

“How Can I Help?”

By Jennifer O'Rourke

What I love about St. Peter's in the Woods is that this church is a community of do-ers and helpers. It should not surprise me when someone reaches out and says “I heard you are heading up a project; let me know how I can help?” But it does. Internally, I am still processing...wait, I haven't even put a list together of what is needed... and here they are just offering. It is such a joyful gift to receive the offer of help. I am smiling as I write this remembering past encounters. I miss you all.

Our church's mission of faithful service is vibrant. This community is always exploring new ways to help our neighbors, our greater community, and our world. Simple ideas flourish when we come together. Laundry Love, Creation Care, and the Rapid Response team are such beautiful examples.

I especially love that St. Peter's cultivates the joy of serving others for all ages. As a parent it is exciting to hear your child offer to come to help work at the church. After the Building Love campaign kicked off our kids asked, “How can kids help? Could they do a bake sale to help contribute?” Not only do my kids want to help but they are vested in the community of this church.

This year as I struggled with my parents and in-laws failing health, I learned that the words “how can I help” can also be a source of comfort. I might not have had a tangible answer to that question but I found myself physically relax and breathe. Those words made me feel not alone in my angst and a reminder that there is a community of faith and support available.

As we reflect in this time of stewardship discernment, I ask you to think and pray about how you can support St. Peter's in the Woods for 2021. Let us be One Together in Christ at St. Peter's.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:1-5