni, Vicki, Katherine Hilary Pontin

as of 7.20.23

