

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Statement of Purpose

*“A Community of Faith, Offering Hospitality,
Hope and Healing”*

**Annual Report
Reviewing 2025 & Previewing 2026**

(Prepared for Annual Parish Meeting January 18, 2026)

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Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes included below are:

1. Annual Parish Meeting on January 19, 2025
2. Parish Growth & Vitality Workshop with the Bishop on May 10, 2025, and Sermon follow-up on May 11, 2025.
3. Parish Meeting on August 3, 2025
4. Parish Meeting on November 2, 2025

St. Peter's Church Annual Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2025

- The annual meeting was held in person following the 9:00 am service. 46 people were in attendance. A motion was made by Jim Sbarra and seconded by Patty Murray to nominate Lisa Embert as Secretary for today's meeting. A motion to close nominations was made by Jim Correll and seconded by Temple Carter. Both motions passed.
- Mother Donna Jean addressed the congregation.

Mo Donna Jean spoke about the online parish development course, *Shaping the Parish* that she and Shirley have been taking since September 2023. They are currently in the fifth module, and sixth module will start in May. To receive a certificate for the program, we will need to complete a significant project which includes a detailed action plan, receiving feedback and adjusting the plan based on the feedback. We are working on developing our final projects. We would like to use Appreciative Inquiry surveys from the module we are currently taking to help us build on our strengths.

We believe we have finally resolved the water issue on the wall by the font and the second floor of the steeple. The final painting of the walls and stairs in the steeple will be completed in 2025 to complete the Crystal Trust Grant.

The second project planned for 2025 is the installation of a conveyor belt going down the outside basement stairwell to make it easier to transport food to/from the food pantry. We have applied for a \$5,000 grant from the Diocesan Barnabas Fund to help with the cost.

The third project will be replacing the heating and air conditioning systems in all three buildings. We received a tremendous gift from the Estate of Fr. Chuck Baker in 2024 and expect to receive additional funds from the estate in April/May of 2025. This will enable us to cover much of the cost for the new systems. It will also be a great way to honor Fr Chuck, who was a very comforting and uplifting person to be around.

She ended the address by saying: Without God we cannot, and without us God will not. We both need each other. And we have a legacy of well over 200 years to show our partnership between St. Peter's Episcopal Church and God is doing pretty well. Let us continue this trend in 2025. Amen.

- A motion was made by Larry Decker and seconded by Linda Slicher to approve the minutes from the January 2024 annual meeting. Motion passed.
- Terri Anderson and Larry Decker are the outgoing vestry members this year. Many thanks for all the great work they have done.
- Shirley Biddle, Senior Warden, made the motion for the following nominations for election to the vestry: Ray DePhillis (1st term), and Larry Decker (2nd term) to fill two of

the three full vestry terms. This was seconded by Terri Anderson. There remains one open position on the vestry for the current year's nominations (3-year term) and one open position from the prior year's nominations (2-year term) for a total of 2 open positions on the vestry. With no further nominations, a motion to close nominations was made by Temple Carter and seconded by Wayne Burris. Both motions passed. Congratulations to Ray and Larry for being elected to the vestry beginning today.

- The Delaware Diocesan Convention. The 2025 convention will be held Friday, November 21, 2025, and Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE.
 - Delegates nominated for the 2025 Convention in November are Wayne Burris and Shirley Biddle. Alternate delegates are Ray DePhillis and Dawn Arnold. No youth delegates were nominated for the 2025 Convention.
- The committee reports were reviewed as submitted in the annual report. The report was distributed to the congregation via email, and a hard copy was distributed as able to members prior to the meeting.
 - All chairpersons expressed their many thanks for the hard work done by all the committee members and the continued support from the congregation.
 - Food Pantry- Thank you for the increased donations from St. Peter's. This along with donations from other churches has made a big difference. The town does give a monetary donation to the Ministerium for the pantry. Much of these funds are used to purchase perishable items.
 - Preschool- Tina Morris and Karen Sawyer do an outstanding job. Both classes are full this school year. Tina works hard at making sure all the seats are filled each year. Tina has begun applying for an annual grant from the State each year. The grant covers personnel, supplies and program enhancements. It does not cover costs for building improvements such as the ramp.
 - Altar Guild- Welcome Betty Decker and Kathy Eichler! Thanks for joining. Also, a big thank you to Pat Womelsdorf for training them. Thanks to Larry Decker for helping.
 - Choir does exceptional work. They are very faithful. We are looking for new members to join.
 - Stewardship-There were many ways in which the deficit was reduced during the year. Increased donations and pledges as well as cost saving efforts helped reduce the amount of funds needed from investments to balance the budget.
 - Fundraising- Thanks to everyone! It is a family affair. Witches' tea will be moved to October 25th if available and the date of the Quarter Auction will change. Please look for the new date when announced.

- Treasurer’s report-
 - Key points from the 2024 budget-
 - Investment Account has no capital projects during the year but there was a change to the management fees. With the loss of Robert Merrill in 2022, during 2024, we changed from a self-managed account to a managed account. This increased our fees slightly but require Merrill Lynch to review our account activity and discussion possible changes to improve our earnings.
 - A parishioner donated \$10,000 towards the outstanding deficit for 2024.
 - The church received money from Father Chuck’s Estate.
 - We were able to carry over some funds from 2023 to 2024.
 - Key points from the 2025 budget-
 - Reviewed the Narrative budget as presented in the annual report.
 - A big thank you to the fundraising committee. They exceeded the estimated budgeted amount for 2024.
 - The giving challenge for 2025 is to donate an additional \$2 per week to help reduce the deficit.
- Reviewed statistics for 2024 as presented in the annual report.
- Reviewed the Blueprint for the Episcopal church on the back page of the report. We are growing in numbers; we do have new people coming in.
- New Business- None
- A motion was made by Temple Carter and seconded by Ray DePhillis to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Growth and Vitality Workshop w/Bishop Brown- May 10, 2025

Bishop Brown created the workshop to help parishes take a look at the “big picture”. This is his 19th workshop.

1. He asked those who were present, what is vitality?
 - Some of the answers included people, young people, active, energy, interest, caring, happy and feeding and being fed.
2. What does it NOT mean?
 - Big, large youth group and Sunday school, full time priest, large staff.
 - Many people think Big = Healthy.
 - SMALL can make a difference.

A VITAL CONGREGATION is a community of faith that invites people to become passionate followers of Jesus. It creates an opportunity for change.

Take some time and think about this saying:

God loves you as you are AND too much to let you stay that way.

3. Why are people not coming to church?
 - Busy, activities, varying priorities
4. There has been a cultural change occurring since the 1960's.
 - Some people pointed out that people don't get involved in "any" activity group. Many volunteer organizations are struggling as well.
 - As a nation, we opt in and out of things frequently and easily.

We need to work on our "INVITATION". People are not going to just walk in.

Look at what other churches/denominations are doing well: Liturgy, Music, Feeling.

Episcopal churches that are growing are Middletown, Rehoboth Beach, what are they doing?

We need to meet the NEEDS OF THE TIME.

Some brought up the attraction/entertainment factor of MEGA churches, Bishop Brown suggested this viewpoint:

- There are about 8,000 Episcopalians in Delaware. We are part of a mega church, and we attend the Smyrna branch.

Someone brought up the use of electronic opportunities such as Facebook.

- Keep doing and do it as well as you can.

5. Service Times: Look at what is needed.
 - One, two or more services. Different times, different days.
 - If you hit 80 to 85% capacity it is time to add another service.
 - Would we get additional people if we added an evening service during the week?

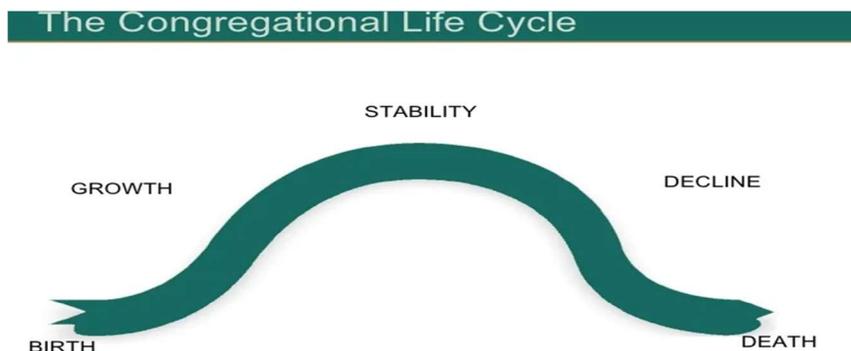


Photo used for imagery only

6. Stability only happens in FAIRY TALES.
 - If you are stable and stay there then you decline.
 - We need to stay on the growth side of the life cycle curve.
7. **To stay on the growth side of the life cycle**, we must do one of the following:
 - **Redefine our ministry**-Change what we are doing.
 - i. Why are we doing things?
 - ii. Are we getting the results we want?
 - iii. Are we meeting our mission?
 - iv. Ask these questions for Service times, events, days of worship.

- If you can't redefine—**then redevelop**- Not just change what we are doing but form a new and different direction.
 - i. This is usually done with support from an outside group or facilitator.
- If you can't Redefine or Redevelop **then Rebirth** into something new.
 - i. An example is to go from a church to a community center.

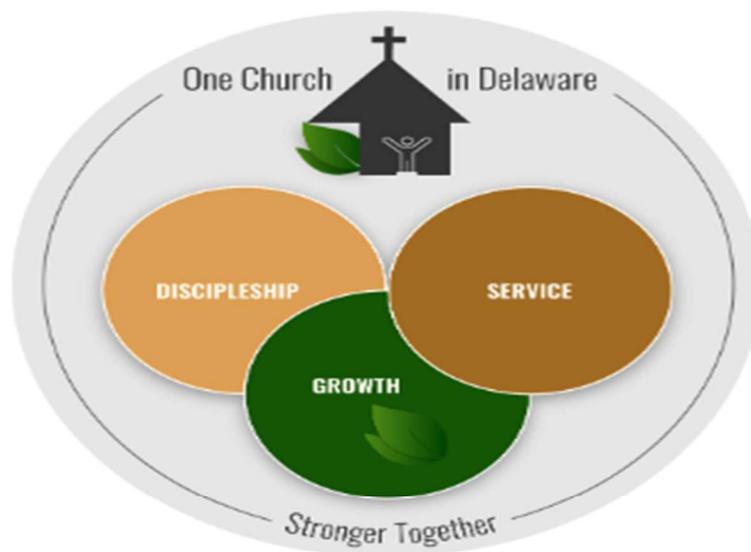
There will be plenty of new ideas--- Remember you can't do them all and do them well. Set goals.

When setting goals, for example you can't just say you want youth.

- Need to focus on attracting age, group
- Must take space to invest in something.
- Get away from the idea of being measured by the number or size of PROGRAMS.
- If you want to attract youth you have to change what you are doing in church.

MISSION PRIORITIES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN DELAWARE

Renew ECD: A Blueprint for 2023 – 2027



DISCIPLESHIP

Deepening our relationship with and commitment to Jesus

- Lifelong connections to Christ and the Church
- Support for lay leadership
- Pathways to deeper faith



SERVICE

Supporting our witness to the world and our care for each other

- Racial Justice and Reconciliation
- Healing and outreach
- Volunteer recruitment, support, encouragement
- Community and faith partnership



GROWTH

Bringing others into a relationship with Jesus

- Joyful invitation and robust welcome
- Sharing our personal stories of faith
- Crafting attractive spaces and compelling worship

Five-year Mission: harnessing our energies toward a future of growth



8. Reviewed the Blueprint for the Episcopal Church in Delaware for 2023-2027

- Service—Growth---- Discipleship
 - i. Should be in balance but are not.
- Reach out to the main office—Growth group
 - Will help with implementing Invite—Welcome—Connect

Remember the following:

- Things take time to build.
- Bishop reminded us- You can't do it all or jump from project to project.
 - Will fail and create burn out.
- Think outside the box—don't look back at what we have done--- DO NEW THINGS.

9. Next Steps:

- Episcopalians share the responsibility of selecting a new priest.
- Update the website.
- Create a survey- what are we looking for in terms of growth, youth, worship opportunities, outreach.
- The posting will be placed in a central location for the diocese and be shared nationwide.
- Search committee will interview and select candidates.
- Bishop will also review selection; complete background check and speak with the candidate they are selected.
- Review what can be offered for salary.
 - i. Salary includes 3 parts
 1. Salary (Base salary + Housing allowance) ex: 80,000
 2. Insurance (Health+Employer taxes+Pension+other expenses) Ex: 20,000
 3. Continuing Education (Training) Ex: 5,000
 4. Total estimated base starting salary for a church our size: 105,000

Sermon Follow-up on Sunday, May 11, 2025

*(breathe ...from the heart ...in the moment ...in love)
Peter's)*

4th Easter - C 11 May 25 (St.

Notes of Sermon by Father Henry Galganowicz

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*The Times are a 'Changin*

- Many of you are old enough to remember Bob Dylan's song, 'The times, they are a'changin'
  - as a congregation, you're living in those times right now
  - Mother DJ has left after a substantial tenure, and yesterday

- some of you attended the Growth & Vitality workshop, formally jumpstarting your next steps of the process
- that set of questions and considerations is mostly task and goal oriented
- I'm going to ask you a different set of questions this morning.....hopefully more self-reflective
  - less about task ..... more subjective... about yourselves
  - they are important questions....questions you may already be asking yourselves .... if so, I'll just be doing so out loud, so everybody hears them
- I'm just going to give you a period of quiet reflection after each question....but, I invite you to share your responses later....
- I'll listen if you want to tell me....but most importantly, you need to share them with each other, formally and informally
- I can tell you that clergy will ask you some of these questions down the line. You're not just interviewing us, we're interviewing you

{ take a breath..... relax.....}

1. Ask yourself:
  - Why am I here?
  - How did I get here?
  - What keeps me coming to this place, w/ this group of people?
  - You could go to other churches, so why here?
  - What would you tell someone who asked you why you come here?
2. Make it plural....Why are *we* here? as a community
  - I don't mean some formal religious answer....why do you think this set of people wants to be in community with each other?
3. How long have I been at St. Peter's?
  - a. What has changed in that time?
  - b. Have I changed in that time? How?
4. What do we need for our nurture and spiritual growth?
  - a. Have we grown in/ deepened our faith and spiritual practice?
  - b. What do I expect from worship? What do I bring to it?
  - c. It's not a private ritual between me & God.... nor a time for special cliques
  - d. Can I sit w/ myself in silence? can we?....waiting, listening, for the still small voice from within?
5. Do you want to keep doing what you have always done?
  - a. Why?
  - b. Anything you'd like to do differently?
  - c. Are you open to what the Holy Spirit may lead you to?
6. Your parish self-description says St. Peter's is a loving community

- a. How are you loving neighbors?
  - b. Personally, and communally, how are you being Light for others?
7. Is there anything you're worried or concerned about?
- a. What would happen to you if that concern came to pass?
  - b. What could you live without?
  - c. Have you told anyone else what you think, how you feel?
    - i. Telling each other is a form of love
    - ii. When you share with each other, non-judgmentally, you are loving God, neighbor, and yourself
    - iii. They're not separate loves, they're interconnected
- *I encourage you to love one another.....*

### **St. Peter's Congregation Meeting – August 3, 2025- following 9am service**

The meeting was called to order with about 40 people in attendance.

Shirley said she would like to have a congregational meeting every quarter while we are looking for a new rector to make sure people have an opportunity to hear what is happening and express any concerns or ask questions.

Over the last couple weeks, we have asked people to use their time and talent and volunteer to be on one of the following committees: Stewardship, Evangelism, Communication

These committees will help us prepare for the new priest. We need to establish a communication committee to ensure information is distributed clearly and consistently, the Evangelism committee needs to create a program to get our church recognized and invite people to join us, and the stewardship committee needs to implement a funding campaign for Time, Talent and Treasure to support the church building, programs and rector.

We thank the following people who have volunteered to join one of these committees so far.

Stewardship: Mike Richards, Patty Murray, Jeff Smith, Doug Miller and Shirley Biddle

Evangelism: Patty Murray, Mike Richards and Tom Schultz

Communication: Linda Lingner, Lisa Embert, Ray DePhillis and Betty Decker

We thank all those who have signed up to be selected for the search committee. The vestry will review the list of volunteers and select 4 people for the committee to work with a vestry liaison.

#### ***General concerns of the congregation:***

***Service time:*** We have changed to one Sunday service at 9am for the summer to make it easier to find supply clergy to cover the services during this time and allow everyone meet as one parish to get to know each other better. Do we want to continue with the one service into the fall?

- A motion was made by Judy Sbarra and seconded by Temple Carter to keep the Sunday service at 9 am until a new rector is found. Motion passed with 24 voting for 9am and 8 voting to return to the 2 service times.

***What can we afford for a rector?*** Currently, the best option is a single priest at \$120,000 for the total package. The total package includes salary, housing, benefits and pension. It would be about \$20-\$30,000 more for benefits if the priest selected is married and has a family.

We do currently pull from our investment account to meet budgetary expenses. We should be fine this year with expenses without the cost of a full-time rector.

Many in the congregation expressed they want to keep options open, they do not want to see the pool of people limited due to budgetary constraints.

If there is no priest on Sunday, can someone bless the wine prior to the Sunday service and someone distribute on Sunday? Yes, but person must be trained and licensed. Currently, Terri Anderson is the one member in the congregation with this training. Janet Daniels, a new member of the parish and a retired Deacon, has offered her assistance during this time and is waiting for approval from the bishop.

***What we need to do now to prepare for the new rector:***

- Prepare to answer a survey
- Think about who we are as a church?
- Why I come to St. Peter's to worship?
- What areas are we good at? Initial Greeting, Fellowship
- Where do we need improvement? Online presentation, Improve sound system

Many expressed they wanted a priest to share in their spiritual journey, and they would like to improve on home visits and phone calls. Some expressed how they had experienced little or no contact while in the hospital or home bound.

***Evangelism Ideas:***

- Invite people to attend services during large events such as teas or pancake supper
- Offer free meals
- Identify new people during the service- ask them if they would like to be recognized.
- Have a Thank you dinner for all those who volunteer to support the various programs during the year.
- Link a discount to the preschool program if you're a member of the church.
- Follow up after the first visit. If a guest signs the visitor log, we do send a letter to them.
- Some new members commented on the warm and welcoming experience they had on their first visit they made them want to return.

Next meeting will be scheduled for early November.

## **St. Peter's Congregation Meeting – November 2, 2025- following 9am service**

The meeting was called to order with about 40 people in attendance.

### ***Pastoral Counselor:***

Shirley introduced Dr. Alexander Cullison. Dr. Cullison and his family have recently moved to Smyrna and have begun to attend St. Peter's. Dr. Cullison expressed that since coming to St' Peter's he has realized our love of volunteerism.

Dr. Cullison shared his calling has been to help young autistic adults and now pastoral counseling. He has completed training to become a pastoral counselor and wanted to offer his service/training to anyone who may need additional support. He provided a handout to those in attendance of what a pastoral counselor is and what they do help people. He explained how it takes a holistic approach by using counseling techniques with a faith-based framework to help people work through their issues. He expressed this does not take the place of psychological counselling and pastoral counselors are trained to identify a need for additional counselling. If anyone feels they need this service or knows of anyone, please reach out to Dr. Cullison. All information is confidential between him and the person. No information is shared between him and the church.

### ***Vestry Updates:***

Shirley asked how everyone is doing with the one Sunday service at 9:00 am. Many people replied they were doing "Ok". She also asked about the amount of music in the service, and many replied "Great".

Someone asked about the minutes of the congregational and vestry meetings. The vestry meetings are in a binder in the commons room. The minutes from the congregational meeting in August have been prepared but have not been distributed to everyone. It was asked if we can distribute the congregational minutes to everyone following the meeting and put the vestry and congregational minutes on the new website. Yes, we can do both moving forward.

Building maintenance occurring over the past few months:

- Repaired fence in the back yard.
- Leak in the church—Larry Thornton is working on repairing.
- Steeple floors have been painted, completing this project.
- Lights in the church have been updated and changed.
- Removing the bathroom in the basement. Wayne is working on removing.
- Cleaning the Common's room- Shirley, Larry Decker and Ray have been working on this over the past few weeks.

Building maintenance needed over the next few months or year:

- Roof over entire building (Priority)
- Gutter replacement (need to install commercial size gutters) (Priority)
- Rug in Commons Room and Office Hallway cleaned (will be done 11/7)
- Need new stove in the kitchen. Currently, the gas is turned off to the stove. Parishioner expressed concerns over having a stove operational by the pancake supper. Wayne said we can turn the current stove on if needed to be used for the supper.
- Paint building
- Replace windows in the Commons room.

- Repair parking lot and paint lines.
- Yardwork.

It was discussed about starting a capital campaign to collect funding for one or more of the projects. It was also expressed that if you are unable to donate funding to support the major projects, your time and talent can be used to support some of the smaller projects around the church.

Some of the vestry and church employees met with a representative from the State Police to discuss building security. He will be sending us a report with his findings but did make some suggestions. One is to lock all the doors after the service starts and have anyone arriving after the start of service to use the ramp door. Look for changes to come over the next couple of months.

Preschool has been one of St. Peter’s largest outreach for many years. We want to increase our involvement with them.

**Committees**

- They do the work of the church. They support the priest and vestry.
- How can we get them started again?
- How do we grow the ones we have to make them stronger?
- Committees (partial list)

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Safety and Security | Stewardship |
| Evangelism          | Finance     |
| Pastoral Care       | Cemetery    |
| Communications      |             |

A sign-up sheet for all the committees will be kept in the parish hall. Please sign up for a committee and share your talents to support St. Peter’s.

**Search Committee**

Tom thanked everyone for their support on behalf of the search committee.

He reminded everyone that the survey is open and the deadline to complete it is Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

The search committee is still working during this time reviewing annual reports to create a job description.

He let everyone know we are looking for a priest in charge vs a fulltime rector. Concerns were raised over the title change. Tom explained that the title change is related to contracting not qualifications.

- Full-time Rector is someone who is hired to stay for a long period of time, usually until he/she decides to leave or retire.
- Priest-in Charge is contracted with the church/vestry for a few years with goals to reach. This allows both parties to determine if they are a good fit for each other. It is also a sign of the times. Many people do not stay with an employer for long periods of time as they did in the past.
- Both roles require the same training and qualifications.

The search committee is hoping to have a candidate by springtime to present to the vestry.

Shirley thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 11:15am. Next meeting will be the annual meeting held on January 18, 2026.

## **Rector's Report**

Mother Donna Jean Kiessling's final Sunday service at St Peter's was March 15, 2025. Mother Donna Jean was called to the Church of the Holy Spirit, an Episcopal Church located in Harleysville, PA. We wished her well in true St. Peter's style with a luncheon following the March 15<sup>th</sup> service.

With many prayers along with the hard work of our search committee may this report be completed by a new priest for St. Peter's in 2026 as we continue to grow in Hope, Love and Peace.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Biddle, Senior Warden

## **Senior Warden's Report**

For 2025 my word was "HOPE". As I wrote back then, "HOPE is a way of thinking that involves anticipating a better future and expecting positive outcomes." Little did I know how well HOPE would fit into this past year! We have certainly shared HOPE for the future of St. Peter's and are anticipating and have experienced some very positive outcomes.

We have experienced this through some significant changes in our "normal" routines of worship. These changes, though sometimes tough, have actually brought our congregation closer together and we have realized that we can work together and we have accomplished these positive outcomes.

To reflect on our year, I am going to go through some of our changes as well as those things that are the constants in our lives.

Mother Donna Jean resigned as our priest in March 2025. This very significant act set forth our changes but had the effect of also enhancing some of our constants.

Let us take a look at the year:

- Supply priests came to celebrate our Sunday Eucharist with us. They have been a wonderful addition to our worship and they have given an insight as to what we may look for in our new priest
- In the spring, the Vestry decided to go to one Sunday service at 9AM. This was a major change for both services. Several compromises were made:
  - The 8AM congregation would now have music as part of the service; a compromise was made by decreasing the number of verses that were sung in some hymns. Change accepted.
  - The 9AM service would be RITE II (a norm for the 10:30AM service). This was difficult for some of the 8AM parishioners who enjoyed the language of RITE I. This compromise was made to support our supply priest who were more comfortable in using RITE II. Change accepted.
  - With the combined services, the lay ministers and ushers to share their weekly schedule
  - The change to one service has also allowed members of each congregation to meet, share the coffee hour, with the best outcome of the church is filled each Sunday. What more could we HOPE for?!
- In May, Bishop Kevin presented a Growth & Vitality Workshop to the congregation to help us begin our discernment for a new priest.

- In June, Bishop Kevin made his annual visit to celebrate the Eucharist with us. During the service, Mike Richards was confirmed. This was followed by a meet and greet with the Bishop during congregation coffee hour. The Bishop also met with the Vestry and the first discussion was held regarding how to proceed in searching for a new priest.
- In July, Canon Brad Hinton (our liaison with the Diocese) met with the Vestry to work through a plan for hiring a new priest. Two of decisions that were initial steps in our search are:
  - 1. Do we want a full-time priest? If so, can we afford a full-time priest. The answer to this: we would like to hire a full-time priest and felt that we could afford one.
  - 2. We needed to establish a search committee. Who in our congregation would be the best for this committee? We concluded that we needed a diversified committee made up of younger and older members, newer and long-time members and ones from diversified backgrounds.
- In August and November, we held congregational meetings. These have allowed the Vestry to share information and has allowed members of the congregation to ask questions and/or express concerns.
- In September our search committee was established. The members of the committee are: Dawn Adams (co-chair), Tom Schultz (co-chair), Terri Anderson, Allison Embert, Allison Gallo, Catherine Huidekoper, and Linda Slicher
- In September, Lisa Embert, Ray DePhillis, and myself attended a diocesan communications workshop which focused on bulletins and websites and how to improve them. Lisa has taken on the task of improving our website, has had hours of training and has done a wonderful job! With this training, she is also able to update the site to keep it current. Thank you, Lisa, for all of your work and talent needed for this!
- Also in October, Lisa made the move to change our announcements and calendar updates to a “take home” page. This change has enabled members to be informed of current parish happenings. Along with this, Lisa has also enhanced our on-line announcements to include local happenings. This is a great way of knowing what is going on in our community.
- Again, in Oct, several members of the Vestry & congregation along with the Director of our pre-school met with Detective Christopher Nicholson of the State Police to discuss the safety and security of the church. Detective Nicholson did a walk-thru of the church and made suggestions for making the church more secure. This led to forming a Safety and Security Committee. The members of this committee are: Ray DePhillis (chairperson), Larry Decker (co-chair) Wayne Burris, Diana Cullison, Tina Morris, and Harold Warnett. This committee met in November and developed a policy for safety and security which will soon be shared with the congregation.
- During Advent our organist, Bonnie Forgas introduced two new programs to move us into the holiday spirit.
  - Soup and Song which was held on a Saturday evening and was a joyful time of singing some old-time Christmas songs and hymns. Our night was made more enjoyable by a humorist and guitarist Bert Riley.
  - Lessons and Carols were introduced on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Bonnie selected carols that enhanced the readings for the day. Again, a wonderful prelude to Christmas.
- The Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve will always be in our memories. Bishop Kevin shared the Eucharist with us. Bonnie planned beautiful music for the evening with the introduction of music played by our bell choir, “The Ding Dong Belles” and with the addition of a French Horn, played by our own Cynthia DeBellis and a Violin

played by our guest violinist Morgan Whitcraft. What a wonderful way to close out 2025.

Even with all of these changes our HOPE for 2025 continued with many of the constants in our lives to be thankful for. Though they say the one true constant is change, ours constants may have had small changes, but they were and are our foundation that we build on. Our constants are:

- Our pre-school continues to run seamlessly under the direction of Tina Morris and her assistant Karen Sawyer. The three-year old class has been filled all year; our four-year old class has lost three students, but recruitment is continuing to fill these vacancies. The pre-school was again awarded a grant from the state. This year they received \$18,000 which was used to purchase new equipment to enhance learning, new furniture and gave an allowance for substitutes when needed.
- We continue to live stream our Sunday services on Facebook and are able to reach out to an average of ten folks who are unable to attend in person. Betty and Larry Decker are our Sunday camera crew and Mike Statham is our go-to guy for network problems. My thanks to them and to those who fill-in when needed.
- The Wednesday Healing Prayer service continues. During this time, we pray for those in our lives who are in need and for those on our prayer list express our gifts and gratitude's and share fellowship during a coffee hour.
- For the community at large, we continue to be active members of the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium and continue to be the hosts of their food pantry. Over the past year we have served over 2500 clients. Many thanks go out to Dorris Wheeler for her continued management of the pantry and to all of the volunteers who serve the clients.
- I Love Smyrna School District Day continues to be one of our evangelistic initiatives to inform the community about St. Peter's.
- Jeff Smith continues to be our volunteer bookkeeper. My thanks go out to him for keeping our "books" straight and giving advice regarding investment strategies.
- Thanks go out to Cynthia DeBellis who has shared her talent on the French Horn during several of our services and has substituted for Bonnie on occasion.
- We hired Ana Middleton as our sexton this year. My thanks go out to her for keeping our buildings clean.
- We have had multiple projects going on throughout the year as you will see these in the Junior Warden's report. Thank you to Wayne Burris, our Junior Warden, and all those who have helped him throughout the year.

Thinking of all these constants in our lives are just reminders of how HOPE is always there to lead us on.

As the year closes, I again think of HOPE and our future here at St. Peter's. I have certainly been blessed with a strong Vestry to help through this time of transition, a search committee who has been tirelessly working toward our being able to reach out for a new priest and a congregation who has been supportive of the changes and fills the church every Sunday. What more could I have had HOPE for?!

In closing, I am choosing my word for 2026. It will be GRATITUDE, a gift for the appreciation of the good in life. I start by giving my GRATITUDE for all the HOPE that St. Peter's has experienced in 2025. Let us share our GRATITUDEs for 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Biddle, Senior Warden

## Junior Warden's Report

It has been a great year, and we got a lot done!

The following maintenance was done in 2025:

- In April, new heaters and ac units were installed in all three buildings by Barkley's Heating and Air. They also installed new thermostats for the old boiler in the parish hall and church.
- Over the summer, the doors to the church and parish hall along the main entrance to the church and stairway in the steeple were painted by Snow's Painting. This completed the grant from Crystal Trust.
- In addition to the Heating and AC units, one of the largest projects completed was the replacement of the fence in the backyard. Some parishioners spent a few hot days tearing down the old fence and removing the overgrown ivy to install a new fence. Many Thanks to Larry Thornton, Larry Decker, Jim Sbarra, Harold Warnett, Tom Schultz and Mike Statham and anyone else I may have missed who helped me complete this project. In addition to making the children in the preschool safe, it has opened the space and given them more room to play. They love new area. Also thank you to Shirley Biddle for working with the neighbor to share the cost of the fence.
- In November, a conveyor belt was installed in the outside stairwell leading to the basement. This has made moving items to and from the pantry much easier.
- The main entrance to the church was cleaned up and a tapestry donated by a parishioner was installed on the wall to make the area more welcoming to parishioners and visitors.
- New LED lights were installed in the parish hall.
- Installed additional locks on the doors around the church.
- A new gate lock has been installed on the back gate. The chain has been removed to allow for safer exit in an emergency.
- The choir room was cleaned up, and the robe racks were moved to one wall opening the room up for a small desk and filing cabinets allowing our music minister to have a clean and quiet place to work.
- The nonfunctioning bathroom in the basement has been removed, and the room has been turned into a storage room for the church.
- The Common's Room is also in the process of being cleaned up and transformed to an inviting area to hold meeting for our membership, AA and NA groups. A big thank you to Shirley Biddle, Ray DePhillis and Larry Decker who took this project on.
- A big THANK YOU to Larry Thornton! He has spent many hours and days over the past year working to control the water coming into the church. We continued to have water along the front wall of the church near the pulpit and along the back wall of the church. His dedication and persistence in working to repair the damage, stop the leaks and repaint the walls did not go unnoticed.

Upcoming projects include:

- Working with the Security and Safety Committee to improve safety around the church.
- A Ring doorbell camera will be installed on the ramp door, and a floodlight camera will be installed above the parish hall doors.
- Chime Bells will be installed on the kitchen doors and the Common's Room doors leading to the parish hall to allow for the preschool teachers to hear when people are entering the space.
- A new outlet in the parish administrator's office will be installed to replace an old outlet that does not allow the use of a surge protector
- Installing a new stove and refrigerator in the kitchen.
- Work with the vestry on obtaining funding for a new roof.

I want to thank the following people who continue to give of themselves throughout the year in helping maintain our church and grounds in good shape and attractive:

- Danny Andrew, and Larry Thornton– mowing and caring for part of the property around the buildings along with shoveling the sidewalks when needed
- Thanks to Larry Thornton, Mike Statham and Tom and Christine Schultz who have worked on trimming the bushes around the church.
- Thanks to anyone who made a repair or worked on a project that missed this list. Our buildings belong to all of us at St. Peter’s, and it takes a community to keep them in good shape and looking inviting.

Respectively submitted, Wayne Burris, Jr Warden

## **Outreach Report**

The parishioners of St. Peter's continue to reach out and provide assistance to those in need, may it be the food pantry or other organizations throughout the community. During the past year some of the groups that our congregation so kindly supported were Smyrna Clayton Ministerium’s Food Pantry housed here at St. Peter’s, Backpacks for Education (North Smyrna Elementary), Smyrna Clayton Ministerium Emergency Fund and Thanksgiving Dinner, DHCI (Delaware Home for the Chronically Ill), First State Animal Shelter (ASPCA) and our newest outreach organization, Warriors Helping Warriors (The Brian Conley Veterans Resiliency Center located in Middletown Delaware).

In 2025, St. Peter's graciously donated over \$3,589.00 in goods (this does not include foods that have been donated by parishioners to the food pantry). Funds collected for the outreach projects are reflected in the financial reports. Thank you all for the tremendous support that you continue to provide during these tumultuous times.

A calendar for 2026 Outreach programs has been hung at several locations in the church and each month’s activities will also appear in the church bulletin and in the eWeekly Newsletter. Once again, thank you for your continued support and may God Bless you.

## **2026 Outreach Opportunities**

| <b><u>Month</u></b> | <b><u>Organization</u></b>                       |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| February            | Emergency Fund of Smyrna Clayton Ministerium     |
| March               | Food Pantry (St. Peter's)                        |
| April               | First State Animal Shelter and SPCA              |
| June                | Warriors Helping Warriors (Middletown)           |
| August              | Backpacks for Education                          |
| October             | Smyrna Clayton Ministerium (Thanksgiving Dinner) |
| November            | DHCI Christmas for Residents                     |

Food items for food pantry are accepted all year.

Monetary Donations: Checks payable to St. Peter’s Church with the organization in the memo field.

Harold C. Warnett  
Harvest Outreach Coordinator

# Food Pantry of the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium Report

Housed at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Pantry has continued to be very busy this past year, growing to an average of 213 visits per month. This year May had the highest number of visits with 249 visits. Overall, the annual number of visits increased by 399.

We have sixteen scheduled volunteers and three substitutes to help our guests in the Pantry, do the necessary shopping for meats and pantry items, sort, and stack donations, and pick up the USDA food when it is available.

This year, thanks to funding received from the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium and the Barnabus Grant received from the diocese, we were able to install a conveyor belt in the outside stairwell leading down to the basement. This helped greatly in taking the food to and from the pantry. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

We are extremely thankful for the many donations from the community as a whole; these include churches, schools and businesses that contribute all year or for the holiday seasons. We appreciate everyone's support that helps us provide food to those in the community that are food insecure, whatever their situations may be.

## Food Pantry Distribution – 2025

| Month     | Full Order<br>USDA, Pantry, &/or WaWa | WaWa Only | Total Served |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| January   | 172                                   | 5         | 177          |
| February  | 166                                   | 3         | 169          |
| March     | 207                                   | 2         | 209          |
| April     | 198                                   | 1         | 199          |
| May       | 248                                   | 1         | 249          |
| June      | 218                                   | 0         | 218          |
| July      | 210                                   | 0         | 210          |
| August    | 226                                   | 0         | 226          |
| September | 229                                   | 3         | 232          |
| October   | 240                                   | 1         | 241          |
| November  | 218                                   | 2         | 220          |
| December  | 209                                   | 0         | 209          |

Visits in the year of 2025: 2,559

Respectfully Submitted, Dorris Wheeler, Co-Coordinator, Food Pantry, St. Peter's Church

## St. Peter's Preschool Report

### January-May 2025

As the new year rolls in we continue one of our favorite things-celebrating. Nothing excites our children more than a good reason to party. We have parents celebrate with us at Superhero Dad Day and Mom and Me Tea. We continue with our classroom parties with New Years, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, 100 Days of School, Easter celebration and of course Birthdays.

When it comes time to celebrating the end of the year, both classes have their class picnics here at St. Peter's. The children enjoy a bouncy house and games in the yard with family. The festivities continue with Graduation. Family and friends fill the church, we sing all our favorite songs followed by gifts from the teachers and certificates for the children. Not to be forgotten, the preschool classes hold a Sing Along for their family and friends followed by gifts from the teachers and certificates.

Each year, the preschool holds a fundraiser. Pre-k class raffled off a Lego basket, the Preschool class raffled off a game night basket. Our goal is to help supply the preschool with items needed.

St. Peter's Preschool applied for a grant from the State of Delaware. We received \$18,000. All the grant needed to be spent by June. This grant can only be used to benefit the program, the children, and the staff. We were able to reimburse the preschool for the play set, a scholarship, and purchased supplies, sandbox, sand, outside kitchen set, water table, along with lots of classroom manipulatives. We also set up a substitute fund. St. Peter's Preschool will be applying again in January.

### **2025 – 2026 School Year**

Tina Morris returned to her 15th year with St. Peter's and her eighth year as director/Pre-K teacher. Karen Sawyer returned to her ninth year as the preschool teacher.

The school year started off with classroom set-up, parent orientation, and meet your teacher. Once again both the Pre-k program and the Preschool program has full enrollment. We continue to use the Creative Curriculum. The teachers supplement the program with their creative skills. We have also added Teaching Strategies to help with assessments. The program continues to offer Lunch Bunch on Wednesdays and Thursdays, extending our children's day until 2pm.

We start the year off strong inviting Grandparents in for Grandparents Day. The preschool visited Fifer's Orchards and Delaware State Fire School. We hosted a Trunk or Treat, celebrated Thanksgiving with Charlie Brown, Polar Express PJ Day for Christmas and finished our year with our Pre-k classes retelling The Christmas Story program, complete with costumes and songs.

St. Peter's Preschool is excited to be participating with the Smyrna School Districts Early Education Program. We have two interns, these students come in and assist with the program and enrich the children's day.

The Preschool is participating in The Ages and Stages program sponsored by The Board of Education. This program helps parents monitor their child's development. Along with this program the Preschool has a new partner this year, the Smyrna School Districts Special Education Program. This program assists students with speech, behavior, and academic assistance.

We continue to be blessed to have the use of the Parish Hall for our school. Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Sawyer are very grateful for your continued support.

Respectfully, Tina Morris, Director

St Peter's Episcopal Church  
**Income and Expense Statement**  
 PRESCHOOL FUND 04, August 2024 - July 2025

|                                                  |      | Current Period    | Current Budget    |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                    | 4000 |                   |                   |
| PRESCHOOL OUTREACH                               | 4400 |                   |                   |
| PS Tuition                                       | 4401 | \$42,344.25       | \$42,390.00       |
| PS Registration                                  | 4402 | 1,200.00          | 1,200.00          |
| PS Lunch Bunch                                   | 4403 | 2,700.00          | 3,600.00          |
| PS Fundraising Tnsfr                             | 4404 | 2,096.50          | 0.00              |
| PS Donations                                     | 4405 | 10.67             | 0.00              |
| PS Fieldtrips                                    | 4406 | 430.00            | 500.00            |
| Quality Imprv Award                              | 4410 | 20,449.19         | 2,449.00          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                              |      | <b>69,230.61</b>  | <b>50,139.00</b>  |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                  | 5000 |                   |                   |
| FIXED EXPENSES                                   | 5010 |                   |                   |
| <b>SALARIES</b>                                  | 5025 |                   |                   |
| PS Salaries                                      | 5068 | \$30,471.56       | \$29,783.00       |
| PS Bonuses YE                                    | 5069 | 5,000.00          | 0.00              |
| PS Bonus Full                                    | 5070 | 1,450.00          | 1,500.00          |
| PS Room Setup                                    | 5071 | 800.00            | 950.00            |
| PS Substitute                                    | 5072 | 200.00            | 0.00              |
| PS Lunch Bunch                                   | 5073 | 1,083.50          | 1,537.00          |
| <b>Subtotal Salaries</b>                         | 5025 | <b>39,005.06</b>  | <b>33,770.00</b>  |
| <b>EMPLOYER P/R TAXES</b>                        | 5130 |                   |                   |
| ER Payroll Taxes                                 | 5135 | 2,957.23          | 2,540.00          |
| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>                            | 5300 |                   |                   |
| Service Charge                                   | 5345 | 20.00             | 0.00              |
| Property/Liability Insur                         | 5480 | 1,562.04          | 1,566.00          |
| Payroll Processing                               | 5505 | 195.35            | 187.00            |
| <b>Subtotal Administrative</b>                   | 5300 | <b>4,734.62</b>   | <b>4,293.00</b>   |
| <b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>                    | 5600 |                   |                   |
| PS Cleaning                                      | 5603 | 0.00              | 90.00             |
| <b>UTILITIES</b>                                 | 5605 |                   |                   |
| PS Fuel, Town Util                               | 5621 | 3,150.00          | 3,150.00          |
| PS Phone                                         | 5622 | 120.83            | 135.00            |
| <b>SECURITY/SAFETY</b>                           | 5625 |                   |                   |
| PS Inspections & Permits                         | 5632 | 5.00              | 100.00            |
| <b>Subtotal Building &amp; Grounds/Utilities</b> | 5600 | <b>3,275.83</b>   | <b>3,475.00</b>   |
| <b>Subtotal Fixed Expenses</b>                   | 5010 | <b>47,015.51</b>  | <b>41,538.00</b>  |
| <b>MINISTRY</b>                                  | 6000 |                   |                   |
| PS FORMATION                                     | 6300 |                   |                   |
| Curriculum & Supplies                            | 6301 | 8,328.14          | 0.00              |
| PS Field Trips                                   | 6302 | 510.00            | 500.00            |
| Quality Imprvmt Exp                              | 6303 | 3,847.15          | 2,449.00          |
| <b>Subtotal Ministry</b>                         | 6000 | <b>12,685.29</b>  | <b>2,949.00</b>   |
| <b>MISSION</b>                                   | 7000 |                   |                   |
| PRESCHOOL                                        | 7070 |                   |                   |
| PS Donation to St Peter's                        | 7071 | 2,000.00          | 2,000.00          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                            |      | <b>61,700.80</b>  | <b>46,487.00</b>  |
| <b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>                    |      | <b>\$7,529.81</b> | <b>\$3,652.00</b> |

## Faith Formation Report

A book study was held during Epiphany to read and discuss the book “*We Survived the End of World*” by Steven Charleston. This book was suggested by the dioceses to read during the Epiphany season.

While Mo. Donna Jean transitioned to her new role earlier this year, we have had the support and encouragement of many supply priests, Fr Kim Capwell, Fr Bruce Lomas and Fr. Henry Galganowicz just to name a few.

By November, we gained some footing and planned a Soup & Song to start the Advent season. We opened it to the public and invited everyone to a guitar sing-along along with Bert Riley followed by a light meal of soup, bread and cheese. Those in attendance had a great time and are looking forward to doing the event next year.

We also held a Lessons and Carols service on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The story of Jesus was read by many parishioners and the music throughout was supported by our music minister, choir and our very own French horn player, Cynthia DeBellis.

To round off the year, the celebrant for our Christmas Eve service was none other than our Bishop, Kevin Brown. The music minister prepared a beautiful music prelude with our own Ding Dong Belles, choir, french horn and violinist.

We look forward to expanding our faith in these ways and many more in 2026 with the continued support of our supply priests, diocesan office, and, prayerfully, the arrival of our new priest.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Embert, Parish Administrator

## Prayer Chain Ministry Report

St. Peter’s prayer chain is a group of committed people who pray for the needs of our church family and those of the community. A prayer request can be made by calling Terry Merrill at 302-653-6809 or, if unavailable, anyone in the group.

Listed below is pertinent information regarding the name and telephone number of each person serving on our prayer chain. Prayer requests are taken until 10:00 p.m. each night. If it is too late to start the prayer chain that evening, it will start immediately the next morning. In addition, you will find the time that several have listed as the time they retire for the night.

|                        |              |           |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Terry Merrill          | 302-653-6809 |           |
| Wendy Lampe            | 302-653-5522 | 9:00 p.m. |
| WillElla Jackson       | 302-653-4208 |           |
| Mary Louise McNaughton | 302-653-7368 |           |
| Sandy Margist          | 302-562-7424 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Paula Buckley          | 302-653-8096 |           |
| Doug Miller            | 302-538-6337 | 9:00 p.m. |

It is comforting knowing that there is such a dedicated, compassionate group keeping our need(s) in heartfelt prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Terry Merrill

## **Hospitality Committee Report**

St. Peter's Hospitality Committee is a small group of ladies who work to bring Birthday greetings, Anniversary blessings, a special note of love and caring, perhaps during a time of loss, illness or just a rough patch, which we all experience at one time or another. We also like to acknowledge holidays and regular monthly greetings to our shut-ins. Many times, we follow up with a phone call to stay in touch.

Our dedicated committee consists of Paula Buckley, Terry Merrill and Linda Lingner.

We sent approximately 700+ cards, at no expense to the church. Cards and stamps are purchased by our committee and by donations welcomed by you, our church family. If you would like to donate stamps or cards, please contact Terry Merrill at 302-653-6809.

If you have not had the pleasure of receiving a card/note from us, please know it is not intentional, we just don't have you on our list! Please call the church office and provide us with your special dates (i.e. birthday, anniversary) and your current mailing address.

Respectfully submitted by Terry Merrill and Paula Buckley

## **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is a Lay Ministry that serves under the direction of our Priest in setting up weekly worship services and special services held for baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc. In the past few months, we have had supply priests since the Priest position is vacant, each priest has been a blessing to work with. Currently, we are a group of women and men who give our time and talent to make St. Peter's Church a welcoming place to worship.

As always, I thank everyone that helped in beautifying the church for Easter and Christmas and helping to put everything away as well. The members of the Altar Guild and our volunteers do this work for the love of God and for the love of our St. Peter's family.

I am very grateful to the members of the congregation that have stepped up to help the Altar Guild members each month. Thank you to Stan McIntyre, Harold Warnett, Paul Buckley, Patty Murray and Larry Decker for your continued help. If I missed anyone, please know it is not intentional; I am very thankful to each person that gives of their time. Your help makes our work easier.

Members serving with me in 2025:

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Lisa Embert    | David Womelsdorf |
| Dawn Arnold    | Shirley Biddle   |
| Paula Buckley  | Betty Decker     |
| Pat Womelsdorf | Kathy Eichler    |

This Lay Ministry requires no special skills, a few hours of time and a desire to participate in the beauty of the church and worship service. Training will be provided if you are willing to serve as an Altar Guild member. If you are interested in the work of the Altar Guild, please contact me at 302-659-1466 or by contacting the church office.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Sanders

## **Music Ministry Report**

Music at St. Peter's has had an outstanding year.

With the welcome addition of Shirley Biddle, our choir has nine dedicated, faithful, and talented members.

We, also, have our bell choir, the Ding Dong Belles. If a gentleman wishes to join us, he will be a Ding Dong Beau.

The choir and bell choir welcome new members at any time. No experience necessary!

We have been blessed with the talented Cynthia DeBellis playing French Horn. Cynthia is so generous with her talent and time.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we celebrated a service of Lessons and Carols, and I hope this will become an annual tradition.

On Christmas Eve, we were joined by violinist, Morgan Whitcraft. We had a glorious service enhanced by organ, bells, choir, French Horn, and violin.

Thanks to Shirley, Wayne and Lisa, our choir room has been transformed! It is now a lovely space of light and tranquility.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our musical year.

I can't wait to see, and hear, what we will do in 2026. Thank you all for letting me create music for you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Forgacs

## **Ushers Report**

At the present time, I am down to six ushers on the call list. This does not include myself as I tend to leave myself off the schedule and fill in when an usher calls out. This also does not include my mother, who fills in as needed as well. We could use help. If anyone is interested in becoming an usher, they can call me at 302-653-6809 and I will gladly go over with them what is required of our ushers each week. I would like to thank the ushers for their service in 2025 and we look forward to a productive 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Merrill

## **Search & Discernment Report**

Following the resignation of the Reverend Donna Jean Kiessling in the spring of 2025, the Vestry of St. Peter's invited parishioners to volunteer for the Search and Discernment Committee to assist in the process of discerning and calling a new priest/rector to lead the parish.

From the list of volunteers, the Vestry appointed Dawn Adams as Vestry Liaison and selected Terri Anderson, Allison Embert, Allison Gallo, Catherine Huidekoper, Tom Schultz, and Linda Slicher to serve on the committee.

The Search Committee met in person for the first time on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, with the diocesan consultant, the Rev. Sherry Goodill, PhD, under the direction of Canon Brad Hinton. At that meeting, the committee elected Dawn Adams and Tom Schultz as co-chairpersons and established foundational procedures for its work. Thereafter, the committee met regularly, primarily on a weekly basis, via Zoom.

The committee's first major task was the development of a congregational survey designed to gather input from parish members. The survey sought valuable insights into the life of the parish, including congregational demographics, shared experiences, and hopes for the future. It consisted of three sections: *About You*, *About Our Church*, and *About Our Future New Priest*, which invited reflection on the qualities and leadership sought in the parish's next spiritual leader.

A web link to the survey was distributed by email on October 19, 2025, with printed copies mailed or made available to parishioners as needed. Completed surveys were due by November 4, 2025.

Following the close of the survey period, the committee compiled and reviewed a 56-page summary of the 60 responses. This information formed the basis for developing a position description for the priest-in-charge and for drafting responses to the twelve required questions for the Office of Transitional Ministry (OTM). Multiple drafts of the OTM responses were prepared, discussed, revised, and finalized by the committee. The approved version was submitted to Canon Hinton on December 12, 2025. Canon Hinton then met with Dr. Goodill and provided feedback and guidance on the materials.

Final revisions were scheduled for discussion with the co-chairpersons and consultant on January 2, 2026, after which the materials would be presented to the full committee for approval. Upon approval, the completed profile will be submitted to Canon Hinton for posting on clergy employment platforms, including the OTM website.

Once posted, the position will remain open for sixty days. At the conclusion of that period, the committee will begin reviewing applications, responses, and résumés, and will proceed with the interview and discernment process.

The Search & Discernment Committee extends its sincere thanks to the congregation for its continued support, encouragement, and prayers throughout this process.

Respectfully submitted, Co-Chairs, Dawn Adams and Tom Schultz

## **Worship Report**

In 2025, St. Peter's provided a total of 78 Sunday Eucharist Services. In this report, I have divided them between the first three months of the year when Mother DJ was still with us and the last 9 months when we were blessed with wonderful supply priests and with one Morning Prayer Service celebrated by our own Terri Anderson.

During the first three months with Mother DJ, there were 19 Sunday Eucharist Services, 4 private Eucharistic visits to home bound and those who were hospitalized; 10 weekday Daily Office services; 4 burial services; and 6 other offices and private services. Our average in-person Sunday attendance during this time was 38, with an average on-line attendance of 6.

During the last nine months of the year there were 59 Sunday Eucharist Services with an average of 41 in-person attendance and with an average of 8 on-line attendance. Special thanks go out to all of our parishioners who continue to fill the church every Sunday.

Terri Anderson, one of our Eucharistic Lay Ministers, provided 4 visits to homebound and hospitalized parishioners. Fr. Tober, Christ Church, Dover, and Fr. Kim, one of our supply priests, also visited some of our homebound and hospitalized parishioners and were able to provide funeral services for three of our members, Millie and Jerry Spencer and Ernie DeCarolis. Our thanks go out to them for their help during this time of transition.

We continue to have our Wednesday Morning and Healing Prayer Service. During this time, we give thanks for our gifts and gratitude's, we pray for those who are in need, continue to pray for those on our prayer list, and share fellowship during a coffee hour. This service has an average attendance of eight and we would love to share this with others! Come and join us at 10AM on Wednesdays.

Our services are always blessed by the help of our Lay Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: Dawn Arnold, Terri Anderson, Shirley Biddle, Paul Buckley, Wayne Burris, Lee Clampffer, Allison Embert, Bonnie Forgas, Steven DeBellis, Allison Gallo, Stan McIntyre, Doug Miller, Patty Murray, Tom Schultz, Larry Thornton, Harold Warnett, and Pat Womelsdorf. Blessings and thanks also go out to our team of ushers and church bell ringers, managed by Chris Merrill, who help our services run smoothly.

The choir, under the direction of our organist, Bonnie Forgas, provides for wonderful vocals during our services. I give my thanks to Bonnie for her direction and selection of music for our services and to the members of the choir: Dawn Arnold, Patricia Athery-Liddie, Yvonne Belle, Shirley Biddle, Tom Campbell, Chalnecia Davies, Ray DePhillis, and Lisa Embert, Wendy Lampe and Melanie "Muff" Meyers. I also give recognition and thanks to our bell choir that was formed this year by Bonnie. The members of the bell choir are Terri Anderson, Yvonne Belle, Shirley Biddle, Carol Binns, Betty Decker, and Linda Slicher. My applause to all!!

Our altar flowers are given by members of our congregation in memory or celebration of someone special. The arrangements provided by *Floral Events by Sheri* are low cost and are always beautiful and seasonal.

In closing, I must, once more acknowledge our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service when Bishop Kevin shared the Eucharist with a congregation of ninety-nine people and spoke to living the Joy of life with our God.

Once again, thank you, the congregation of St. Peter's, who continue to enrich our worship with your presence.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Biddle, Senior Warden



# Stewardship Report

**Time and Talent** are those actions that people give of themselves to St. Peter's.

These actions are seen in:

- Fundraisers
- Building and Grounds Upkeep
- Cemetery Upkeep
- Greeters and Ushers
- Altar Guild
- Lay Readers and Eucharist Ministers
- Pastoral Care
- Music Ministry
- Prayer Chain Ministry
- Hospitality Ministry
- Outreach
- Evangelism
- Coffee Hour set-up and clean-up

To this we can add the addition of two new committees, the Search and Discernment Committee and the Safety and Security Committee that started this fall.

We also send out appreciation to our Diocesan Convention delegates: Shirley Biddle, Wayne Morris, and our alternate Ray DePhillis. The convention was held in November at the University of Delaware.

Wow! What a list for 2025! You can read about each of these ministries in this report. As you read, be thankful for all of those who have helped with their time and talent throughout the year.

I send out my sincere thank you for the commitment and love shown in these activities. They are true gifts to St. Peter's and to God.

**Treasure** is what you are financially able to pledge to the church. Whether it is an annual pledged amount or a weekly plate gift, all giving is important in helping to maintain St. Peter's budget. In the stewardship campaign for 2025 we received **49 Estimated Giving Cards** with an estimated giving amount of **\$139,972** toward our 2025 mission and ministry.

We received a total of **\$116,300** given in pledges. This committed giving source is the basis for most of our funding. The plate offerings are also a great funding source and added another **\$21,400** to our income.

We also want to acknowledge those who gave specifically toward the budget deficit reduction as a way of helping any deficit we may incur. This contributed another **\$100** to our income.

We were again abundantly blessed by the receipt of the remainder of Fr. Chuck Baker's estate that he bequeathed to St. Peter's. This **\$48,100** enabled us to pay for our new heating/air conditioning systems in all three buildings (\$42,085/this was the final price after we received \$17,300 in rebates from Energize Delaware). The remainder of the funds went into our investment accounts.

Many parishioners also participated in our fundraising events. These events helped to bring in an additional **\$17,700** for the budget. There were also donations of items, baskets, and gifts toward these events, all given by parishioners, friends and family. These helped to reduce any expenses that may have been experienced by the fundraiser events. To everyone, we give THANKS!!

Changes in our budget also occurred in 2025. With Mother DJ leaving, we no longer had the expense of her salary. Our supply priests were reimbursed for their services but the costs are nominal compared to a priest's salary.

With Mother DJ leaving, with the unfortunate loss of some of our members, and with the economy taking a toll on finances, there were changes in the amounts received from our giving sources as compared to pledged amounts.

However, the good news is for 2025 we do not have a deficit, do not need to withdraw from our investments and have been able to invest some of our income into our investment accounts!

**Stewardship** is the base of functioning that holds our parish together financially. Whether it is time, talent, or treasure, let us walk faithfully into the future knowing that God is for us and with us with each step we take.

Let us give our thanks to God!

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Biddle, Senior Warden



# Fundraising Report

- **Committee Members:**

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Shirley Biddle – Chairperson | Dawn Adams – Vestry Liaison  |
| Paula Buckley                | Becky Correll                |
| Charlotte Costello           | Betty & Larry Decker         |
| Grace DiCuirci               | Danny, Monica, & Ally Holmes |
| Patty Murray                 | Melody Richards              |
| Mary Sanders                 | Linda Slicher                |
| Harold Warnett               | Dorris Wheeler               |

- ***Fundraising Events Occurring in 2025:***

- Flags for Heroes \$2,250
- General \$204.00
- Pancake Supper \$1,262
- Quarter Auction \$3,948
- Raffles \$184
- Restaurant Percent of Sales \$1,036.58
- Scrapbooking/Crafting \$2,495
- Tea Socials \$7,412

- **Total \$18,791.58**

- ***Expenses for Fundraising Events 2025:***

- Flags for Heroes \$675
- General \$0
- Pancake Supper \$0
- Quarter Auction \$0
- Raffles \$0
- Restaurants Percent of Sales \$0
- Scrapbooking/Crafting \$22
- Tea Socials \$360

- **Total Expenses for Fundraising Events: \$1,057.00**

- ***Total Profit from Fundraising Events: \$17,734.58***

- ***Fundraising Events Planned for 2026***

- **Crafting Fundraisers**

|                                     |                                    |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01/16 –<br>01/17/2026:<br>Regular   | 03/200-<br>3/21/2026:<br>Regular   | 04/10<br>04/11/2026: No<br>Frills   | 05/15 –<br>05/16/2026: No<br>Frills |
| 06/12 –<br>06/13/2026: No<br>Frills | 07/17–<br>07/18/2026: No<br>Frills | 08/14 –<br>08/15/2026: No<br>Frills | 09/18 –<br>09/19/2026: No<br>Frills |

- **Pancake Supper:** 02/17/2026
- **Quarter Auction:** 03/27/2026
- **Spring Tea:** 05/02/2026
- **Flags for Heroes:** 05/22 – 06/09/2026
- **Witches’ Tea:** 10/31/2026 – *TENTATIVE*
- **Raffles**
- **Restaurant Percent of Sales:** *TENTATIVE* – February, June, July, September, November, & December

The committee wants to thank **EVERYONE**, again, for your support of these events that are so vital to our church. We could not do what we do without the support of all of you!!!

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Adams, Vestry Liaison

## **Communications Report**

In 2025, we began working on how we communicate, both internally and externally. In September 2025, Lisa Embert, Shirley Biddle and Ray DePhillis attended a Communication Conference at Christ Church, Dover. We returned with loads of information on how to communicate more effectively. This included everything from fonts and colors to bulletins and websites.

I have implemented some of the ideas late this year. The major one being a separate announcement page, Upcoming Inspirations. This page is designed for everyone to take home, read and attend activities throughout the week as possible.

I also have been working on improving the eWeekly newsletter sent out every week. It contains service links, weekly announcements and much, much more about what is going on in the community. If you are involved in a community group and would like to advertise an event, please send me the flyer and I will add it to the email. This email allows us to share information timely and quickly with each other. I thank all those I have questioned on how to help increase those reading the email. A big thank you to Jim Sbarra who gives me feedback on the eWeekly newsletter.

The other big update was in October, when we moved our website under the diocese. A big thank you to Cindi Bimbi from the diocese office who met with me and created a beautiful website. The website continues to evolve. We are continuing to add information and pictures of parishioners and events to show how active we are as a parish.

In 2026, we will begin our communication committee meetings. I thank Betty Decker, Linda Lingner and Christine Schultz for joining the committee. We will work to improve and standardize how we share information on the website, on Facebook, in the Upcoming Inspirations, the eWeekly newsletter and the bulletin boards around church.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for being open to change this year! We have come a long way since 2024, and I look forward to the journey ahead. Let's make sure everyone knows how great St. Peter's Church is and what we are about.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Embert, Parish Administrator

## **Security & Safety Report**

The Security & Safety committee had their first meeting in December. The committee members include Ray DePhillis and Larry Decker, co-chairs, Wayne Burris, Tina Morris and Diana Cullison.

The committee will review the policies and procedures that are in place for building safety. In the first meeting they established a door use policy. This policy established entry requirements for service times and after hours.

They will be doing a key audit in the next few months to ensure the key log is accurate. Over the next few months, they will establish building use requirements and camera use for the exterior of the building.

Over the next month, the door policy will be implemented. There will be some changes required in what we do upon entering the building. These procedures are expected to promote safety and not meant to restrict activities. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work to keep everyone safe.

Respectfully submitted by Shirley Biddle, Senior Warden

# St. Peter's Investments, Restricted Funds and Capital Projects Income and Expenses

## Merrill Lynch:

Net Portfolio Value:

Starting Value as of 11/1/24: \$539,469.51

Ending Value as of 12/31/25: \$614,084.23

Credits: \$60,000 transferred from PNC to Merrill Lynch

Debits: \$42,085.00 for heating/AC system (Capital Project)

\$5,405.67 Brokerage Account Management Fee

**Net Cash Flow: \$12,509.33**

## Truist:

Master Fund A

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/25 \$146,828.47

Ending Balance as of 12/31/25 \$155,785.48

Withdrawals: \$6,532.72 (these funds are deposited into our checking account to cover the cost of cemetery maintenance)

## Restricted Funds:

The restricted fund/grant designated for the steeple was completed, the account closed.

There are two other restricted funds:

- Buckley Scholarship Fund (Annual \$1000 scholarship given to a senior at Smyrna High School)
- Niche Restriction (Monies paid when purchasing a Niche in the columbarium to be used to purchase an additional columbarium when needed.)

There are some funds in our checking account that are restricted (donations for a named purpose) that are paid out quarterly.



## 2024 and 2025 Income and Expenses

|                                  | Acct#       | 2025 Year         | 2024 Year         |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                    | 4000        |                   |                   |
| <b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>             | 4001        |                   |                   |
| PARISHIONER SUPPORT              | 4002        |                   |                   |
| Pledges                          | 4005        | \$116,278.50      | \$132,659.83      |
| Pledges Paid Annually            | 4006        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Offerings                        | 4010        | 21,368.85         | 19,793.24         |
| Deficit Reduction                | 4015        | 100.00            | 10,280.00         |
| Subtotal Parishioner Support     | 4002        | 137,747.35        | 162,733.07        |
| <b>SPECIAL OFFERINGS</b>         | 4030        |                   |                   |
| Flowers/Candle                   | 4035        | 1,145.00          | 470.00            |
| Memorial                         | 4036        | 1,002.00          | 985.00            |
| One Time Gift                    | 4037        | 0.00              | 13,600.00         |
| Christmas                        | 4040        | 287.00            | 1,460.00          |
| Easter                           | 4041        | 1,355.00          | 845.00            |
| Thanksgiving                     | 4042        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Buckley Schlshp from ML          | 4044        | 0.00              | 1,000.00          |
| Subtotal Special Offerings       | 4030        | 3,789.00          | 18,360.00         |
| <b>REIMBURSEMENTS</b>            | 4060        |                   |                   |
| Admin-Reimb                      | 4061        | 0.00              | 3,038.00          |
| Adult Ed-Reimb                   | 4062        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Janitorial-Reimb                 | 4067        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Music                            | 4068        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Subtotal Reimbursements          | 4060        | 0.00              | 3,038.00          |
| <br>                             |             |                   |                   |
| <b>Subtotal Contributions</b>    | <b>4001</b> | <b>141,536.35</b> | <b>184,131.07</b> |
| <br>                             |             |                   |                   |
| <b>DONOR RESTRICTED</b>          | 4100        |                   |                   |
| <b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</b>    | 4101        |                   |                   |
| Bldg Upkeep/Repairs Inc          | 4110-102    | 367.00            | 4,864.11          |
| Cemetery Care                    | 4115-103    | 0.00              | 500.00            |
| Rector's Discretionary           | 4125-105    | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Preschool P/R FlowThru           | 4130-106    | 39,478.25         | 32,466.91         |
| <b>Subtotal Donor Restricted</b> | <b>4100</b> | <b>39,845.25</b>  | <b>37,831.02</b>  |
| <br>                             |             |                   |                   |
| <b>MINISTRY GENERATED</b>        | 4200        |                   |                   |
| <b>USE OF BUILDINGS</b>          | 4205        |                   |                   |
| <b>PRESCHOOL</b>                 | 4210        |                   |                   |
| W C / Liability                  | 4216        | 1,603.68          | 1,562.04          |
| Utility Usage                    | 4217        | 3,349.99          | 3,150.00          |
| Donation - Reduce Deficit        | 4218        | 12,000.00         | 2,000.00          |
| Preschool Inspections            | 4219        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Preschool P/R Processing         | 4220        | 215.90            | 213.16            |
| Preschool ER Taxes               | 4221        | 3,006.21          | 2,483.72          |
| Subtotal Preschool               | 4210        | 20,175.78         | 9,408.92          |

|                                       |             |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Group Donations                       | 4231        | 1,260.00          | 840.00            |
| Facilities Rental                     | 4232        | 75.00             | 0.00              |
| Subtotal Use Of Buildings             | 4205        | 21,510.78         | 10,248.92         |
| <b>CEMETERY</b>                       | 4250        |                   |                   |
| Niche Sold                            | 4255        | 463.89            | 249.70            |
| Plot Sold                             | 4260        | 900.00            | 740.00            |
| Subtotal Cemetery                     | 4250        | 1,363.89          | 989.70            |
| <b>Subtotal Ministry Generated</b>    | <b>4200</b> | <b>22,874.67</b>  | <b>11,238.62</b>  |
| <b>EARNINGS FROM INVESTMENTS</b>      | 4500        |                   |                   |
| Annuity Earnings from ML              | 4505        | 0.00              | 5,264.97          |
| Earnings from CPC                     | 4510        | 6,363.24          | 4,329.67          |
| Interest & Dividends                  | 4515        | 7.28              | 9.43              |
| <b>Subtotal Earnings From Invest.</b> | <b>4500</b> | <b>6,370.52</b>   | <b>9,604.07</b>   |
| <b>OUTREACH DONATIONS</b>             | 4540        |                   |                   |
| Bishop's Discretionary                | 4545-107    | 434.00            | 574.00            |
| Cancer Research                       | 4548-108    | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Helping Animals                       | 4552-109    | 20.00             | 25.00             |
| Helping Less Fortunate                | 4555-110    | 400.00            | 456.87            |
| Helping Veterans                      | 4558-111    | 75.00             | 50.00             |
| SCM-Emergency                         | 4562-112    | 215.00            | 160.00            |
| SCM-Food Pantry                       | 4565-113    | 1,090.00          | 618.00            |
| SCM-Per Items Closet                  | 4568-114    | 25.00             | 20.00             |
| SCM-T'Giving Dinner                   | 4572-115    | 270.00            | 275.00            |
| <b>Subtotal Outreach Donations</b>    | <b>4540</b> | <b>2,529.00</b>   | <b>2,178.87</b>   |
| <b>FUNDRAISING</b>                    | 4600        |                   |                   |
| General Events                        | 4605        | 54,558.15         | 628.60            |
| Flags for Heroes                      | 4610-009    | 2,250.00          | 2,900.00          |
| Pancake Supper                        | 4615        | 1,262.00          | 1,264.00          |
| Quarter Auction                       | 4620        | 3,948.30          | 5,935.00          |
| Raffles                               | 4625        | 184.00            | 271.00            |
| Scrapbooking                          | 4635        | 2,495.00          | 1,990.00          |
| Tea Socials                           | 4640        | 7,412.00          | 6,824.00          |
| Percent of Sales                      | 4680        | 1,036.58          | 928.83            |
| <b>Subtotal Fundraising</b>           | <b>4600</b> | <b>73,146.03</b>  | <b>20,741.43</b>  |
| <b>DEFICIT COVERAGE</b>               | 4750        |                   |                   |
| Savings Withdrawal                    | 4755        | 0.00              | 4,438.38          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   |             | <b>286,301.82</b> | <b>270,163.46</b> |

|                            |          |             |             |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>EXPENSES</b>            | 5000     |             |             |
| <b>FIXED EXPENSES</b>      | 5010     |             |             |
| PERSONNEL                  | 5020     |             |             |
| SALARIES                   | 5025     |             |             |
| Rector Sal                 | 5030-007 | \$30,395.86 | \$85,607.04 |
| Music Minister Sal         | 5035-008 | 18,354.53   | 17,801.04   |
| Administrator Sal          | 5040     | 19,196.06   | 8,699.80    |
| Bookkeeper Sal             | 5045     | 0.00        | 0.00        |
| Sexton Sal                 | 5050     | 2,538.75    | 4,491.71    |
| Subtotal Salaries          | 5025     | 70,485.20   | 116,599.59  |
| CONTINUING EDUCATION       | 5075     |             |             |
| Rector Cont Ed             | 5080-007 | 0.00        | 1,135.00    |
| Music Minister Cont Ed     | 5085-008 | 0.00        | 50.00       |
| Subtotal Continuing Ed.    | 5075     | 0.00        | 1,185.00    |
| RECTOR BENEFITS            | 5090     |             |             |
| Pension                    | 5095-007 | 6,516.85    | 15,409.32   |
| Medical/Life               | 5100-007 | 3,159.50    | 12,618.00   |
| Auto/Prof Allowance        | 5105-007 | 187.37      | 1,919.70    |
| Sabbatical                 | 5110-007 | 1,527.00    | 0.00        |
| Subtotal Rector Benefits   | 5090     | 11,390.72   | 29,947.02   |
| EMPLOYER P/R TAXES         | 5130     |             |             |
| ER Payroll Taxes           | 5135     | 6,078.64    | 4,854.65    |
| Subtotal Personnel         | 5020     | 87,954.56   | 152,586.26  |
| CONTRACT SERVICES          | 5150     |             |             |
| SUPPLY COVERAGE            | 5155     | 100         | 0           |
| Clergy Supply              | 5160     | 8,580.20    | 537.09      |
| Musician Supply            | 5165     | 1,150.00    | 400.00      |
| Subtotal Supply Coverage   | 5155     | 9,830.20    | 937.09      |
| SKILLED LABOR              | 5175     |             |             |
| Cleaning Service           | 5178     | 55.61       | 0           |
| Financial Audit            | 5180     | 250.00      | 500.00      |
| Mowing Cemetery            | 5185     | 9,000.00    | 10,535.00   |
| Snow Removal - Church      | 5190     | 1,400.00    | 900.00      |
| Subtotal Skilled Labor     | 5175     | 10,705.61   | 11,935.00   |
| Subtotal Contract Services | 5150     | 20,535.81   | 12,872.09   |
| ADMINISTRATIVE             | 5300     |             |             |
| Administration             | 5304     | 119.88      | 3,124.56    |
| ADVERTISING                | 5305     |             |             |
| Newspaper Ad Exp           | 5315     | 675.00      | 0           |
| Other Advertising          | 5320     | 373.80      | 300.00      |
| BANK FEES                  | 5340     |             |             |
| Service Charge             | 5345     | 58.54       | 43.60       |
| Vanco Fees Paid            | 5355     | 735.15      | 800.19      |
| Subtotal Bank Fees         | 5340     | 1,842.49    | 843.79      |

|                            |          |           |           |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| COMPUTER EXPENSES          | 5365     |           |           |
| Computer Hardware          | 5370     | 0.00      | 0.00      |
| Computer Software          | 5375     | 810.19    | 332.98    |
| Subtotal Computer Expenses | 5365     | 810.19    | 332.98    |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| Diocesan Assessment        | 5390     | 18,075.04 | 17,375.52 |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| Diocesan Conv/Pgms         | 5395     | 1,642.98  | 1,376.50  |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| FUNDRAISING                | 5400     |           |           |
| Events                     | 5405     | 360.00    | 46.20     |
| Flags for Heroes           | 5410-009 | 0.00      | 625.00    |
| Qtr Auction Exp            | 5420     | 0.00      | 0.00      |
| Subtotal Fundraising       | 5400     | 360.00    | 671.20    |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| LEASED EQUIPMENT           | 5440     |           |           |
| Copier Lease               | 5445     | 2,141.76  | 2,141.76  |
| Copier Maintenance         | 5450     | 1,379.40  | 1,358.30  |
| Subtotal Leased Equipment  | 5440     | 3,521.16  | 3,500.06  |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| Office Supplies            | 5470     | 1,588.72  | 1,030.48  |
| Postage                    | 5475     | 156.00    | 282.00    |
| Property/Liability Insur   | 5480     | 13,600.50 | 7,944.25  |
| SUBSCRIPTIONS              | 5500     |           |           |
| Payroll Processing         | 5505     | 781.60    | 711.62    |
| PowerChurch                | 5510     | 894.45    | 479.40    |
| Website Domain             | 5515     | 210.00    | 0.00      |
| Website Software           | 5520     | 149.00    | 69.95     |
| Subtotal Subscriptions     | 5500     | 2,035.05  | 1,260.97  |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| Subtotal Administrative    | 5300     | 43,752.01 | 38,042.31 |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| BUILDING & GROUNDS         | 5600     |           |           |
| Bld - Capital Exp          | 5602-101 | 5,500.00  | 0.00      |
| UTILITIES                  | 5605     |           |           |
| Electric, WT, SW, TR       | 5610     | 6,744.73  | 5,844.62  |
| Gas & Oil                  | 5615     | 6,715.10  | 7,959.71  |
| Internet/Phone             | 5620     | 4,032.99  | 3,466.13  |
| Subtotal Utilities         | 5605     | 17,492.82 | 17,270.46 |
| <hr/>                      |          |           |           |
| SECURITY/SAFETY            | 5625     |           |           |
| Fire Alarm/Extinguishers   | 5630     | 2,352.69  | 1,710.92  |
| MAINT/UPKEEP/REPAIR        | 5650     |           |           |
| Janitorial Supplies        | 5655     | 515.40    | 325.76    |
| Bldg Repairs/Upkeep        | 5665-102 | 10,924.05 | 2,471.32  |
| Equipment Maintenance      | 5670     | 440.00    | 372.00    |
| Parking Lots               | 5675     | 0.00      | 43.15     |
| Grounds Supplies           | 5680     | 1,030.80  | 2,900.00  |

|                                |             |                   |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Subtotal Maint/upkeep/repair   | 5650        | 12,910.25         | 6,112.23          |
| Subtotal Building & Grounds    | 5600        | 38,255.76         | 25,093.61         |
| <b>Subtotal Fixed Expenses</b> | <b>5010</b> | <b>190,498.14</b> | <b>228,594.27</b> |
| <b>MINISTRY</b>                | 6000        |                   |                   |
| CHRISTIAN FORMATION            | 6005        |                   |                   |
| Adult Education                | 6010        | 130.82            | 28.98             |
| HOSPITALITY                    | 6050        |                   |                   |
| Special Receptions             | 6060        | 595.00            | 0.00              |
| MUSIC                          | 6075        |                   |                   |
| Choir/Music Supplies           | 6080        | 367.87            | 419.98            |
| Instrument Maintenance         | 6090        | 1,180.00          | 585.00            |
| Guest Musicians                | 6095        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Subtotal Music                 | 6075        | 1,547.87          | 1,004.98          |
| PARISH LIFE                    | 6120        |                   |                   |
| Fellowship                     | 6125        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| WORSHIP                        | 6170        |                   |                   |
| Audio/Visual                   | 6175        | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Flowers/Gifts                  | 6180        | 762.35            | 870.51            |
| Worship Subscriptions          | 6185        | 1,140.87          | 1,206.45          |
| Worship Supplies               | 6190        | 1,375.93          | 1,442.49          |
| Subtotal Worship               | 6170        | 3,279.15          | 3,519.45          |
| OUTREACH FROM BUDGET           | 6200        |                   |                   |
| Buckley Schlshp Awarded        | 6205        | 1,000.00          | 1,000.00          |
| Donations from Oper Bdgt       | 6210        | 1,245.00          | 1,250.00          |
| Subtotal Outreach From Budget  | 6200        | 2,245.00          | 2,250.00          |
| <b>Subtotal Ministry</b>       | <b>6000</b> | <b>7,797.84</b>   | <b>6,803.41</b>   |
| <b>MISSION</b>                 | 7000        |                   |                   |
| CEMETERY                       | 7005        |                   |                   |
| Cem Admin & Repairs            | 7010-103    | 44.10             | 120.00            |
| PRESCHOOL                      | 7070        |                   |                   |
| Preschool P/R Checks           | 7075-106    | 39,644.25         | 32,466.91         |
| OUTREACH DONATIONS             | 7140        |                   |                   |
| Bishop's Discretionary         | 7145-107    | 434.00            | 574.00            |
| Cancer Research                | 7148-108    | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Helping Animals                | 7152-109    | 20.00             | 25.00             |
| Helping Less Fortunate         | 7155-110    | 384.10            | 456.87            |
| Helping Veterans               | 7158-111    | 0.00              | 50.00             |
| SCM-Emergency                  | 7162-112    | 250.00            | 160.00            |
| SCM-Food Pantry                | 7165-113    | 565.00            | 618.00            |
| SCM-Per Items Closet           | 7168-114    | 25.00             | 20.00             |
| SCM-T'Giving Dinner            | 7172-115    | 270.00            | 275.00            |

|                             |             |                   |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Donations to RR Disc Fund   | 7175-105    | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Subtotal Outreach Donations | 7140        | 1,948.10          | 2,178.87          |
| <b>Subtotal Mission</b>     | <b>7000</b> | <b>41,636.45</b>  | <b>34,765.78</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>       |             | <b>239,932.43</b> | <b>270,163.46</b> |
| EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES      |             | \$46,369.39       | \$0.00            |



**2026 INCOME for Our Mission to be Possible**  
**Ministry Story Behind the Numbers**  
**A FAITH COMMUNITY OFFERING HOSPITALITY, HOPE, AND HEALING**

**Family & Loose Offering Support (79.8%)**

**2026: \$133,500**

These funds are St. Peter's primary source of revenue. They represent the tithes and offerings of God's people. In October St. Peter's conducted our annual stewardship program. Over half of our families responded and completed *Estimate of Giving* cards. The Vestry uses these cards for budgetary purposes. Those who contribute without completing a card are included in this source as Loose Offering Support.

**2026 Total Amount of Parishioner Family Support: \$111,500**  
**Number of Giving Cards: 46      Average Support: \$2,483**

**Use of Building/Space (5.8%)**

**2026: \$ 9,656**

The Preschool is St. Peter's major Outreach ministry. The children attend each weekday morning. These families are from our surrounding community. The Preschool provides educational and socialization opportunities in a Christian environment.

Also included in this category are donations from Twelve-Step groups (AA & NA) who use our facilities for their meetings and activities as well as the Cemetery. Due to the Preschool using the parish hall Monday through Friday, St. Peter's is limited in this revenue source outside of the Preschool.

**Special Offerings (3.5%)**

**2026: \$ 6,000**

These funds come from many different sources. They include the flowers; memorials; Holy days (Christmas, Easter, etc.); and special bequests from estates.

**Fundraising (Inviting Possibilities) (10.9%)**

**2026: \$ 18,200**

These are funds generated by fundraising events held throughout the year. These funds are used to support our ministries and mission and reduce our budget income shortage. Events enjoyed by the local community are the pancake supper, quarter auction, spring & fall tea socials, scrapbooking, and eating out. Turning in your Redner's tapes are included here. *Flags for Heroes* supports our cemetery and is budgeted at \$3,900 for all 78 flags we currently own to be sponsored.

**Earnings from Investments (0%)**

**2026: \$ 0**

This source uses earnings received during the year from our cemetery endowment for future care of our cemetery. Currently, this source pays 50% of our cemetery upkeep costs. Withdrawals in this category do not reduce our principal to enable our investments to continue generating earnings into the future. \*\*(With no priest expected until late 2026, we will reinvest the earnings rather than withdraw the funds this year)

**Use of Savings for Budget Shortfall (0%)**

**2026: \$ 0**

This source is principal and reinvested earnings used to cover our remaining income shortfall so we can fulfill our ministry obligations. It is in the best interest of St. Peter's future to continue working to reduce the need for monies from this source. \*\*(With no priest expected until late in 2026, we do not expect to withdraw funds to cover a budget shortfall this year.)

**Thanks to everyone who continues to support St. Peter's especially during this time of transition. Being able to reinvest our earnings and not pull funds from the investments is a blessing made possible by everyone.**

**Estimated Income for our Mission to be Possible**

**2026: \$167,356**

*Note: Line Item Budget available in the office upon request.*

**2026 EXPENSES = Investing our Treasure in God's Mission**  
**Ministry Story Behind the Numbers**  
*A Faith Community Offering Hospitality, Hope, and Healing*

When we commit to an estimate of giving or make a financial commitment to St. Peter's, we are making an investment in our many different ministries. ***Without your financial commitment, St. Peter's would not have the resources necessary for Christian ministries.*** The Vestry strives to be excellent Stewards to fulfill our Mission of *Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing* in the most effective, efficient way possible. The money you give makes an investment in the lives of people primarily living locally and in Delaware in concrete ways that makes God's existence and love visible.

One way to look at our **2026 Expenses of \$170,072 as Investing** in the categories of our relational ministries. We invest our committed dollar in: **Worship, Outreach, Fellowship & Pastoral Care, Evangelism, and Christian Formation & Stewardship.**

**WORSHIP: (41.8% of each \$1)** **2026: \$ 71,162**

A portion of the Rector's, Parish Administrator's and Sexton's time; an allocation of the building and administrative costs for conducting and planning our Worship services, weekly bulletins, seasonal service booklets; our Music Minister's salary; the cost of music and choir supplies as well as worship supplies. Worship includes Sunday services, Christmas and Holy Week services, Wednesday Healing services, and sacramental offices like baptisms, funerals, and weddings.

**OUTREACH: (20.1% of each \$1)** **2026: \$ 34,128**

A portion of both the Rector and Parish Administrator's time; an allocation of the building and administrative costs for sharing in the world and special offerings to the various missions we support; our diocesan acceptance; Buckley Scholarship; St. Peter's Preschool; the Ministerium's Food Pantry, and maintaining our cemetery. From children's backpacks in August to wellness research the following July, with many monthly missions in between, St. Peter's members reach out in a loving and powerful way to share with those in need and in the community. If we put a figure on the hours our parishioners give of themselves in helping, that number is much greater than what is represented in our budget.

**FELLOWSHIP & PASTORAL CARE: (10% of each \$1)** **2026: \$ 17,038**

A portion of the Rector's time spent ministering to our sick, homebound or hospitalized members, as well as visiting and sharing in the life of parishioners. A portion of the Parish Administrator's time is included in maintaining the prayer list and Sunday prayers of the people sheet. Also includes our expenses for hospitality and funeral receptions. If we put a figure on the hours our parishioners give of themselves in caring for one another that number is much greater than what is represented in our budget.

**EVANGELISM: (11.3% of each \$1)** **2026: \$ 19,214**

A portion of the Rector's, Parish Administrator's and Sexton's time; an allocation of the building and administrative costs devoted to welcoming members and guests; creating Welcome Kits; following up with new or potential members; inviting special groups to visit; and groups who use our facilities for meetings. Christian inviting occurs when we share our faith story with others through hospitality, witness, and sharing.

**EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP: (16.8% of each \$1)** **2026: \$ 28,530**

A portion of the Rector's, Parish Administrator's and Sexton's time; an allocation of the building and administrative costs devoted to teaching, Bible Study, study groups, and other educational offerings; growing in welcoming gifts and generosity; educational materials; and caring for our ground, facilities, and resources.

**Cost of Relational Ministry for God's Kingdom** **2026: \$170,072**

**Net Increase/(Decrease)** **2026: \$(2,716)**

*Note: Line Item Budget available in the office upon request.*

**Statistics Officially Recorded in St. Peter's Records in 2025**

**BAPTIZED:**

Chesney Renee Kane

**CONFIRMED:**

Michael Richards

**RECEIVED:**

**TRANSFERRED IN:**

Jacqueline Hollos

**BAPTISM RECORDED - MEMBERSHIP REQUEST RECEIVED:**

Jacqueline Hollos

**REACTIVATED:**

Joyce C. Johnson-Lee

**TRANSFERRED OUT / LEFT:**

Charolotte and Dennis Costello

**MARRIED/BLESSED:**

Dawn Marie Watson and Keith Adams

**FUNERALS/BURIALS:**

Robert James Miles, Jr.

Charles Lee, Jr.

Ermino Charles DeCarolis

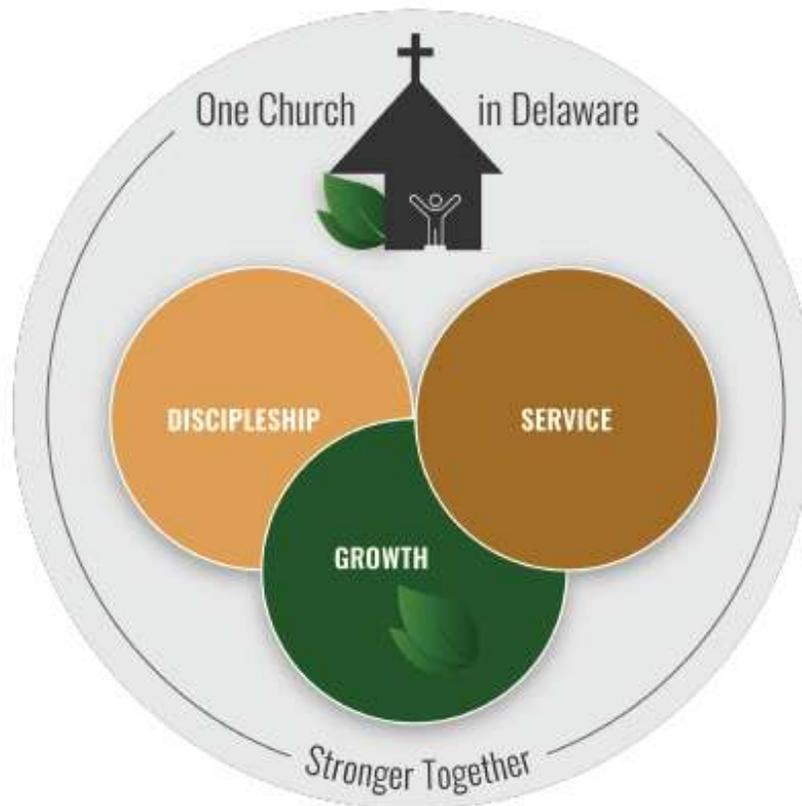
Joyce C. Johnson

Jerry Spencer

Millie Spencer

# MISSION PRIORITIES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN DELAWARE

## Renew ECD: A Blueprint for 2023 – 2027



### DISCIPLESHIP

*Deepening our relationship with and commitment to Jesus*

- Lifelong connections to Christ and the Church
- Support for lay leadership
- Pathways to deeper faith



### SERVICE

*Supporting our witness to the world and our care for each other*

- Racial Justice and Reconciliation
- Healing and outreach
- Volunteer recruitment, support, encouragement
- Community and faith partnership



### GROWTH

*Bringing others into a relationship with Jesus*

- Joyful invitation and robust welcome
- Sharing our personal stories of faith
- Crafting attractive spaces and compelling worship

*Five-year Mission: harnessing our energies toward a future of growth*