

First I would like to start off by saying, thank you. Thank you for all the support you have given me since me and my family walked into this church in 2015. This church has done so much for me and my family. I have been able to experience new things year after year and go to new places year after year. I am so grateful for Ms. Kelsey and the youth group. My favorite memory was my very first youth trip to Heifer International in Little Rock, Arkansas. We helped out on the farm for a week. We got to weed flower beds, shovel animal waste, milk goats, and so much more fun stuff. On the last night of that trip someone from another church broke out their telescope and we got to view some beautiful scenes from space. I would definitely relive that moment if I had the chance. Kelsey and Willy were so encouraging and helped me get through the weekend. If it wasn't for this church I would have never been able to experience that trip or any of the trips I have been on which include a trip to North Carolina where we got to serve food to the homeless, package food to go to shelters, and meet people and hear their stories about hard circumstances that changed who they are today, and Memphis where we cleaned cemeteries read and played sports with the youth, and meet new people. I will greatly miss the wonderful times I as well as the youth group has had together and the memories that were made on those trips. My favorite person to hang out with was Willy while he was here. I remember my very first time acolyting. I was nervous. I didn't want to mess up. Willy was acolyting with me and guided me through the entire service and we walked out without messing up or if we did I didn't notice. I knew one day I would have to lead a service without him and I didn't realize how quickly it came. One day he handed me the cross and he took the torch from me and said it was my turn to lead the service and I can't lie I was scared I was going to do something wrong or start walking too soon. I ended up doing everything correctly and now without Willy sitting beside me I help guide the acolytes through the entire service. He helped me a whole lot without even knowing it.

Another person who has influenced me is Ms. Linda. She was like my second mother when I was in middle school and still is today. I was a troublemaker to say the least and she kept me alive and had talks with me every Sunday. She knew how capable I was and she wanted to see me succeed and do well. All the times she talked to my mom and cooled her off saved me. Lastly Ms. Kelsey has influenced me. I was in her very first youth group of only about three kids. With this all three of us and her started to get to know each other pretty well. We started out in an old house of someone's youth group and eventually moved all of our stuff from up there into the church. She worked so hard on this program and took us to amazing places to learn exciting new and fun things. I was so happy to grow as part of the youth in the church with Ms. Kelsey. We will all miss her dearly and I am so thankful I got to be part of her very first and very last youth group at St. Peters. To all the other youth out there, stay in the youth group. You will get to experience new and exciting things year after year. It's important to have people in your life that will listen to you and won't judge you. Not once did any of the three people I mentioned ever judge or has anyone in this church ever judged me. It's important to build relationships like this or I may not have been part of the youth the entire time Kelsey was here, or Ms. Linda may not have encouraged me to do what is right and what I am told and not what I want. Willy and I may not have ever become good friends during his time at St. Peters. Everyone needs a good laugh and these people made me laugh every Sunday. I am excited to start this new chapter in my life. I know God will guide me through the ups and downs and will always be with me when I need him. This church and everyone in it will remain in my prayers and again thank you for all the support you have given me and my family. Congratulations to all the youth in the congregation you all will do amazing things. Rising high schoolers, good luck and have fun stay ontop your assignments everything you do from here on matters and could impact your future. To those who

are just joining the youth, build relationships that can last and surround yourself with people that you can talk to when you need it. Take advantage of all the opportunities you get to have, you may never get that opportunity again.