



2018

Annual Report

Annual Report 2018

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Rector's Annual Report | 1 |
| Senior Warden | 3 |
| Junior Warden | 5 |
| Treasurer | 8 |
| | |
| Staff Annual Reports | |
| Director of Children's Ministries | 14 |
| Director of Music | 15 |
| Parish Administrator | 16 |
| Communications Coordinator | 17 |
| | |
| Deacon's Annual Report | 19 |
| | |
| Seminarian | 21 |
| | |
| Parishioner Seeking Ordination | 21 |
| | |
| Our Ministries | |
| Worship / Liturgy | 22 |
| Acolytes | 22 |
| Altar Guild | 22 |
| Altar Flower Ministry | 23 |
| Lectors, Ministers of the Chalice, Lay Readers and Ushers | 23 |
| | |
| Youth | |
| Rite 13, Confirm not Conform, YAC | 25 |
| Campus Care Packages | 25 |
| Drama Camp | 26 |
| | |
| Parish Ministries | 28 |
| St. Peter's Cemetery and Memorial Garden | 28 |
| Ecojustice Council | 28 |
| Episcopal Church Women (ECW), with financial report | 28 |
| Hospitality | 30 |
| Welcoming Team | 30 |
| Prayer Team | 30 |
| Quilting Group | 30 |
| Stewardship | 31 |

Table of Contents (continued)

Page

Faith Formation

32

Faith Forums

32

Living the Questions

32

Mothers & Others

32

Women Rising

32

Outreach

33

The Outreach Commission

33

Chapel on the Green

34

Habitat for Humanity

34

Refugee Resettlement Coalition

35

Shelter NOW Breakfasts

35

Shelter NOW Donation Drives

36

Events

37

Golf Tournament

37

St. Peter's Church Annual Horse Show

37

Pumpkin Patch

38

Rector's Annual Report

Submitted by Rev. Sandy Stayner

And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

Isaiah 58:11

Anyone who has a garden knows that keeping it watered (and weeded) is a task that never ends. Day after day a garden needs water to keep it alive. And so it is with St. Peter's. Keeping this faith community watered so that it continues to grow is a task that, God willing, will never end.

As I think back over the past year I realize that many of the saints who for years have helped with the task of watering are no longer with us, no longer able to carry the same weight they used to. So, it is especially encouraging to see new leaders emerging, each willing to share their God-given gifts for the good of the community.

At our vestry retreat this past year we spent time articulating who we are as a parish and who we hope to become, culminating in the work of a small group who came up with a new mission statement for us: "St. Peter's is a Welcoming Community Celebrating God's Boundless Love." Another small group, working with our Communications Director, Leigh Powers, worked over the summer to create a new logo for the church. After much conversation, we came up with a logo that suggests this sense of openness and welcome to all people, as an expression of Christ's command that we should love God with every fiber of our being and love our neighbor as ourselves. A sheaf of wheat references the breaking of bread and sharing of wine at the heart of all we do. A green leaf makes reference to a growing understanding that care of creation is something all Christians are called to embrace. People young and old raise their hands in praise.

The installation of our newly restored windows and a new organ console over the summer provided the perfect opportunity for us to invite the town to an open house so they could experience the warmth and beauty of our building, learn about the history of the windows, hear the newly restored organ and enjoy getting to know some of our members at the reception.

St. Peter's is a community in constant flux and changes as each year as new people join us and others move away. I cannot over emphasize how important it is for each of us, young or old, new or long-time parishioner, to participate in – and support – the work of the parish by sharing our unique gifts, and our time and making a yearly financial pledge to the church.

I want to hold up just a few of the many people who have made an extraordinary commitment to our life together this past year, people like Hilda Schmidt who pays our bills each week; Jeanne Kosciuk who runs the altar guild; Charles Dimmick who does a walkabout at the church every morning to empty dehumidifiers and check that no lights are left on; Molly Preudhomme who, with Hilda, keeps our newcomer ministry running; Wendy Ciaburri who heads up Godly Play for our younger kids and oversees a very busy hospitality committee; Bob and Barbara Sireno who keep our outreach ministries on track; Alan Blume, who heads up the acolytes;

Marie Hodgdon, Fiona D'Souza and Caitlyn Ceella who assist Stuart with the choristers; Marj Chapman who works tirelessly behind the scenes on our website and has pioneered our work with refugees; Jane Lint who keeps our cemetery looking beautiful; Nancy Staab who oversees our once a month breakfasts at the homeless shelter in Meriden; Loren Coles who co-leads our ministry with Habitat for Humanity and many others who sing in the choir, work on different committees, serve on the vestry and help behind the scenes.

I am also deeply grateful to Liam Considine, our Senior Warden, who is always ready to offer me his help and support, his wisdom and his sense of humor. Our Junior Warden Charlie Waggoner does so much for this parish that I sometimes wonder if we could run the place without him. He takes care of our building and oversees the many capital campaign projects we have taken on. He is present at church most days of the week dealing with all kinds of problems that arise, from fixing broken toilets and lights to chasing bats out of the parish hall and everything in between. Finally, I want to say how grateful I am to John Staab who has served this parish in ways too numerous to elaborate upon. Having served many years as Treasurer, John went on to serve 5 years as senior warden. During that time, he was a wonderful companion and friend, quietly helping to untangle difficult situations whenever they arose and providing support and encouragement for our new initiatives. Since stepping down from Senior Warden, John has served as Treasurer once more, quietly watching over our books with a great deal of wisdom gained from his years of experience with church affairs. This year John will step down from his position as Treasurer. You will still find him at the back of the church most Sundays working as an usher or coming forward to read a lesson. Thank you John for many years of faithful service to this church and your enduring support that has meant so much to me personally.

I am also thankful for my husband and friend, David Stayner, whose wisdom and understanding of people is always such a help to me. I am grateful for his listening ear. On Sundays David is most often found hanging around the people on the edges of the community, asking how they are and looking for ways to help them find a place in our life together. He helps me with sermons, pastoral situations, and maintains an ongoing conversation with me as we try to discover where God seems to be calling us as a parish. When my father was sick and I had to return to England several times before Christmas, David stepped up to take over many of the tasks I am usually involved with. We are blessed by his presence among us.

Keeping a garden watered is a never-ending task, but one that brings such joy when plants and flowers begin to blossom. Here at St. Peter's we are in a time of growth and change. I look forward to the joy that comes each year as we watch God's love and compassion flourishing in our midst.

Senior Warden

submitted by Liam Considine

Change

The independent school where I work is involved in deep strategic planning because the number of school-age children in Connecticut is dwindling. The pool club that my family has been a member of for nine years, and I have been swimming at for nearly forty years, has decided to close its pool and become a tennis and social club because of a dwindling interest in, and escalating costs of, the pool. The Episcopal Church is in deep reflection about how it can be vital, relevant and sustainable in these times of rapid change. What happened to the "good old days?" Why can't we all carry on like we used to? These questions haunt me sometimes, but as a history teacher, I am very aware of, and can cite vast evidence for, the reality that there never were "good old days." Every era has had its challenges and opportunities and every generation has had to decide how it was going to address them.

Since joining St. Peter's, I have always wanted to learn about the history of our parish. I highly recommend going to the reference section of the Cheshire Public Library and looking-up the transcript of the sermon given at the dedication and consecration of our brick sanctuary. It will give you some idea of our church in the context of its times. In our parish hall, you now see pictures of St. Peter's through the ages. As you look at these pictures, take note of how the exterior and interior of the building has changed. For instance, notice that we used to have a central steeple, or notice that there used to be what looks to be horse stables in the back of the church. Notice that the rood screen behind our altar appears to be a *relatively* new addition to the interior of our sanctuary.

The point is that our church, while it may seem ageless and changeless from our perspective, has in fact been changing and growing to suit its times. Those changes were implemented by parishioners who came before us and understood that the church must suit its times in order to function. Sandy is going to ask us to consider how we can adjust our space to suit our times. She is not asking us to consider change for its own sake, but to contemplate how we can adapt to share The Word in a world that is changing. As has been always the case, St. Peter's will remain recognizable to us, as our spiritual home and our house, but we need to do what others have done before us and welcome the changes that will make us attractive and relevant to those who are seeking Christ.

The Year

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Senior Warden for another year. It was just about a year ago that my father had his memorial service in our sanctuary. I remember telling my extended family and my father's friends that, no -- we did not sell our windows, we are having them repaired. We now bask in the light of our beautiful windows during the day, and beautiful colors stream out of our windows into the community at night. It's as if the church has gone into glorious bloom after a period of dormancy. It's lucky that I did not cause an accident on our corner of South Main Street as I gawked at the beauty of our church while I drove up or down the street.

The vestry has continued to be a vibrant and devoted circle of our friends who care deeply about our church. We were sad to lose the wisdom, experience and intelligence of Richard Saunders this fall but we knew our loss would become a Louisiana parish's gain. In such busy times, we are lucky that we can draw on people in all stages of their life to serve on our vestry. Some of us are empty nesters, while quite a few of us are rushing home to pay our babysitters after a Monday night vestry meeting. Some are retired, while others are very much in the midst of demanding careers. I mention this because we value and need a variety of perspectives on the vestry to serve our church as effectively as possible.

Along with the rotation of the vestry members (thank you: Joel, Molly and Tom!) we are seeing some very noteworthy changes. Our beloved Junior Warden, Charlie Waggoner, is moving over to assume the role of parish Treasurer. Needless to say, Charlie's love for the church will serve him well in his new role just as it had in his old one. Of course, this change has come about because after eighteen years (as vestry member, Senior Warden and Treasurer) John Staab will be stepping down. I cannot imagine what these years would have been like without his leadership, mentorship and fellowship. We owe him so much gratitude, but I imagine all he would say in response is: "Notta problem."

In addition to seeing more of the capital improvements coming to the church, the vestry was very excited to be able to appoint Allison Loiseau to lead our church-school program. Her energy and teaching experience made her the perfect person to build on the work that Sandy and others had begun in the school. This year, we also saw a rejuvenation of the newcomers committee through the efforts of vestry member Molly Preudhomme, Hilda Schmidt and many others. We hope that other initiatives in church can capture the heart of our members and see similar resurgences.

I look forward to the year that lies before us. The vestry plans on having its annual retreat in March to get acquainted with its new members, reflect on its mission and plan for the year to come. Among the topics we hope to discuss are the resurrection of a parish team similar in focus to the former diversity committee, how the vestry can support church ministries, and how we communicate with each other and the community. The year always flies by and there is never enough time to accomplish all of our goals, but it is an honor to strive on your behalf. May God bless St. Peter's and grant us strength and courage to serve Him in this vibrant and unpredictable world.

Peace

Junior Warden and Capital Campaign Report

Submitted by Charlie Waggoner

Much of my activity in 2017 was associated with the Capital Campaign projects. There were also regular routine maintenance issues but most of the activity relating to the building involved the Capital Campaign projects.

Capital Campaign Projects

Much of the capital campaign work was completed in prior years. My report for 2017 will briefly summarize work done in prior years and work done in 2017 will have a more detailed discussion. For a full discussion of work done in prior years please see my annual meeting report for those years.

Exterior of the Church

The bricks on the east side (Main Street), south side (Humiston School) and the west side (cemetery) of the old portion of the church were all repointed in 2016. We also had the soffit repaired and painted on all three sides and completed the repair and addition of down spouts to our gutter system.

We have a proposal to do similar work on the north side (wall over the parish hall roof) and we will decide whether or not to go forward with this work in 2018.

There was no repointing done to the education wing or parish hall bricks.

Front Entrance

Our front door was replaced and repair of water leakage damage to the interior narthex walls was completed in 2016.

During 2018, we will evaluate the conceptual drawing done by John Clarke in 2015 and decide what we should do here.

Stained Glass Windows

The work on our windows done by Willet Hauser Architectural Glass was completed in 2017.

- Full restoration of the three Humiston side aisle windows, the large Humiston side transept window and the main altar window was completed. Most of these windows are on the south side of the church, subjected to full sun exposure and were in the most need of repair. During summer 2016, these windows were removed from their frames and trucked to Willet Hauser's studio in Winona, MN where they were repaired and re-leaded. During the summer of 2017 these five windows were returned and reinstalled in their frames.
- Repair and stabilization of the remaining windows, excluding the windows that are not exposed to the outside (north transept and north aisle windows) was completed by Willet Hauser during the summer of 2017.

- The existing Plexiglas protective covering was removed and replaced with an aluminum framing system with 1/4" acrylic. This work was also done on all exterior windows in 2017.
- The scraping, puttying and repainting of exterior window frames was completed in summer 2017.

Organ and Piano

The organ has been re-leathered. The piano has been restored and tuned and the new organ console has been installed.

Structural Work in the Basement

In 2016 we received and evaluated a report from a structural engineer and completed a project (foundation @ hatchway door) that he suggested.

The engineer's report noted that with the foundation repair the foundation is sound and the wooden structural elements are adequate for the job that they were intended to do. We commissioned the engineer to specify and make construction plans for replacement of certain pilings. We have this report and need to evaluate it against the budget.

Comfortable Temperature Solutions

Mini-split air conditioning units have been installed in the rooms in the education wing. We are waiting for proposals to install mini-split units in the choir room.

Capital Campaign Finances

The amount pledged by the parish to the Capital Campaign was \$752,271 and through 12-31-2017 we have received \$674,081 in pledges payments and \$50,129 of non-pledged payments for a total of \$724,210. The Capital Campaign committee will be evaluating the status of individual members and following up accordingly during 2018.

Expenses by Capital Campaign project as of yearend 2017 are:

- Stained Glass = \$122,791
- Parish Hall Floor = \$14,294
- Organ/Piano = \$126,428
- Exterior of Church (primarily the bricks) = \$143,875
- Our Front Entrance (primarily the door at this point) = \$20,853
- Structural Work in Basement = \$16,549
- Comfortable Temperature Solutions = \$26,619
- Contingencies & Project Fees (consultant) = \$77,505
- We have not spent any money on the following Capital Campaign projects:
 - Sanctuary Revitalization

- Plumbing from the Church to the Street
- Our Church School Area - although we are looking at upgrading the stairway.
- Total Expenditures = \$548,768

Other Projects

During 2017, the larger repair projects were air conditioning compressor repairs (\$628) and a roof repair to the parish hall's membrane roof (\$1,364). All of the other items were small and routine in nature.

We have had our fire extinguishers and Ansul kitchen fire suppression system serviced and maintained annually. I asked our service man if he would look at the emergency lights as they had not been inspected for a few years. This resulted in about \$2,000 of deferred maintenance, primarily testing expense and battery replacement. We can have confidence that our emergency lights are fully operational and effective.

At the same time, we experienced what I felt to be excessive charges for repair to our fire alarm panel and system. I was able to get these charges reduced somewhat, but we have changed to a different alarm company with reasonable pricing. We have entered into an agreement with this new fire alarm company for twice a year testing of our system. Since we have never had testing done in the past, this regular periodic testing will give us greater piece of mind going forward.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by John Staab

| ST. PETER'S CHURCH | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| as of December 31, 2017 | | | | |
| <u>Statement of Financial Assets and Liabilities</u> | | | | |
| ASSETS | | | | |
| <u>Cash Accounts</u> | | | | |
| Webster Bank - Operating | | \$56,032 | | |
| Bank of America - Memorial | not eq liability | \$61,968 | \$57,383 | \$4,585 |
| Bank of America - Capital Campaign | | \$164,499 | \$169,493 | -\$4,994 |
| ECW Account | | \$4,404 | | |
| Horse Show Account | | \$2,444 | | |
| Altar Guild Account | | \$1,456 | | |
| | Total Cash | \$290,803 | | |
| <u>Endowment Accounts</u> | | | | |
| Capewell | | \$27,435 | | |
| Heineman | | \$22,342 | | |
| General | | \$396,844 | | |
| Housing | | \$187,546 | | |
| Terrell | | \$151,445 | | |
| | Total Endowment Accounts | \$785,611 | | |
| <u>Prepaid Expenses</u> | | | | |
| | | \$1,045 | | |
| | TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,077,459 | | |
| LIABILITIES | | | | |
| <u>Current Liabilities</u> | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | | \$334 | | |
| Accrued Expenses | | -\$213 | | |
| Cash Receipts in Advance | | \$44,516 | | |
| Payroll Taxes Payable | | \$4,165 | | |
| Accrued CT Withholding | | \$634 | | |
| Emergency Food Bank | | \$204 | | |
| Children's Giving | | \$37 | | |
| 401K Payable | | -\$51 | | |
| | Total Current Liabilities | \$49,625 | | |

Statement of Financial Assets and Liabilities – continued

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <u>Long Term Liabilities</u> | | | |
| Memorial Fund | | | |
| General | | | \$10,459 |
| Altar Guild | | | \$4,308 |
| McKee/Siebert Evensong | | | \$2,397 |
| Drama Camp | | | \$9,248 |
| Carnegie Concert | | | \$2,120 |
| Music Fund | | | \$5,761 |
| Cemetery | | | \$3,225 |
| Outreach | | | \$9,944 |
| Rector's Discretion | | | \$3,080 |
| Camp Washington | | | \$633 |
| Christian Ed. | | | \$648 |
| Deacon Discretionary | | | \$408 |
| Youth | | | \$667 |
| Children's Giving | | | \$129 |
| Pumpkin Sales | | | \$3,156 |
| ECW Donations | | | \$1,200 |
| | Total Memorial Fund | | \$57,383 |
| Capital Campaign | | | \$169,493 |
| | Total Long Term Liabilities | | \$226,876 |
| | TOTAL LIABILITIES | | \$276,501 |
| EQUITY | | | |
| Restricted Retained Earnings | | | \$100,000 |
| Unrestricted Retained Earnings | | | \$636,945 |
| Net Income | | | \$64,013 |
| | TOTAL EQUITY | | \$800,959 |
| | TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | \$1,077,459 |

| St. Peter's Church | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Actual and Budget for 2017, Budget for 2018 | | | |
| | Actual 2017 | Budget 2017 | Budget 2018 |
| Deacon Donations | 6,756 | | 8,445 |
| Building Use Donations | 8,897 | 10,000 | 8,800 |
| Endowment Withdrawals | 22,584 | 24,072 | 24,408 |
| Endowment Income Distributions | 806 | 852 | 800 |
| Income from Trusts | 7,768 | 7,690 | 7,600 |
| Transfer from Housing Fund | 7,548 | 8,280 | 8,364 |
| Fees from Fundraising | 2,641 | 3,000 | 2,000 |
| Fundraising Activities | 13,025 | 15,000 | 13,000 |
| Total Operating Income | 403,774 | 414,894 | 414,917 |
| Operating Expenses | | | |
| Administrative Expenses | | | |
| Office Supplies | 5,700 | 4,200 | 4,700 |
| Communications & Marketing | 2,048 | 1,750 | 1,800 |
| Postage | 540 | 500 | 500 |
| Telephone | 2,416 | 2,040 | 2,040 |
| Copier | 5,131 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Computer Supplies & Support | 3,406 | 3,000 | 4,300 |
| Altar Supplies | 1,683 | 1,650 | 1,650 |
| Organ & Piano Maintenance | 960 | 960 | 960 |
| Unbudgeted Expense | 908 | 2,000 | 1,500 |
| Accounting Services | 8,631 | 3,500 | 5,000 |
| Professional Fees | 226 | 400 | 300 |
| Total Administrative Expenses | 31,649 | 25,000 | 27,750 |

Actual and Budget for 2017, Budget for 2018 – continued

| | Actual 2017 | Budget 2017 | Budget 2018 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Facilities Expenses | | | |
| Service Contracts | 3,415 | 2,500 | 3,000 |
| Church Building Maintenance | 3,509 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Electricity | 8,051 | 8,000 | 8,500 |
| Heating | 13,569 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Water & Sewer | 1,063 | 1,250 | 1,250 |
| Refuse Disposal | 1,681 | 1,740 | 1,740 |
| Cemetery & Grounds | 5,098 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Insurance | 12,192 | 12,663 | 12,436 |
| Total Facilities Expenses | 48,578 | 51,653 | 52,426 |
| Staff/Personnel Expenses | | | |
| Rector Salary | 51,126 | 51,126 | 52,123 |
| Rector SS Allowance | 8,388 | 8,388 | 8,551 |
| Rector Housing Allowance | 31,837 | 31,837 | 32,458 |
| Rector Car Allow & Prof Expense | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Rector Pension | 16,475 | 16,443 | 16,764 |
| Rector Life Insurance | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Rector Med & Dental Insurance | 36,121 | 36,132 | 15,128 |
| Rector Continuing Education | 721 | 1,750 | 1,750 |
| Associate Rector Salary | 2,913 | 2,913 | 2,969 |
| Associate Rector Pension | 510 | 564 | 575 |
| Supply Clergy | 100 | 440 | 750 |
| Deacon Salary | 5,200 | | 6,500 |
| Deacon Pension | 1,030 | | 1,170 |
| Deacon SS Allowance | 526 | | 775 |
| CFD Director Salary | 17,166 | 15,764 | 18,000 |
| Choir Director Salary | 54,405 | 54,405 | 55,466 |
| Choir Director Pension | 4,892 | 4,896 | 4,992 |
| Supply Organist | 525 | 500 | 525 |
| Parish Administrator Pension | 1,429 | 1,123 | 2,061 |
| Parish Administrator Salary | 22,347 | 22,464 | 22,902 |
| Communications Director Salary | 18,828 | 18,720 | 19,085 |
| Housekeeping Salary | 8,225 | 8,177 | 8,337 |
| FICA & Medicare [All Staff] | 9,477 | 9,367 | 9,697 |
| Total Staff/Personnel Expenses | 293,741 | 286,509 | 282,079 |

Actual and Budget for 2017, Budget for 2018 – continued

| | Actual 2017 | Budget 2017 | Budget 2018 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Diocese Mission & Ministry | 40,068 | 40,064 | 40,736 |
| Outreach | 1,448 | 1,448 | 1,447 |
| Seminarian Stipend | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Total Outreach & Diocese Expenses | 42,516 | 42,512 | 43,183 |
| Program & Ministry Expenses | | | |
| Newcomers | | 500 | |
| Hospitality | 449 | 600 | 600 |
| Christian Education - Children | 830 | 2,000 | 1,500 |
| Parish Faith Enrichment | 232 | 600 | 300 |
| Youth Group | 757 | 700 | 700 |
| Child Care | 3,175 | 1,820 | 3,380 |
| Music/Choir | 2,492 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Total Program & Ministry Expenses | 7,934 | 9,220 | 9,480 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 424,419 | 414,894 | 414,917 |
| Net Operating Income (Loss) | -20,645 | 0 | 0 |
| Pledge | 322,875 | 333,000 | 330,000 |
| Other | 42,193 | 41,000 | 43,745 |
| Endowment Related | 38,707 | 40,894 | 41,172 |
| Total Operating Income | 403,774 | 414,894 | 414,917 |
| Administrative Expenses | 31,649 | 25,000 | 27,750 |
| Facilities Expenses | 48,578 | 51,653 | 52,426 |
| Staff/Personnel Expenses | 293,741 | 286,509 | 282,079 |
| Outreach & Diocese Expenses | 42,516 | 42,512 | 43,183 |
| Program & Ministry Expenses | 7,934 | 9,220 | 9,480 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 424,419 | 414,894 | 414,917 |

St. Peter's Endowment

Submitted by John Staab, Treasurer

The endowment had a 16% return on investment in 2017, growing from \$703,000 to \$786,000, while providing \$31,000 for St. Peter's operating and administrative expenses.

There was one addition to the endowment in 2017: an anonymous donation of \$1,000

\$31,000 was withdrawn from the endowment to support operating expenses. This amount was budgeted and fully anticipated. \$31,000 represents spending of about 4.4% of the beginning of year endowment balance; well within our investment policy limit of 5%.

In 2018, we need to withdraw \$33,600 in order to balance the budget, 4¼% of the year end value of \$785,611.

U.S. Trust, our investment manager and administrator since September 2014, charged management fees of \$3,528 which is .47% of our average monthly balance.

If you have any questions about the endowment, please ask; I'll explain whatever I can.

Staff Annual Reports

Children's Ministries

Submitted by [Allison Loiseau](#), Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministries offers our youngest parishioners through grade 6 the opportunity to learn the lessons of our faith, using engaging, age-appropriate curricula. Our parish family remains active with approximately 45 children from approximately 25 families who regularly attend our Nursery, Godly Play, Workshop Rotation and Children's Chapel lessons. In addition, several families attend our Family Service held once a month. This popular service shares the lessons and stories of our faith in a way that young children can understand and apply. It serves as an excellent opportunity to engage new families in our Children's Ministries. This year, the Family Service has incorporated Yoga and Mindfulness.

Sunday school classes are offered between services beginning at 9:30am. Parents and families are encouraged to attend the Faith Forum in the Parish Hall.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate as teachers and helpers in the classrooms, as well as to assist in various events throughout the year. We are always in need of teachers for our upcoming units. I am very grateful for the volunteers who have dedicated their time to our children. It is an amazing learning experience to share together. Lessons are designed to be fun and easy to teach and no theological background is required. This year, we have implemented whole group instruction to provide an overview of the topic for the week, followed by small group, age-appropriate, differentiated instruction.

Our Workshop Rotation curriculum for grades 1 – 6 includes arts and crafts, cooking, science, movies and games and hands-on activities to teach and reinforce the lessons, while appealing to different interests and learning styles. We enjoyed a science-themed Halloween party and are working to develop an intergenerational forum for Lent. On Palm Sunday, a special lesson will be devoted to preparing for Easter as we enter into Holy Week. The children will also experience stewardship activities throughout the year.

In Godly Play, our children who are in Preschool – Kindergarten learn the stories of the Bible with a hands-on story telling technique. They share a snack together and have either a craft or game style activity based on the lesson. Children's Chapel is offered during the 10:30 service and we pray, sing songs, and have an activity.

Miss Barb and Miss Carla, our loving nursery teachers, are present every Sunday from 9:15 – 11am for children 3 and under. They are often visited by our older children who have fond memories of times in the nursery. Many thanks for the care they provide for our youngest parishioners.

A highlight every year in Children's Ministries is our annual Christmas Eve Pageant which is a dramatic presentation of the liturgy. This year 25 children and youth participated. All children of the parish are invited to join in. We performed a traditional Christmas Pageant and the children were outstanding. The four narrators provided strong leadership and the actors and actresses were dedicated and adorable. In the background was the new addition of a stable backdrop.

Beyond Sunday school classes, our children are encouraged to participate in other ministries in the church. Several of the older children serve as acolytes, ushers and singers in the Chorister program. Many of our children also attend our Summer Drama camp. This year, all children who have completed fourth grade through high school are invited to attend St. Peter's at Camp Washington, June 17 –22. This customized camp experience will strengthen relationships and foster a sense of community.

Children's Ministries also support family events offered throughout the year such as the Kid's Day at the Pumpkin Patch and the Interfaith Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service.

We are evaluating the model by which we deliver religious education. In addition to informal conversations about family priorities and schedules, we have administered the Children, Youth, and Faith Formation Survey to gather data to guide any changes to the existing Church School model and curriculum. Feedback is always welcome and I am eager to consider suggestions and recommendations. I look forward to 2018 and I am very thankful for this amazing experience to share in the journey of faith with the children and families of St. Peter's Church.

Music

Submitted by Dr. Stuart Paul Duncan, Director of Music

This year has been a very successful year for St. Peter's choirs. In March, a large contingent of choristers and choir members joined more than 600 singers from around New England, to sing in a massed choir conducted by Eric Whitacre at the University of Connecticut. This was transformational for many of our choir members who had never sung in a choir of this size, conducted by a leading choral composer.

In June, St. Peter's undertook an impressive choral endeavor and performed in a massed choir at Carnegie Hall. Choir members from multiple generations joined together with choirs from around the United States to perform Vaughan Williams' *Sancta Civitas*, one of the composer's most mysterious works. It is testament to the strength and dedication of the music program across the past two decades of development that we had 34 choir members and 6 staff/family participate. In addition to our choristers and parish choirs, we welcomed past alumni (Matt Stayner, Connor Baker), spouses and family members, our rector and her family. This event was not only about the singing, but also about fellowship, as we spent time together in New York City breaking bread and sharing laughter and fun at Ellen's Starlight Dinner, attending a performance of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory on Broadway, and going bowling in Times Square. Without the generous support of the St. Peter's community, this event would not have been possible. Months and months of fundraising, including an auction where our State Senator made an appearance, helped give many of our parish members the opportunity to attend this life-changing experience. While the journey was musically, financially, and logistically overwhelming at times, we all gained an experience that we will carry with us.

While the Carnegie Hall event demonstrated the health and commitment to choral music at St. Peter's, we continue to face the challenges associated with maintaining choir membership in an

increasingly secular world. We are competing for people's time and talents in an overstimulated social-media driven society.

In 2017 we began building the foundation for a new musical group, a co-ed barbershop for young adults. Members of this group are not required to sing on Sundays or to be members of the church. The goal is to offer a space for people to come to church without a multi-day requirement and to offer a lower-bar for entry. By attracting young adults into the church from around the community, I hope to improve recruitment into the chorister program, and to use this group to sing at local community events and facilities. If you know an adult or child who sings or might be interested in learning, please put them in contact with me. The Barbershop group is now "live" and is actively recruiting during 2018.

There are many people who give their time and talents to support our choirs. Specifically, I would like to thank Caitlin Celella and Rachel Bogan for their unwavering support in fostering our chorister's choral development and to Christine Anderson for her organization of the chorister dinners and general administrative support.

Parish Administrator

Submitted by Kathy Kirby

I've worked at St. Peter's for 20 months and have enjoyed learning all about this parish community and the events and activities that occur here, and getting to know so many of you.

The Parish Office is open from 9am – 1pm on Tuesdays – Fridays. When we are closed, you can leave me a voice mail (203-272-4041 x10) or send me an email (office@stpeterscheshire.org).

The Parish Office manages the administrative matters of St. Peter's. My responsibilities include providing office support to the Rector, Vestry, Parish Ministries, and a variety of parish events including ECW Christmas Bazaar and Rummage Sale, Drama Camp, Golf Tournament, Horse Show, the Pumpkin Patch and the Carnegie Hall event. Additional responsibilities include greeting parishioners and others who call or visit; showing visitors this beautiful historic church; coordinating building usage (for many parish ministries/outreach and rental groups); maintaining the parish calendar (which changes daily); ordering supplies and materials; interacting with the Diocese; preparing Orders of Service for Sunday services and special liturgies; and much more.

A few items I would like to point out:

- First Aid Kits and CPR masks are now available on every level of the building. The largest first aid kit and a Bio-hazard cleanup kit are located in the kitchen. Please let me know if you use any of these items for anything other than minor issues.
- We are updating documents and banners with the new St. Peter's logo.
- We now email quarterly and year-end contribution statements to parishioners (and mail to parishioners without email). Please remember to update the office with any changes to your email address, mailing address and phone numbers. Year-end statements will be emailed soon.

- I maintain the Church calendar for St. Peter's, which includes all activities, events and rentals held in the building or on church grounds. Please call or email me to add/change or remove an activity from the calendar, especially if you are not meeting due to a holiday. You can view the calendar on the website (www.stpeterscheshire.org). Many groups use this facility which can be challenging if someone forgets to sign up for a room in the building or schedule an event.
- When time allows, I have been scanning paper documents onto our server, to provide us electronic copies of prior documents and easy access to those documents, which are stored on our server and backed up regularly.
- Our kitchen is shared by many ministries, groups and rentals. Please help us keep the kitchen clean by washing, drying and storing all pans/plates/cups/etc.; wiping off counters and appliances; taking leftovers home with you (please do not leave them in the refrigerator); sweeping the floor and emptying the trash. With everyone's help after events, we should pass the local health district's regular kitchen inspections.

St. Peter's is a vibrant, faithful and active parish community which I admire and enjoy supporting. Please reach out to me whenever you need assistance.

Communications

Submitted by [Leigh Powers](#)

The responsibility of the Communications Coordinator is to develop and coordinate communications, across a wide variety of channels (website, email, social media, newspapers, brochures, posters, flyers, banners, signs, etc.) to support the ministry and mission of St. Peter's.

2017 Achievements

- Planned, drafted, designed, revised, and scheduled over 55 eNews emails communicating events, programming, ministry and outreach opportunities for the community.
- Designed new Sunday printed bulletin format with updated look and streamlined announcements.
- Created new website – stpeterscheshire.org - with the assistance of the Communications Team.
- Worked with an outside graphic designer to determine St. Peter's logo and branding, along with brand colors and consistent fonts.
- Researched technology vendors for our website and email. Worked with Transform, our technology support provider, to take advantage of Microsoft's non-profit program for Outlook.
- Increased our Facebook presence with more frequent postings, event invitations, humor and shared events with various community organizations. The number of Facebook "Likes" for St. Peter's increased from 275 (April 2016) to over 300 currently.

Plans for 2018

- Continue to add content and suggested features to the website.
- Create "brand" consistency across St. Peter's events communications material and promote consistent communications within parish activities and groups.
- Improve relationship with Cheshire Herald staff and other local newspapers and media outlets with the aim of increasing St. Peter's visibility in the community.
- Develop a communications calendar and communication plans for annual events.
- Identify and develop any policies that might be required to ensure effective and appropriate communications, for example: social media, safe church, etc.
- Continued collaboration with community groups such as the Cheshire Clergy Association, Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, Cheshire Academy, YMCA, and others.

I'd like to express my appreciation to the Rev. Sandy Stayner and St. Peter's staff: Stuart Duncan, Allison Loiseau, and Kathy Kirby for their invaluable support, guidance, and collaboration; and to the Communications Team for their time, perspective, and insight: Marj Chapman, Elise Palumbo, and Richard Saunders. I'd also like to encourage parish members to contact me with their suggestions, comments and feedback.

Deacon's Annual Report

Submitted by the Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp

To know that one is walking with God in community and sharing the good news of God's love in Christ, is a beautiful thing. It was with joy and gratitude that I accepted the offer of the Vestry to serve as the quarter-time Deacon at St. Peter's for 2017-2018 after two years as one of your seminarians. I thank the parish community for the extraordinary efforts to make this position possible, including the raising of funds, the financial commitment, the collaboration with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and for your simple and profound act of faith.

In addition to serving on Sunday mornings, assisting at the altar, contributing to the children's chapel, and preaching, I have developed or contributed to the following ministries since September 2017:

1. Inspired by my current studies at Yale Divinity School on the cosmic dimensions of Christianity, I started a monthly discussion series with interested parishioners called "Coffee, Conversation & Creation." Gathering in the library and engaging in the study of Scripture, we have shared diverse perspectives on spiritual formation and church mission in our understanding of God's incarnate love in creation. We have uncovered the various and surprising places in which we find the creation story in the Bible (such as Proverbs 8 and Psalm 104). We have explored the cosmic Christ, the one through whom "all things hold together" (Col 1:17), and what this means in relation to God, each other, all creatures and the Earth. It has been a joy to discover with you the ways in which we are immersed in, and called into, God's love in all things.

2. The monthly Candlelight Evening Service has become a regular part of the worship life of St. Peter's, offering a space for quiet being and prayerful silence. Each service is unique because it is designed around a theme, for example, "When the Waters Rise" or "God's Light in the Deep Winter." I have been participating in the planning for this service, collaborating with lay and ordained members of the parish to develop musical and artistic elements, prayers, meditations, and the space for contemplative worship. As each service unfolds, we experience together a journey from darkness into hope through the love of Christ. Afterwards the sharing of a home-made meal in the parish hall leads to grace-filled conversation, laughter and fellowship.
3. In December I led a forum in the parish hall on "The Cosmos and the Future of the Church." We focused on the question: How might the church be evolving into the future, and how do Christians participate in this change in their daily lives? We pondered some of the questions raised in the "Coffee, Conversation and Creation" gatherings by attending to the immense beauty of God's creation and our response to it, and exploring the ways in which we, as followers of Christ, are called into a larger vision as we experience the world in small moments. This forum helped to shape the planning for the winter retreat as well as an upcoming series of forums in which we will engage this vision in practical ways.
4. In collaboration with Chanell Jatkola, Diversity Coordinator at Cheshire Academy, John Kennedy, our seminarian, Rev. Sandy, Rev. David, and Rev. Andrea Hoslett, I organized an interfaith service in celebration of Martin Luther King Day. On January 15, 2018, we welcomed the students, faculty and staff of Cheshire Academy into the sanctuary for prayer, music and reflection. The students offered profound and deeply moving reflections on spirituality and social justice from their experiences in the world, representing Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist traditions. I offered a response drawing from Dr. King's vision of interrelatedness and our "single garment of destiny." Listening and responding to their stories was one of the most beautiful and moving experiences of my ministry, revealing to me the power of God's love in the gathering and witness to diversity.
5. When possible, I have made pastoral visits to parishioners in their homes or in hospital, bringing communion and offering prayers and presence. Such moments remain among the most moving and uplifting experiences in my ministry.
6. While enrolled at Yale Divinity School for the degree of Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) for 2017-2018, I am developing practical applications of the cosmic Christ in parish ministry. St Peter's is the site for the application of my study project. Through the discussion series in the library, the faith forum, sermons, and especially our one-on-one conversations, I am experiencing how the mystery of the cosmic Christ allows for growth in spirituality, the recognition of the preciousness of all forms of life, and greater awareness of suffering and injustice. The cosmic Christ reflects God's incarnation in all things (Col 1:15-20), and it is also a call to action. [A copy of my project proposal -- *Proposal for the Study of the Cosmic Christ with a Focus on the Applications for Parish Ministry* -- is posted on the St. Peter's website for your review.](#) It describes some of the ways in which I have engaged my project at St Peter's.

My goals for my remaining time at St. Peter's, until the end of May 2018, include:

- Continuing the "Coffee, Conversation and Creation" series once per month.
- Leading the winter retreat at Emery House at the monastery of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, February 9-11, based on the theme of "Discovering a Deeper Truth through the Cosmic Christ."
- Delivering a forum series in April on the cosmic Christ with applications for how we engage with the world, including social justice and spiritual formation.
- Working with our youth and children's ministries, developing lessons and activities on the cosmos and Christ; and, possibly, collaborating again with the students of Cheshire Academy.
- Learning about all aspects of parish ministry from Rev. Sandy Stayner and the St Peter's community as I prepare for my ordination to the priesthood in The Episcopal Church.

I am especially grateful to be working in ministry alongside Rev. Sandy Stayner, Rev. David Stayner, John Kennedy, Kathy Kirby, Leigh Powers, Rev. Andrea Hoslett, Sam Dunlop, Liam Considine, Charlie Waggoner, and all the members of the Vestry. It is a great blessing to serve alongside you, to grow in faith, and to serve Christ in our parish and the world.

Seminarian

This year we have again been blessed to receive a seminarian – John Kennedy -- from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. In return for his involvement in our parish he receives regular supervision from the rector and a small stipend for travel expenses.

John is in his second year at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and a Postulant for Ordination in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. He anticipates graduating next May (2019) with a Master of Divinity and hopes to work as a parish priest upon ordination.

John describes being a St. Peter's seminarian as "a blessing." He has participated in liturgy, preached, worked with the youth, and been involved with a number of exciting projects and events. Most recently he helped plan and lead a Martin Luther King Jr. Day Service in collaboration with Cheshire Academy, which included music and spoken reflections from students at the school. It was a powerful revitalization of an historic partnership between our two communities. During Lent, John will present a series of forums on the meaning(s) of the cross and resurrection.

Parishioner Seeking Ordination

We are currently sponsoring parishioner Thom Peters who is seeking ordination in the CT Diocese.

Thom is in his third year of postulancy. He completed his internship at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bantam in June, audited a few more courses at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale in the fall, and completed the General Ordination Exam this January. He has been invited to an interview with the Commission on Ministry in February to review his preparation and to determine whether he should be recommended to candidacy for ordination. God willing and the bishops agreeing, he will be ordained to the transitional diaconate in the spring and to the priesthood in the fall. He hopes to reduce his teaching responsibilities to enable him time to engage in ordained ministry in a hybrid (or bi-vocational) capacity.

Our Ministries

Worship / Liturgy

Acolytes

Submitted by Alan Blume, Coordinator

As of the end of 2017, there were 16 active Acolytes serving St. Peter's:

8:15 am

Julia Bevilacqua
Mary Beth Brubaker
Conner Michaud
Catherine Norton

10:30 am

Grace Azaula
Isabelle Azaula
Alan Blume
Zachariah Cornelius
Taylor Fitzgerald
Heather Fitzgerald
Kaylen Fitzgerald
Daniel Knickerbocker
Jeffry Knickerbocker
Elijah Mulligan
Sophia Renker
Liam Sheehan

Acolyte ministry is an excellent way for people of all ages to take a more active part in worship. We can always use some additional acolytes for both services. All are welcome to this ministry. If you are interested, please contact Alan Blume at 203-272-4160 or by email at amblume@aya.yale.edu.

Altar Guild

Submitted by Jeanne Kosciuck

Altar Guild currently has 10 devoted members spanning 3 teams. This year, 5 members left Altar Guild for various reasons: retirement, moving, family obligations. In spite of that loss, we still have such an incredible group of men and women. We strive to encourage membership and flexibility in the membership, understanding fully the demands placed upon families.

2017 was a busy year with 1 wedding, 8 baptisms and, unfortunately, 11 funerals.

Because we were blessed with a generous gift/offer from the ECW and Audrey Notation, Altar Guild was able to purchase a new green frontal, matching vestments and pulpit and lectern hangings. We hope you noticed; they are lovely! ECW also donated money to purchase a veil

and burse to complete the short green set that is used during our warmer spring months. Our current plan is to price a new covering to be used as a frontal during the summer services that take place in the Parish Hall.

In addition to new members, the focus of Altar Guild remains on the altar itself. Since so many of our items are in need of TLC, we are committed to make the altar look as beautiful possible.

Altar Flower Ministry

Submitted by Susanne Deering

Once the Sunday services are over the altar flowers are delivered to shut-ins or parishioners who are sick (as the Rector directs). The delivery team consists of four members working in rotation (Wendy Ciaburri, Marie Hirschfeld, Anita Linsley and Suzanne Deering). We are always looking for new members to help with deliveries. If you would like to become involved in this important ministry to our sick and elderly, please contact Susanne Deering.

Lectors, Ministers of the Chalice, Lay Readers and Ushers

Submitted by Charlie Waggoner Jr.

Lectors participate in the services at St. Peter's by reading the First Lesson and the Second Lesson. Lectors also lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People.

St. Peter's lectors are assigned to read the lessons or lead the Prayers of the People about one service every two months. Lectors do not have to be licensed by the Bishop so new lectors can easily be placed into the schedule very quickly. For new lectors who desire it, a brief training session can be held prior to the new lector's first reading. Anyone who desires to become a lector can contact me at 272-9710.

The group of lectors during 2017 at St. Peter's included Alan Blume, Kim Clarke, Avril Cocking, Charles Dimmick, Heather Fitzgerald, Scott Gadwa, Tom Gilmore and Elizabeth Guest, as well as John Kosciuk, Julia Michnowicz, Mary Ellen Morgan, Margery Nettleton, Bob Pritchard, Kathy Queen, Suzanne Remington-Fox, Sophia Renker, John Staab, Nancy Staab, Bob Thomas, and Sam Waldo.

Ministers of the Chalice assist clergy during the celebration of Holy Eucharist by administering the chalice according to the directive in the Book of Common Prayer. Chalice ministers are required to be licensed by the Bishop. Chalice ministers participate in the Eucharist about every six weeks. Anyone who desires to become a Chalice minister can contact me at 272-9710.

The Chalice ministers at St. Peter's are Christine Anderson, Paul Breau, Alan Blume, Avril Cocking, Tom Gilmore, Elizabeth Guest, Heather Fitzgerald, Jeanne Kosciuk, Bob Pritchard, Earnest Sadiq and Eric Smullen.

Lay Readers are licensed by the Bishop to officiate at certain services such as Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.

Lay Reader, Charles Dimmick officiates at weekday Morning Prayer. Lay Readers also officiate at other services when members of the clergy are not available to lead these services.

The lay readers at St. Peter's are Charles Dimmick and Charlie Waggoner Jr.

Ushers

We have a good representation of adults and younger members of the parish serving as ushers. Our ushers in 2017 were Charlie Moran, Dan Hersey, Bob Prifty, John Staab, Antonio Dimarco and Charlie Waggoner, as well as Judy van Heiningen, Pascal Preudhomme, Zac Cornelius, Chris Baker, James Michnowicz and Elijah Mulligan. I hope that any adults or young people who would like to usher will express their interest to me so we can get them going.

The ushers at the 8:15 AM service were Dave Austin, Shirley Rouse and Linda Henderson. Although I don't attend this service I do want to extend my thanks to Dave, Linda and Shirley for stepping up and serving as ushers for St. Peter's at 8:15 am.

Youth

Rite 13, J2A, YAC

Submitted by [Marj Chapman](#)

Our youth ministry includes three 2-year programs that follow the academic calendar. In Rite 13, for youth approximately 12 to 14 years of age, we focus on building a strong sense of community within the group through interactive classroom activities, discussions, outreach and more. We explore individual and community faith in an age-appropriate way. The 2016-17 Rite 13 leader was Kim Donaldson.

In Journey to Adulthood (J2A), we build on the Rite 13 experience, strengthening community as we offer high-school youth the opportunity to explore their faith more deeply. In 2017, we completed the second year of the *Confirm not Conform* program. This program was comprehensive and offered our youth a safe place to explore the breadth of the Christian tradition, ask questions, express doubts and discover what they truly believe as they prepare for possible confirmation. The program engaged our entire parish community, including adult mentors for each youth, vestry approval of a community service project, and youth planning and participation in worship services and ministries. We had 7 youth participating actively in the CnC program: Grace Azaula, Sophia Renker, Julia Michnowicz, Thomas Bonitz, Aiden Bogan, Elijah Mulligan and Christopher Baker. Co-leaders were Marj Chapman and Wes Naylor. We are grateful to the time and energy given by mentors Heather Fitzgerald, Sue Desjardins, Kim Clarke, Nancy Staab, Alan Blume, Richard Saunders, Sam Dunlop and Tom Gilmore.

In Young Adults in Church (YAC), we encourage our youth's engagement with the parish community as they mentor the younger youth, plan outreach activities in the community, join parish ministries and participate actively in the worship services.

2017-18 is a transitional year for the youth program, as a dedicated group of lay leaders works to formulate a model that will be sustainable in engaging youth, growing both the quantity and quality of participation, and securing a bright future for St. Peter's. If you are interested in participating in this important ministry, please contact [Marj Chapman](#).

Campus Care Packages

Submitted by [Lisa Schweitzer](#)

Care Packages of homemade treats and encouraging notes are assembled at the end of both fall and spring semesters by a faithful group of St. Peter's women. These packages are sent to St. Peter's college students and other students who are loved by St. Peter's parishioners. Twenty-eight packages were sent during the spring of 2017 in addition to cards sent to several students studying abroad. We celebrated the graduations of several students in the spring, reducing our fall 2017 care package mailing to twenty-three recipients, all of whom were delighted to receive "Ugly Sweater" sugar cookies lovingly baked by Linda Ivey.

Our goal in sending these packages is to remind our young people that they have a place in the hearts and prayers of the St. Peter's family, even though they are not in our midst on a regular basis. Families of the recipients often report that the notes from these care packages are kept and treasured for many years.

The parish continues to enthusiastically support the costs of our mailing, with their direct donations and patronage of the used book sale, faithfully organized by Maryann Lewis. Donations made to the 2017 book sale totaled over \$150 and allowed us to cover all expenses for the fall mailing, with funds left over to help with the 2018 spring mailing.

Thank you to those who bought a used book, added a name to our mailing list, baked cookies or penned a note. You all continue to make a difference in a young life.

Drama Camp

Submitted by Marie Hodgdon and Fiona D'Souza

St. Peter's Drama Camp is a two week theater camp with a multigenerational cast. For the fourth year, we welcomed members of the community to be a part of this enriching experience, not only to learn or improve acting and musical skills, but to grow in friendship in a supportive, caring environment. This camp consists of morning rehearsals followed by an afternoon activity for the children. Some favorites are laser tag, bowling, a backstage tour of Historic Palace Theater and Lake Compounce. The older teens and adults have evening rehearsals to allow for work schedules.

For the fourth year, we have partnered with Elim Park, who generously provides its professional performance venue, Nelson Hall, at no cost to St. Peter's and all ticket proceeds are given to St. Peter's. This has been an enriching environment for all; residents peek in during rehearsals, smile and tell us how excited they are for the performance to come. Each year we schedule one of the afternoon activities to include time interacting with residents, playing board games and leading sing-alongs.

This year's production of *Annie* was directed by Amy Myers and the music was directed by Kelly Sharp. Props and costumes by Sandi Baker, with costume assistance by Barbara Carter. This year we teamed up with the Boys and Girls Club of Meriden's art department, headed by senior director, Dominic Pereyo to refurbish sets and make props. We are proud to say we had two successful sold out shows. As in past years, we began our day in prayer and lessons learned from the show. This year we were able to discuss some of the history of the Depression and the optimism that Annie shows, no matter the obstacles in life, *"The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow"*.

This year the camp was organized by co-directors, Marie Hodgdon and Fiona D'Souza. With the growth of St. Peter's Camp, we became a licensed day camp three years ago. This brought a few changes to the administrative duties. The State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood oversees all youth camps. As part of the licensing process, Elim Park had inspections by the Office of Early Education, Youth Camp Division and the Cheshire Fire Marshall. Dr. Liebler of Pediatric Associates of Cheshire was our Camp Doctor on Call. He reviewed and advised the

Camp First Aid Guidelines we wrote, and reviewed any first aid that was given to a camper. Fiona received her First Aid/CPR certificate, as required, in case of a medical need. Jen D'Souza and Sandhya Desmond were also certified in First Aid/CPR, as we are required to have a secondary first aid responder. This year, Jen and Sandhya shared the duties of second first aider. Fiona and Marie coordinated the activities for the camp, including the bus service to and from activities and scheduling parent chaperones for each trip.

With a cast of 42, we had a net profit of \$2,119. Part of the total will cover the 2017 production copyrights, the remaining goes to St. Peter's Memorial Fund. The 10% tithe to St. Peter's was \$1,566. This year we needed to rent a storage facility for the set pieces that are reused each year at a cost of \$685.89/yr.

There has been much growth since June Hale, our retired music director, began St. Peter's Camp in 2006. The first production was *Rescue in the Night*, by Allen Pote and Tom Long, which was about Daniel and the Lion's Den. It grew over the years, becoming an intergenerational cast performing hits such as *Godspell*, *The Sound of Music* and 2014's *Oliver!* – performed for the first time at Elim Park.

We are happy to say Elim Park has invited us once again to hold St. Peter's Camp at Nelson Hall and we are excited for the coming 2018 year.

Parish Ministries

St. Peter's Cemetery and Memorial Garden

Submitted by [Nancy Staab](#)

St. Peter's Cemetery is the peaceful resting place of many generations of St. Peter's families. The cemetery was founded in 1767, so 2017 marked its 250th anniversary!

The cemetery encompasses not only the traditional burial ground, but also the beautiful Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes.

In 2017, there were twelve burials in the cemetery.

Activities associated with the cemetery include helping families secure burial rights; coordinating burials; advising families on stone placement; keeping accurate records of burial lots and available gravesites; answering inquiries and researching genealogical information.

Ecojustice Council

Submitted by [Martha Blume](#)

Our vision is to work together to build a just and sustainable ecological ethic that informs our actions every day, based on: cooperation, mindfulness, simplicity, temperance and respect for nature. Join us in strengthening our parish's commitment to environmental consciousness and working with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, other faith communities and business and government advocates.

We continue to model "reduce/reuse/recycle" changes in our parish by using ceramic mugs washed in the kitchen dishwasher for our coffee hours; minimizing food waste, and improving compost, trash and recycling efforts.

Recently, Martha Blume and Lauren Coles presented a faith forum on *Water & Spirituality*, which will be an additional focus for the council in 2018. [Access information and resource links about this effort on the St. Peter's web site.](#)

The ecojustice council will also work with the vestry to earn certification as a Green House of Worship by meeting criteria established by the Interreligious Ecojustice Network. We will also explore the potential for St. Peter's to access solar power to offset some energy needs.

This is a robust and demanding agenda and we welcome new members and fresh approaches to the challenges we face as individuals and a community of faith. Please join us.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Submitted by [Nancy Saunders](#)

Ladies, we welcome you and your daughters to join us in fellowship and in service within our parish and our community. Come when you can for Wednesday coffee social hour, 10 to 11am,

hosted by Fran Feldt. We meet at Dunkin Donuts in the Big Y Plaza on South Main Street in Cheshire, except the Wednesday before each of our fund raisers.

We have two fund raisers each year, which are held on the first Saturday of the month, the Rummage Sale in May and the Soup & Santa Christmas Bazaar in December. High school students can earn community service hours by working at one or both of our fund raisers. The money raised is disbursed to several of our church groups and Outreach projects throughout our community. See ECW Treasurer's Report for this year's disbursements.

ECW collects St. Peter's United Thank Offerings each spring and takes them to the CT Diocesan UTO Fall Ingathering in November. In May, we attend the CT Diocesan ECW's annual luncheon and meeting at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

For our outings this year, we toured and enjoyed tea at the Wadsworth Mansion, attended a dance performance at Choate Rosemary Hall, and we saw the play 'Hairspray' at the Thomason Opera House.

I thank my extended family, brothers and sisters at St. Peters, for your love and support during my term as ECW President 2015-2017.

2016 ECW Treasurer's Annual Report

Submitted by Hilda Schmidt, ECW Treasurer

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$6,781.07 |
| Income | |
| 2017 Spring Rummage Sale | \$1,948.00 |
| 2017 Consignment Original | \$177.29 |
| 2017 Christmas Bazaar | \$3,000.98 |
| 2017 Donation | \$20.00 |
| 2017 UTO Collection for future disbursement | \$255.37 |
| Total Income | \$5,401.64 |
| Expenses | |
| St. Peter's Chorus trip to Carnegie Hall | \$1,000.00 |
| St. Peter's Children Camp Scholarship | \$1,200.00 |
| Operating Budget - Recycling Expense | \$360.00 |
| Rector's Discretionary Fund | \$500.00 |
| Operating Fund-10% Raffle & Bazaar | \$495.00 |
| Rite 13 "Night Watch" | \$170.00 |
| Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Memorial in Memory of Dana Knickerbocker | \$75.00 |
| Altar Guild (Memorial Funds) Green Frontal | \$3,179.00 |
| Altar Guild – Green Burse & Veil | \$500.00 |
| Quilters' Donation | \$300.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$7,779.00 |
| Balance as of 12-31-2017 | \$4,403.71 |

Hospitality

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

The Hospitality Committee is a group of people that enjoy socializing, baking and making people feel welcome. St. Peter's Hospitality Committee has a long-standing tradition of providing receptions for funeral or memorial services. Receptions have also been held after musical events and special meetings. We also provide cake and refreshments for baptisms. The hospitality budget supports coffee and paper goods for the weekly coffee hours. All are welcome to join this rewarding ministry.

Welcoming Team

Submitted by Molly Preudhomme

Creating a warm and welcoming experience at St. Peter's while engaging and supporting newcomers is the Welcoming Team's mission. In March we had an "Open House at the Rector's Home" which gave newcomers a chance to meet fellow parishioners and discover what St. Peter's has to offer. Greeters are also welcoming both established and new parishioners every Sunday before and after the service. This spring you will get to know our new members better as we embark on a new publication introducing them with both a photo and a few fun facts. Newcomers, look forward to an Open House. Anyone interested in joining the Welcoming Team or offering suggestions, please contact [Molly Preudhomme](#).

Prayer Team

St. Peter's continues to be blessed to have an active team of parishioners whose mission is to pray for those in need – whoever and wherever they may be. Simply call, email or leave a note in the parish office about your need for prayer. This team will lift you and your loved ones up in prayer. To protect privacy, we use only people's initials or first names as we pass along the needs to others on the prayer team. Please contact [Suki Gadwa](#) for additional information or to join the prayer team.

Quilting Group

Submitted by [Audrey Notation](#)

The Quilters have had another successful year. We make quilts in thanksgiving for members of the parish and for those in need of prayers. We also present quilts to persons at their baptisms. This year – 2017 – we presented quilts to sixteen people and eleven to baptismal candidates. This year begins our nineteenth year for this ministry.

Please consider joining us on Thursday mornings at St. Peter's. You can attend the service at 10 am and then join the projects we are working on. Long term commitment is not necessary – come once, come often. Sewing ability is not required. Please stop by, or if you would like more information, contact Audrey Notation at 203-271-0791.

Donations of money, fabric store cards or fabric are appreciated. We thank several of you for such donations this past year and in particular from the ECW. The printed fabric is cotton or cotton/poly, 72 inches long and 42 inches wide. For children we make a quilt 45 -54 inches long and 42 inches wide. The backing fleece is of a coordinating color, usually 54 inches wide. We usually use fabrics from JoAnn Fabrics.

Stewardship

Submitted by Marj Chapman

Stewardship at St. Peter's is based on our core belief that with the grace of God's love there is enough for all to thrive.

We recognize that we are all stewards – or caretakers – of St. Peter's. Each of us comes with a different story, talent, and gift – at different stages and ages. And we use our unique gifts to care for St. Peter's as we are able.

Together, we work to keep St. Peter's vibrant, welcoming presence strong. And we look with optimism and faith toward a prosperous future.

Our gifts create a Cycle of Blessings that grows as it moves through individuals, families and groups, strengthening our community.

In 2017, we again asked you to make a pledge – or “statement of financial intent” – for the coming year. We also asked you to consider increasing your pledge by 5-10% as we work to expand the sharing of operating expenses across the community. Your response was strong, with more than 125 pledging units for approximately \$309,000.

Thank you for your continuing support for St. Peter's life-giving and transforming work.

Faith Formation

Faith Forums

Submitted by [Marj Chapman](#)

Faith Forums are offered between our two worship services on most Sundays. Community members gather to explore the teachings, challenges, connections and opportunities our faith offers. Together, we create opportunities for thoughtfulness, play, celebration, thanks and meaningful engagement with one another. Topics are determined by parishioners' expressed interests, current topics of faith and relevant social concerns. We draw on the talent, experience and knowledge of our parish members and clergy, as well as of invited speakers from the broader community.

In 2017, we held forums on community, stewardship, ecojustice, and worship to name a few. These are rich subjects for exploration and discussion. Please join and participate as you are able. In addition, we welcome suggestions for forum presentations and participation on the planning team.

Living the Questions

Submitted by [Andrea Hoslett](#)

This group meets Mondays at 1:00 p.m. to discuss issues of contemporary Christianity and life, as well as interfaith topics. Led by Andrea Hoslett, the group uses videos and books as discussion-starters. Interested people are welcome to join at any time. Call Andrea at (203) 695-2313 for information about our current topic.

Mothers and Others

Submitted by [Elise Palumbo](#)

Led by different members in turn, this group is focused on sharing, praying, studying and supporting one another in the spirit of Christian fellowship. The group is open to all women. Our attendees have ranged from mothers with newborns to grandmothers to some who have never been mothers but teachers, aunts and friends. We meet every Monday during the school year at 6:30pm in the church library (or in the adjacent youth room when Vestry is using the library — the third Monday of each month). Members are welcome to bring small children and we can cooperatively provide babysitting. We have occasional get-togethers outside of group meetings, such as pool parties, winery trips and a holiday party. For more information, please contact Elise Palumbo ecpalumbo@att.net.

Women Rising

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

All women are welcome to join this group. If you like to eat and read this is the group for you! 2017 started off a potluck dinner at Mary Ellen Morgan's house for a planning session. We selected pilgrimage as our theme. Michaela Wagner talked to us about her pilgrimage walking the El Camino. We read and discussed "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" by Rachael Joyce and for our Lenten study used "Pilgrim Road" by Albert Holtz.

Outreach

The Outreach Commission

Submitted by Barbara Sireno

The Outreach Commission Mission Statement is: "Keeping in mind St. Peter's Mission Statement which seeks to serve Christ in all persons, the Outreach Commission endeavors to inform and educate the parish about those needs which come to its attention." The Commission allocates funds, meeting needs locally, nationally and internationally. The focus is always on the poor and the oppressed.

Outreach is more than the just the funds we send where needed, it includes all that we do as a parish to reach out beyond the walls of St. Peter's, be it collecting food for the hungry, participating in Chapel on The Green in New Haven, serving breakfast once a month at the homeless shelter, building homes with Habitat, teaching in prison, bringing the Eucharist and cheer to shut-ins, helping children and adults in need, and much more.

Outreach funds come mainly from the proceeds of the annual Horse Show, but there is a line item in the budget for outreach designated for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This year the Horse Show proceeds were \$10,864. The budgeted funds for MDGs were \$1,448. The MDG funds were allocated to Episcopal Relief and Development toward the goal of reducing childhood mortality through efforts that provide clean water to communities.

Additional funds were designated to:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| El Hogar (Honduran Orphanage, support for child - 1 year) | \$1,500 |
| Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries (GWIM) (emergency food bank, soup kitchen) | 1,000 |
| Habitat for Humanity | 3,000 |
| Camp Washington Scholarship | 1,300 |
| <i>Reserved/or specific ministries</i> | |
| Refugee Resettlement Coalition (IRIS) | 1,000 |
| Shelter Now (Meriden Homeless Shelter) | 500 |
| <i>Reserved for future needs or commitments</i> | <u>2,564</u> |
| Total \$10,864 | |

Outreach Commission members are: Hilda Schmidt, Ana Dunlop, Lauren Coles, Anita Linsley, Mary Ellen Morgan, Barbara Sireno, Margery Nettleton, Susanne Deering, with clergy Rev. Sandra Stayner. All who are involved in any outreach project or wish to be involved are welcome to attend meetings and provide input.

Chapel on the Green

Submitted by Wendy Ciaburri

Chapel on the Green is both a liturgical service and a charitable event which offers simple lunches to anyone in need every Sunday afternoon on the green behind Trinity Church in New Haven. In April of 2017, St. Peter's prepared almost 200 bagged lunches for those in need. Members of the parish volunteered to participate in the service and deliver and distribute the food on the green.

Habitat for Humanity

Submitted by Caitlin Celella and Lauren Coles

The Habitat for Humanity work group at St. Peter's provides able and willing hands and hearts for construction work on houses being built in New Haven and Hamden, CT. As part of the commitment, St. Peter's Outreach Committee donates \$3,000 annually to the Sleeping Giant Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The group participates in Saturday work days (8:30 AM-3:30 PM), with about six parishioners volunteering each time.

In 2017, we had three successful work days in March, April and November, with many different parishioners giving their time and (wo)man hours to the projects. We also worked with future Habitat for Humanity homeowners and heard about their struggles to house their families in safe environments. We gained construction skills, worked and ate lunch together, and had a really good time.

| Date | Number of Volunteers | Location | Activities |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| March 18, 2017 | 8 | Habitat for Humanity Workshop | Painted and repaired deck railings |
| April 29, 2017 | 6 | Hamden, CT | Framed a house (lots of hammering while on ladders) Sawed boards Installed plumbing pipes Caulked between boards for increased insulation for Energy Star Requirements |
| November 18, 2017 | 6 | New Haven, CT (near Yale Hospital) | Painted interior walls and ceilings |

We hope to have at least three Saturday work days this year! Please let Caitlin or Lauren know if you would like to be added to the volunteer list.

Refugee Resettlement Coalition

Submitted by [Marj Chapman](#)

We continue our rewarding partnership, initiated in late 2016, with the Unitarian Society of New Haven to support the resettlement of a refugee family. In early 2017, we effectively created a network of resettlement support in all areas – housing, employment, health, education (for both children and adults), and language skills to name a few.

Many helping hands and dedicated hearts were on board to support the Al-Saadi family when they arrived on April 25, 2017, from Iraq via a lengthy stay in Istanbul. Since those first challenging days, family members have made enormous progress in adjusting to life here.

The father, Mustafa, is employed in food service near their home. The two school-age boys, Hussein and Ali, are enrolled in Church Street School in Hamden where they are learning English and keeping up with the work of their first grade and kindergarten classrooms. Our coalition has put a team of homework helpers in place to support them Monday through Thursday. The youngest child, Ritaj – a 3-year-old girl – is enrolled in a preschool in the neighborhood and is doing very well. The mother, Zahraa, who oversees this dynamic family is eagerly studying English – and very proud of her accomplishments. We have been blessed to participate in a miracle of compassionate support.

Our goal remains to guide this family to complete self-sufficiency, but until then the need for help with child care, homework help, cultural outings, some transportation, and other details remains. If you are interested in joining our efforts, please contact [Marj Chapman](#) or [Michaela Hauser-Wagner](#).

Also – financial support for our team, or directly to our sponsoring agency, [IRIS \(Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services\)](#), is always appreciated.

Shelter NOW Breakfasts

Submitted by [Nancy Staab](#)

On the fourth Saturday of every month, St. Peter's cooks and serves breakfast for the approximately 60 residents of Shelter NOW in Meriden. In 2017, we provided twelve breakfasts. The food is supplied by the generous donations of parishioners and is supplemented when needed by the financial support of the ECW. Volunteers sign up every month to be part of the crew, a small group ranging from 3 to 5 people.

Shelter NOW Donation Drives

Submitted by Suzanne Remington-Fox

In addition to the monthly breakfasts, St. Peters also participates in five donation drives each year to further help the Shelter NOW residents in Meriden. Donations drives last about four weeks each, and have included items such as pillows, blankets, men's toiletries, women's toiletries, cleaning supplies, coffee and teas. Parishioners have consistently donated generously to drive announcements, and 1-2 volunteers ensure donation deliveries.

Events

Golf Tournament – For St. Pete's Sake

Submitted by Rev. Ray Andersen

Last July we held the 5th annual golf tournament to benefit the ministries of St. Peter's. This year the tournament memorialized Bill Shay, a treasured member of the parish for many years.

The event was again held at Tunxis Plantation CC in Farmington. Attendance was slightly down from 2016, but we still managed to make \$14,000 for the parish budget. In the past 5 years this event has raised approximately \$55,000 for the parish's ministries.

Thanks to all the committee members and volunteers who made the event function smoothly. It's not easy to manage a large event like this. Thanks to Dave Austin, Karen Bunting, Marj Chapman, Jeff Clark, Liam Considine, Pieter and Judy Heiningen, Denise Hersey, Beryl and Jack Lyons, Margery Nettleton, Jim O'Brien, John Staab, Sandy Stayner, Steven Simmon, Steve Stimpson, and Sam Waldo.

Thanks also to all those who obtained hole sponsorships for the tournament. There are too many to list.

This was my last time as the tournament coordinator and I'm happy to say that Steve Stimpson has taken on this opportunity. Steve is putting together a team to manage the tournament and I will continue to help out. This may very well make the tournament not only a continuing success but an even stronger boost for our parish community. Please get in touch with Steve if you'd like to help. Golf experience is not required.

St. Peter's Church Annual Horse Show

Submitted by Cynthia Jensen, Horse Show Manager

Although it was not one of our banner years as a fund raiser, our horse show continues to show a profit due to the kind contributions that our parishioners who have made, enabling us to underwrite the costs of the show.

When one looks back over the decades since the St. Peter's Vestry voted to pledge horse show profits to the Outreach Ministries more than a quarter of a million dollars has been raised to help meet the many needs of our greater community.

Even though the sagging economy has taken its toll on many recreational activities, the 2017 horse show was able to turn over \$3,000 to the Outreach Committee. In the coming years we will have to increase our efforts to raise more money to underwrite the show without raising the costs for the participants.

Many thanks are due to the faithful workers who share the responsibility of making this event a success, especially Assistant Manager Matt Belcourt, Kris Bures Secretary Extraordinaire and Marj Chapman who stepped in to meet the challenge of sponsorship and the program book with great ease.

Pumpkin Patch

Submitted by Wendy Ciaburri

The 12th year of the Community Pumpkin Patch at St. Peter's was a great success! We continued our partnership with the CHS Best Buddies group and formed a new relationship with Cheshire Academy. Teens from both schools came to help unload the 970 bulk pumpkins plus all the smaller varieties. Boy Scout Troop 90 and troop leader Bob Thatcher, also helped us unload and brought along the mini Bobcat machine.

We also held our second **Kids Day in the Patch** this year. Many families from the community came out to enjoy the day with free games, remote control cars, face painting, s'more making, bake sale and pumpkin painting! Teens from St. Peter's, CHS and Cheshire Academy helped to make that a special day for many kids.

This year, since we made over \$9,000, we were able to keep 33%. We took in a total of \$9,952.25 from pumpkins and \$381 from Kids Day. After the 67% was sent to Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers (Pumpkins USA), we donated 50% of our profit to Best Buddies (\$1,847) 10% to the General Fund (\$369) and the remaining \$1,478 to Outreach. Many thanks to all who volunteered in the patch.