

St Peter's Reflection

My relationship with St Peters began in October 2014. I had become a complete empty nester. I was divorced. My three children, Vanessa, Bill, and Kathy had all married and lived hundreds of miles away. My two grandchildren, whom I raised, Tadeusz and Morgan, had sprouted their wings and left the nest. My mother, whom I had taken care of 19 years had gained her heavenly wings. Yes, I was totally alone and the holidays were fast approaching. My son, Bill, told me to come to PA for the holidays. I jumped into my car and drove to Flourtown, PA. The first Sunday here, I attended St Peters for my first time with Bill, Tom, and Alex. My life was changed. Having been raised in a Southern Missionary Baptist Church I found St Peters very different. Everyone was warm and welcoming. They did not appear judgmental. During fellowship I meet Lois and Larry. Lois and I developed a friendship which lasted until her death. Over the next several months I fell completely in love with the people of St Peters. Lois convinced me to come to the Knit Wit meetings. I could crochet but could not knit. Lois had patience and taught me to knit. As the meetings were at night Lois and I started a daytime meeting. I found an article about some women who were making small squares and calling them Prayer Pals. These were then blessed by their priest and were given to people who were in need. Lois and I thought this was a good idea. She encouraged me to talk to Emily about making these in Knit Wits. I did and thus St Peter's Prayer Pal ministry was born. Lois reviewed books for several publishing companies. We placed a small book shelve in the back hallway of the Parish Hall and placed books and magazines on it, which people could take, keep or return. The congregation was also encouraged to place any unwanted books they had to share with others. I found Christmas at St Peters was very special. We attended the children's pageant which Alex was in. Afterward we went to dinner with several of the families. I cannot remember them all but Amy and Beth, Sherry and John were a couple. Then back to church for the candle light services. Alex was an Acolyte.

I stayed through Easter of 2015 and had to return to my home in Illinois. I joined St Stephen Episcopal Church in Harrisburg, IL and I am sure Father Tim and the congregation got very tired of me telling all about Rev Emily and the people of St Peters.

Throughout my absence from St Peters, I continued to email and phone Lois and other women of St Peters. I came back to St Peters for about a

month in June 2017. I got to attend the church picnic and saw several of the members at Alex's high school graduation party. It was like I had not been gone. The love of the people was given freely.

In October 2018, I was suddenly diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. After surgery and clearance from doctors Bill and Tom came to Illinois and brought me back to Wyndmoor for treatment at Fox Chase. The love and concern I was shown by the people of St Peters was over whelming. I was too ill to attend church but that did not stop your prayers, cards and phone calls. A prayer pal was mailed to me and later a prayer shawl was sent to me. Emily, Wayland, and Laura visited and brought communion. I am sure I am here today because of all the prayers offered up for me. Although I am still battling my illness, I am able to attend church most of the time with Rev Laura and my grandson Alex's help.

St Peter's has been so good to me, I try to give back to others by being on the Community Partnership Committee and getting to work with great women such as Shirley, Joanie, Helen, Maureen, and two guys, Sam and Calvin. I am also now on the Guatemala Committee with Linda Toia. I am a member of the Diocese of Pennsylvania Episcopal Church Women's steering committee. We review the grant application from the churches of Pennsylvania for the United Thank Offering. I am also the Ambassador from St Peter's for the St James School. I love working on these committees and with the people within them.

I feel fortunate to be able to have such strong people around me. They make me strong. I have made some very special friends here and plan to spend the rest of this life working for my Creator through this church's works.

One more thing. Bring your toothpaste. St Peters committed to St James School to donate one tube of toothpaste per person per month for the year of 2022, so bring your toothpaste next Sunday.