21 August 2022

# A STEPHEN MINISTRY TESTIMONY

Submitted anonymously by a member of St. Peter's for the benefit and encouragement of those who might benefit from Stephen Ministry or those who may be called to become a Stephen Minister

There is a particular day in the last two years which I will not soon forget. On that day, I elected to resign from my job over some irreconcilable differences and consequently gave up a substantial salary. After a brief few hours of elation over my freedom to pursue other endeavors, I found myself sinking into despair as the uncertainty of future employment opportunities and the ability to provide for my family poured cold water over my confidence.

After a week of résumé revisions and feeling the tumult build in my soul, I was drawn to a recollection of the Stephen Ministry at St. Peter's that I noted to my spouse when I read the bookmark stocked in the pew in front of us at a Sunday Service. It was at that moment that I felt God's hand guiding me to seek help before things worsened in my own life and that of my family.

With all my pride in what I had done, now gone, I humbly called the church and shared that I needed someone to talk to about where I was and where I was going. Within a few hours, a member of the Stephen Ministry reached out to me, and we arranged to meet a few days later. The conversation at this meeting and the dozen or so that followed in subsequent time together were instrumental in helping me gain perspective on my situation, recognize the small role I played in controlling the course of my life, and realize how important it was for me to see that God was in charge. Not only did the trusted, confidential counsel of my Stephen Minister help me with my own personal and spiritual growth, but this person also helped me navigate some additional family challenges that developed over the ensuing weeks that were completely independent of the original purpose. I am certain that were it not for His guidance in connecting me with Stephen Ministries, I would have struggled to balance the stress of so many things being out of balance at the same time.

Thank you to the volunteers who help others through St. Peter's and Stephen Ministries...this service saved me from tribulation and brought me to a stronger, more meaningful relationship with God. And a special thank you to my mentor and trusted listener...I am a better person for your counsel and wisdom. God Bless You!

Do you have a testimony to share of how God has used Stephen Ministry, LEM-Visitors, Parish Visitors, or other ministries to bless and encourage you? Tell us! You can share with someone from that ministry or send an email to info@StPetersFL.com

We'd love to hear more about what God is doing in and through the ministries and people of our cathedral!

#### DISCIPLESHIP

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ANGLICANISM?

If you're interested in knowing more about Anglicanism and/or becoming a member of St. Peter's, attend one of these classes:

The Foundations for Discipleship:

- COMMON FAITH | ANGLICAN CATECHISM Sundays | 6:15pm | September 25–November 13
- COMMON WORSHIP | PRAYER BOOK 101 Mondays | 6:15pm | September 19–October 31
- COMMON SERVICE | SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY: LEARNING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST Saturday | September 10

VISIT <u>STPetersFL.com/LearnMore</u> for more information.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Visit <u>StPetersFL.com/upcoming</u> for more info:

- > CATHEDRAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEAN PARENTING TODAY! | AUGUST 21 | 10:25AM
- > EVENSONG IN CELEBRATION OF BP. NEIL LEBHAR | AUGUST 26 | 5PM
- > Consecration of Alex Farmer August 27 | 11AM
- CHILDREN & YOUTH FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION/OPEN HOUSE & IN-PERSON REGISTRATION FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES AUGUST 28 | 10:25AM
- > SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11
- > Wednesday Night Dinner & Classes Begin September 14

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** | Celebrate Recovery is a national 12-step program that enables people to deal with hurts, hang-ups, fears, and compulsions inflicted by life. Killearn United Methodist Church is hosting a Celebrate Recovery Step Study for men, which will begin on *Sunday, September 11*, and will be led by our own Matt Brown. For more information, contact Matt.

## PARISH VISITORS GUILD OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The Parish Visitors Guild is a group of parish members who are passionate about coming along side those who need encouragement. It could be the loss of a loved one, illness, job loss, or any number of difficulties we all face. They reach out in several ways. This is a great opportunity to offer encouragement to those who truly need it. If you are interested in being part of this vital ministry, please contact <u>Alice@StPetersFL.com</u> for more information.

#### **UPCOMING CONCERT | BEETHOVEN &**

FRIENDS | Friday, 9 September, 7pm

Glenn Priest, former Artist-in Residence at the Boston Pops and current Director of Worship at Fairhaven Church in Dayton, Ohio and Chris Garven, our own Director of Music have performed under the name *Musical Benches* together for over 25 years. They feature great organ and piano music in an easy, engaging and exciting way. This event will feature the great pipe organ and beautiful Steinway of St Peter's. The evening will culminate with the famed *Choral Fantasy*, which is a 25-minute, single movement piano concerto with choir. This is sort of a mini *Ninth Symphony*, composed earlier in Beethoven's life featuring the full forces of orchestra, piano and choir! Be sure to come out and enjoy this wonderful concert!

### MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

#### NEW WINESKINS CONFERENCE

We still have a couple of rooms left in the St. Peter's block for New Wineskins (*September 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>tb</sup>*) for anyone who hasn't reserved one yet. Please contact Kimberly Calhoun at <u>myjesus316@hotmail.com</u> ASAP for more information and to reserve yours!

To register for the Conference, please go to: <u>NewWineskinsConference.org/pricing</u>

### **PARTNERED EVANGELISM:** TARMAC BASKETBALL ON THE NEWS!

Did you see the local news coverage of our own Discipled Evangelism Core Captain, Susan Newhouse Burton's Tarmac Basketball Camp? Ed Buist was a featured speaker at the camp and shared how his faith helped him while fighting in the Vietnam War. If you missed it, check out <u>StPetersFL.com/tarmac-story</u> to see the news coverage!

Special thanks to all those who donated basketballs and funds for the camp, as well as all those who gave their time to help put it on!

### **UNDER-RESOURCED:** GRACE MISSION TUTORS NEEDED!

Love Kids? Willing to give just a little of your time to help them each week? If so, we have the perfect place for you to share Jesus!

Grace Mission is currently in need of tutors for its Afterschool Program this school semester. They have a limited number of spaces and are particularly looking for people who have the right experience, especially backgrounds in teaching, psychology, and social work. Please contact Deacon Rachel Hill at Grace Mission at <u>rachelhill@gracemission.net</u> to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

## MISSIONS & EVANGELISM THROUGH THE SUMMER!

Thank you, Jesus, for allowing us the blessing and privilege to love others in your name through basketball,

baking, backpacks, school supplies, dancing, games, food, new friendships, and trips across the globe!

It's been a busy and fulfilling summer with Missions & Evangelism and there's more in store for the fall! Get ready for prayer walks with children, youth, and adults, opportunities to serve with various ministry partners through mentoring, tutoring, and much, much more! The Spirit is alive and moving and there's a place for each of us and the gifts God has so graciously bestowed upon us.



### WORSHIP

#### VISITING THE CATHEDRAL?

*Welcome–we're so glad you're worshiping 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!

#### 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 <u>Alice@StPetersFL.com</u>

Please call the Cathedral Office at 850.701.0664 or email <u>Alice@StPetersFL.com</u> to be added to the Cathedral Prayer List. <u>You CAN ALSO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST OR CARE MINISTRY NEED AT STPETERsFL.com/Prayer</u>

*Military:* Lucas Bell, Jose Betancourt, Lt. Col. David Chichetti, SSG Corey Daws, Major 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, 1st Lt. Parker Jax, Capt. Chandler B. Jax, 1st Lt. Carson Jax, 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, Tommy VanLandingham MM3, Seaman Benjamin Waddill

*Parishioners, Relatives, and Friends:* Doug Jones, Jessie Pitt, Tanny Buford, Les Clemens, Cindy Gray, Garth Jax, Courtney Evans, Keith Rowe, Ellie, Elaine, Mary Moore, Kathryn Neal, Marian Williams, Bart & Connie MacFarlane, Shirley Coyle, Phyllis Schmidt, Ben Allen, Joan Moore

#### CARE MINISTRIES: LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS NEEDED!

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEM-Vs) take communion to those who are unable to attend Sunday services at the Cathedral. If you're interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Alice Sanderson at <u>Alice@StPetersFL.com</u>

#### **CARE MINISTRIES: BOOK NOOK**

Did you know we have a book nook outside the Parish Hall? Feel free to borrow books on topics like parenting, grandparenting, grief, and more!



**FINANCIAL MINUTE** *Total Operating Budget:* \$2,896,155.24 | % *Collected YTD:* 83.31% | *Debt Retired in August:* \$11,860.00 *For more information about making a pledge, visit <u>StPetersFL.com/Give</u>*