



**St. Peter's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# 2024 Annual Report



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## Priest-in-Charge Report

During my years in ministry, I have learned time and again that church is not a place for those who wish to build themselves up - to make themselves bigger and more important. Rather, it's a place of humble recognition that we don't do this life alone. We need each other - we need community. Our community celebrates with us in our joys and is the place where we can lay our brokenness on the altar. Our faith life is what feeds us for the journey.

From beginnings to endings - baptism to funerals to the other rites and rituals of the church, we find meaning, healing, support, and love. The church is meant to bless our ordinary lives. And from my sixth months here as Priest-in-Charge, I can see that St. Peter's is a community filled with blessings.

Just a few weeks ago we had the most wonderful baptism. Stuart and Jen presented their boys, Theo and Emerson, to be baptized. Theo didn't bat an eye as the water was poured on his head, declaring that he is Christ's own forever. And Emerson's joy was infectious, as he danced his way through the service.

This past week, I had phone calls from the families of Ed Kania and Darcy Keough, both of whom passed away recently. They were faithful members of St. Peter's, both formed by this community and leaving a lasting impression. In the upcoming services we will have a chance to gather, remember them, and say final blessings as they return to God.

As I have come to know the community over the past months, I see one that is rooted in Christ's love and committed to healing. In our music program, Stuart always reminds the choir that sacred music is not a performance, but helps the community fully engage with worship. Our youth and adult formation inspire people of all ages to understand and live more deeply into the faith we are called to.

We know the need for community, and we continue to invite people here. The community as a whole is invited in for fellowship. Seeing the children light up during the science experiments in Kids' Day at the Patch was pure joy! At our Annual Picnic we welcomed friends, new and old, with excellent food, games and accordion music! And watching people shop, dance and eat at the Christmas Bazaar was so much fun.

We reach out to the wider community through our fundraising from the Pumpkin Patch, our gift-giving with the Angel Tree, our Food Sunday offerings, and our partnership with Safe Harbor to help settle refugees. During our Election Day prayers, we opened the church to the wider community. For many it was a place of comfort in an uncertain time. People were grateful our doors were open, even if they were unable to be here.

Our Ecojustice Team seeks to heal our broken relationship with this earth, our island home. This year we are partnering with the Diocese of Massachusetts Path to Creation Justice Program, helping us expand our work.

But mostly, I see people on Sundays. A time where we come as we are to encounter God and support each other. Our lay leaders have taken on special roles in leading Morning Prayer and sharing with us words of comfort and faith. Monthly, we are encouraged to bring our brokenness to the altar and pray for healing. Other Sundays we receive eucharistic sustenance, giving us what we need for the weeks ahead.

What's clear to me in my short time here is that St. Peter's is poised to be a center of God's healing and love for our little corner of the kingdom of heaven. And I am so grateful to be here, among you, as we live out this call together.

I leave you with a blessing from Jan Richardson

*Blessed are you*  
 who bear the light  
 in unbearable times,  
 who testify  
 to its endurance  
 amid the unendurable,  
 who bear witness  
 to its persistence  
 when everything seems  
 in shadow  
 and grief.

*Blessed are you*  
 in whom  
 the light lives,  
 in whom  
 the brightness blazes—  
 your heart  
 a chapel,  
 an altar where  
 in the deepest night  
 can be seen  
 the fire that  
 shines forth in you  
 in unaccountable faith,  
 in stubborn hope,  
 in love that illumines  
 every broken thing  
 it finds.

## Senior Warden Report

Submitted by Kim Clarke

Prior to writing the Senior Warden report, I reviewed my report from the year before, - providing a reminder of where we were then, compared to where we are now, and how we "got here". From the Senior Warden's perspective, one fact came through loud and clear – we held many, many meetings during our period of transition!

A report from the Senior Warden commenting on the meetings which I attended and coordinated with vestry and the parish, does not make for a stimulating read. It is more important to consider where those meetings led us and hear from parish leaders about what is currently happening in our parish. "Where we are now," as I like to say.

Through the annual reports you will read of parishioners who volunteer to lead our worship once a month with Morning Prayer, and newly trained acolytes, lectors, and intercessors. The return of the Christmas Bazaar and success of the Nearly New Boutique. And reports from those groups that have been meeting for decades – Outreach, The Woman's Faith Sharing Group, Living the Questions, and Quilters- to name a few. There is a mixture of new volunteer positions, care of our parish family, and the continued support of our greater community. And please take note of Charlie's Treasurer report- there is welcome news about our financial stability!

And of course, welcome to our Priest-in-Charge, The Rev. Mo Lederman! And a hearty welcome-back to Stuart Duncan, our interim Music Director.

Over this year the support of the parish and governing body was outstanding. Thank you to the vestry for the additional time and commitment, and to our Executive team of Sam Dunlop and Charlie Waggoner. Special thanks to the Music Director Search Committee, and the Liturgy Team, who ensured our worship services continued to be meaningful and well planned.

It has been an honor to be the Senior Warden in these exciting times at St. Peter's, thank you for the opportunity.

In Peace,

Kim

## Junior Warden Report

Submitted by [Sam Dunlop](#)

A major focus of the year was to review energy use and make upgrades to lighting and mechanical systems.

### Highlights:

**Energy reviews-** A major focus of the year was to review energy use and look at equipment upgrades. A special thank-you goes to Peter Festa for setting up numerous reviews with consultants and contractors.

We received proposals from the heating and cooling energy survey begun in 2023. This survey included the following items:

- Add a split heating /cooling system or new air conditioning unit for the basement classrooms. This would be mainly for air conditioning and dehumidification as heat is also supplied from the boilers.
- Replace the gas boilers and surrounding equipment. The boilers provide heat for the sanctuary, parish hall, education wing (office, library and the rooms on two floors) and for downstairs classrooms. This is the largest item. There was a small incentive offered from the utility.
- Add insulation to the parish hall ceiling and suspended ceilings in narthex and education wing upstairs hallway.
- Replace the air conditioning unit on the parish hall unit with a rooftop unit containing a heat pump that can be used for either heating or air conditioning. This item had a larger incentive.
- Add window tint film to the parish hall skylights. The tint can replace the skylight shades. Also add film to north, west and south facing windows in the education wing.

We also began a second review of heating and cooling offered through the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN). This review covers the same areas with extra information on heat pump options. We are expecting proposals at the end of January.

We will not be committed to doing all the items listed in the proposals. Priorities are insulation, making parish hall heating and cooling more efficient, and improve dehumidification for the downstairs classrooms.

**Front area renovation** - The front area renovation was a goal of the capital campaign. We decided not to begin work during 2024 and met with the contractor to continue to refine the proposal and reduce costs. The contractor is available to work on the project this year. A special thank-you to John Clarke who has been leading the design and planning of the project.

**Kitchen and downstairs wastewater**- The grease trap was refurbished and the sump pump, which dated to the 1960 expansion, was replaced. The grease trap separates grease and other residue from the kitchen wastewater. The sump pump transfers the kitchen wastewater and water from the lower-level bathroom up to the sewer connection.

**Building use**- Renewed the building usage agreement with the Cheshire Symphony Orchestra. A local music school rented the sanctuary for recitals. We had inquiries from educators and rented the youth room for a series of science classes.

#### **Additional items**

- Continued tree trimming and removal along the cemetery boundary. A portion of the removal was financed by a grant from a family trust to maintain nearby gravesites. Additionally, there were two storm damage events requiring tree section removals.
- Added a gate and rebuilt fence along the northeast corner of the cemetery.
- The hymn board was repainted and mounted on a movable sanctuary divider.
- Received quotation to replace the sacristy water heater which is no longer working. This work is planned for 2025.
- Received quotations from vendors to clean and re-point /repair the interior brickwork in the bell tower. The work is planned for 2025.

**Plantings and Housekeeping** -As in the past, I again want to extend a note of great appreciation to Chris Aliano who has overseen the parish entrance garden and nurtured plantings in the front of the church and around the parking area. I also wish to thank everyone who assisted in the parish entrance and memorial gardens and with leaf raking and fall cleanup. And a special thank-you to Bob and Carol Moakley and to other 'angel' teams who have performed detailed cleaning of high-use areas in the building.

In summary, we plan to continue improvements to make our church building efficient, attractive and flexible, both for our worship and for use by the many groups that benefit from our space.

**Treasurer Report**

Submitted by [O.C. Waggoner, Jr.](#)

**INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT**

The income and expense result for 2024 is shown in the 2024 budget spreadsheet with columns for the 2024 budget and 2024 actual numbers. The way our expenses unfolded in 2024 was not those of a typical year:

- We did not have clergy except for supply clergy until Mo started with us in early July. This meant that essentially, we had no clergy costs for the first half of the year.
- We did not have an organist until Stuart started with us June 1; so, like clergy, we had essentially no organist cost for the first five months of the year.
- Our parish administrator, Kathy Kirby, retired at the end of October so we had no parish administrator expenses for November and December.

Our income for 2024 was on budget. So with income on budget and expenses way down we ended up 2024 with a surplus of \$50,953. You will see later in this report that our surplus has been banked and that we have a typical 2025 budget that is balanced.

**ENDOWMENT**

Our endowment is invested in the Donations and Bequest (D&B) fund through ECCT. D&B funds are invested through Bank of America. Our funds are invested in Bank of America's "Episcopal Pooled Fund of CT" which maintains an asset allocation of approximately 60% in stock funds and 40% in fixed income funds. The management fee in 2024 was 0.43% of the balance at the beginning of 2024.

The following table shows the overall activity of our endowment in 2024:

Beginning Balance 1-1-2024	882,040
Additions	0
Withdrawals to our operating account	- (24,129)
Unrealized Gain	32,006
Realized Gain	46,142
Management Fees	- (3,784)
Investment Earnings	23,286
Ending Balance 12-31-2024	955,560

The results of the stock and bond markets in 2024 had a significant positive impact on the endowment. Unrealized gains amounted to \$32,006. At the same time the endowment experienced a realized gain of \$46,142 and investment earnings of \$23,286. The total investment gain was \$101,434. Although the 2024 result was quite gratifying, we need to remember in 2022 we experienced an investment loss of \$124,362 so there can be wide fluctuations from year to year depending on the markets.

During 2024 there were no additions to the endowment. In 2024 we withdrew \$24,129 from our endowment and this amount was moved to our operating account and used for normal parish expenses. The \$24,129 represents a 2.7% withdrawal rate of our January 1, 2024, balance and is within the vestry's guideline of no more than a 5% withdrawal. Contributing to this low withdrawal rate is the suspension of withdrawals for five months early in the year when our expenses were low due to not having a regular priest and organist.

## ACCOUNT BALANCES

The included balance sheet shows the 12-31-2024 balances in all of our bank and brokerage accounts:

- Operating
  - Checking (Webster Bank) = \$395
  - Fidelity Money Market = \$83,433
  - Total = \$83,828
- PPP
  - Webster Bank = \$0
  - Fidelity Money Market = \$45,094
  - Total = \$45,094
- Memorial
  - Checking (Ion Bank) = \$ 3,638
  - Fidelity Money Market = \$61,210
  - Total = \$64,848
- Altar Guild = \$428

The operating balance increased from \$35,711 as of 1-1-24 to its year end 2024 value of \$83,828. Interest was earned on our balance in the Fidelity money market but the main driver was our \$50,000+ operating surplus. As you can see our surplus was banked.

The PPP balance is available for our use. We have met the obligations put on us regarding the PPP money from the federal government so this money is ours and available for any use to which we would like to put it.



## 2025 BUDGET

The budget for 2025 that has been approved by the Vestry is included in this annual report.

We are through the unknown expenses resulting from the vacant clergy & organist positions in 2024 and we have a more traditional budget in 2025. We have a balanced budget in 2025 meaning a budget without a surplus or deficit.

The budget uses \$245,000 for pledge income. Our pledge amount for 2025 is \$255,414 and this is the first yearly increase in a long time. Thank you to everyone who has pledged this year. We do not make the pledge amount in the budget equal to the total pledge amount since we will receive some 2025 pledge payments in 2026.

The vestry approved a withdrawal percentage of 4.0% from our endowment. Usually we use the endowment yearend balance for the prior year and apply the vestry approved withdrawal rate. This year is a little different as we received an early January anonymous contribution of \$125,000 to our endowment. So I have used as the endowment balance of the yearend 2024 value plus \$125,000 to determine our endowment withdrawal.

Please remember that Rev. Mo Lederman is a half-time priest with us. If she was full time or three-quarter time, then our clergy expenses would be much higher.

## SUMMARY

We had a very strong 2024 but it was caused by a variety of factors that hopefully don't repeat themselves for a long time. For 2025 we have a sustainable plan for income and expenses. Let's hope the year develops as planned.

*Treasurer's Report submitted by O. C. Waggoner, Jr.*

**2025 Approved Budget**

<b>2025 Approved Budget</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>Actual 12/31/2024</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>
<b><u>Operating Income</u></b>			
4000 Pledge Payments - Last Year	10,000	4,565	5,000
4010 Pledge Payments - Current Year	245,000	246,001	245,000
4015 Unpledged Payments	12,500	12,486	11,950
4100 Loose Collection	3,364	3,646	4,000
4110 Seasonal Offerings	5,000	4,710	5,000
4130 Other Income	3,000	3,281	3,000
4200 Building Use Donations	6,000	5,537	5,000
4210 Endowment Withdrawals	24,249	24,129	43,223
4220 Garafelia & George Capewell	9,000	9,720	10,000
4500 Fundraising Activities	3,000	5,904	6,000
<b><u>Total Operating Income</u></b>	<b>321,113</b>	<b>319,979</b>	<b>338,173</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>			
<b><u>Administrative Expenses</u></b>			
5200 Office Supplies	4,000	2,440	2,500
5210 Communications & Marketing	2,000	1,164	2,000
5220 Postage	1,000	851	1,000
5230 Telephone	2,000	2,084	2,000
5250 Copier	4,500	3,895	4,000
5270 Computer Supplies & Support	2,500	2,047	2,500
5280 QuickBooks/VANCO	2,500	2,071	2,500
5300 Altar Supplies	1,000	968	1,000
5740 Organ & Piano Maintenance	1,000	3,797	3,500
5830 Accounting Services	6,750	4,920	5,500
5900 Unbudgeted Expense	4,000	1,428	3,000
5950 Professional Fees	500	0	500
<b><u>Total Administrative Expenses</u></b>	<b>31,750</b>	<b>25,666</b>	<b>30,000</b>

**2025 Approved Budget (cont.)**

2025 Approved Budget	Budget 2024	Actual 12/31/2024	Budget 2025
<b><u>Facilities Expenses</u></b>			
5260 Service Contracts	7,000	6,370	7,000
5400 Church Building Maintenance	10,000	6,696	10,000
5410 Electricity	7,000	10,256	12,000
5411 Eversource Loan Payment	1,104	1,107	1,200
5420 Heating	14,000	9,999	12,000
5430 Water & Sewer	1,250	1,294	1,250
5470 Refuse Disposal	3,500	3,404	3,500
5480 Cemetery & Grounds	10,000	12,599	13,000
5490 Insurance	18,000	17,795	19,445
<b><u>Total Facilities Expenses</u></b>	<b>71,854</b>	<b>69,520</b>	<b>79,395</b>
<b><u>Staff/Personnel Expenses</u></b>			
5500 Rector Salary	17,760	17,020	36,977
5510 Rector SS Allowance	3,410	3,268	6,468
5520 Rector Housing Allowance	12,970	12,429	27,002
5530 Rector Car Allow & Prof Expense	450	450	450
5540 Rector Pension	6,685	5,571	12,681
5550 Rector Life Insurance	84	60	360
5555 Rector Med & Dental Insurance	3,000	2,875	6,246
5560 Rector Continuing Education	925	0	900
5570 Supply Clergy	6,500	4,600	0
5600 CFD Director Salary	11,680	11,708	12,188
5700 Choir Director Salary	22,500	17,500	31,230
5706 Choir Director Retirement	330	330	0
5710 Supply Organist	3,250	5,877	0
5810 Parish Administrator Retirement	1,523	1,656	0
5840 Parish Administrator Salary	27,283	21,729	20,800
5841 Communications	8,429	8,479	9,984
5842 Housekeeping Salary	11,454	11,501	11,903
5870 FICA & Medicare [All Staff]	6,797	5,426	6,587
<b><u>Total Staff/Personnel Expenses</u></b>	<b>145,030</b>	<b>130,478</b>	<b>183,775</b>

**2025 Approved Budget (cont.)**

2025 Approved Budget	Budget 2024	Actual 12/31/2024	Budget 2025
<b><u>Outreach &amp; Diocese Expenses</u></b>			
5000 Diocese Mission & Ministry	37,759	37,759	37,853
5010 Outreach	1,000	627	1,000
5030 Seminarian Stipend	0	0	1,000
<b><u>Total Outreach &amp; Diocese Expenses</u></b>	<b>38,759</b>	<b>38,386</b>	<b>39,853</b>
<b><u>Program &amp; Ministry Expenses</u></b>			
5120 Hospitality	750	655	750
5650 Christian Education - Children	1,000	1,351	1,000
5660 Parish Faith Enrichment	300	249	300
5670 Youth Group	1,000	0	500
5680 Child Care	1,600	1,360	1,600
5720 Music/Choir	1,000	1,361	1,000
<b><u>Total Program &amp; Ministry Expenses</u></b>	<b>5,650</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>5,150</b>
<b><u>Total Operating Expenses</u></b>	<b>293,043</b>	<b>269,026</b>	<b>338,173</b>
<b><u>Net Operating Income (Loss)</u></b>	<b>28,070</b>	<b>50,953</b>	<b>0</b>

**SAINT PETERS CHURCH**

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 Webster Bank	458.51
1002 Webster - PPP Loan	0.00
1005 Ion Bank - Memorial	3,638.40
1025 Altar Guild Account	427.97
1030 Fidelity Brokerage	
1031 Fidelity GF (CORE) - SPAXX	83,433.47
1034 Fidelity - Memorial MM - FDLXX	61,209.70
1037 Fidelity - PPP MM - FZFXX	45,094.26
<b>Total 1030 Fidelity Brokerage</b>	<b>189,737.43</b>
1099 Cash Transfer	0.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$194,262.31</b>
Accounts Receivable	
11000 Accounts Receivable	5,117.00
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$5,117.00</b>
Other Current Assets	
1200 Endowment Accounts	
1210 Capewell Fund	42,251.37
1220 William H Heineman Fund	34,407.87
1230 General Fund	488,195.01
1240 Housing Fund	203,524.87
1250 Naomi Law Terrell Fund	165,535.39
1260 Burton & Sally Guilford Fund	21,648.35
<b>Total 1200 Endowment Accounts</b>	<b>955,562.86</b>
1290 Prepaid Expenses	-81.08
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$955,481.78</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,154,861.09</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,154,861.09</b>

## SAINT PETERS CHURCH

### Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Other Current Liabilities	
2001 Accrued Expenses	0.00
2002 Cash Receipts in Advance	20,114.03
2010 Payroll Taxes Payable	900.62
2011 Accrued CT Withholding	312.04
2012 CT Paid Family Leave	144.10
2020 Emergency Food Bank	240.10
2110 Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.00
6000 401K Payable	0.00
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	
401-K	0.00
CT Income Tax	137.16
CT Paid Family and Medical Leave	0.00
Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	778.90
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>916.06</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$22,626.95</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$22,626.95</b>
Long-Term Liabilities	
2500 Memorial Fund	0.00
2501 General	17,563.39
2502 Altar Guild	5,520.64
2503 Music Fund	0.00
2515 McKee/Siebert Evensong	1,171.25
2519 Drama Camp	7,490.15
2534 General Music	4,034.94
2535 Lessons & Carols	200.00

## SAINT PETERS CHURCH

### Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2024

	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Total 2503 Music Fund</b>	<b>12,896.34</b>
2504 Cemetery	8,491.45
2505 Outreach	6,790.31
2506 Rector's Discretion	2,876.01
2507 Camp Washington	-20.00
2512 Jr Chorister Camp	1,288.36
2514 Childrens Giving	128.61
2523 Pumpkin Sales	350.38
2530 Camp Scholarships	2,876.40
2533 Atterbury Prayer Garden	3,053.20
2536 Altar Flowers	0.00
2538 Front Lawn of Church	-2,500.00
2539 Reimagining	700.01
2540 Stewardship Reality	3,000.00
2541 Eco-Justice	433.00
2543 Quilters	1,400.00
<b>Total 2500 Memorial Fund</b>	<b>64,848.10</b>
2550 Eversource Loan Liability	4,822.36
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$69,670.46</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$92,297.41</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
2990 Opening Balance Equity	103.19
2995 Restricted Retained Earnings	100,000.00
3000 Unrestricted Retained Earnings	830,898.82
Net Revenue	131,561.67
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,062,563.68</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$1,154,861.09</b>

## Staff Annual Reports

### Director of Children's Ministries

Submitted by [Kim Donaldson](#)

#### Children's Worship (1-6 grades)

January-June and September-December • In-person classes with Bible story, discussion, and activity/craft • 6-12 children each week •

Rite 13 – in-person meetings twice a month with intermittent social events. There are 8 children currently in this class.

- January 2024: MLK Children's March for Peace
- March: Easter Sunday Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny
- May: Mother's Day Flowers for all kinds of moms
- June: End of Year Picnic with games and crafts for kids
- July: Drama Camp
- September: Welcome Back Sunday with games and crafts for kids
- October: Kids Day in the Patch (with Rite 13 volunteers)
- December: Christmas Pageant with Amy and Drew

### Godly Play

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

Godly Play is a program for children from 3 years old through kindergarten. The children learn stories from the Bible using a method of wonder and play. Again, this year, our 4 co-teachers were Becky Whipple and Wendy Dringoli and Michelle Sadiq and Wendy Ciaburri. We have had a wonderful group of regular attendees, who are curious, creative, energetic, friendly and kind.

### Music Ministry Report

Submitted by [Stuart Duncan](#)

It's been a year of transition for the music program at St. Peter's. For the first part of the year, substitute musicians (including myself) rotated to support congregational singing and provide preludes and postludes on the organ. Under the expert direction and planning of Kim Clarke, the music remained an important part of the service and created a foundation for a successful transition of both priest and music director.

Following an unsuccessful search for a new music director earlier in the year, I felt called to support the church and step into the role of interim music director. During the summer and into the fall I spent time rebuilding the Parish choir and planning for the re-establishment of a children's choir. By the end of the year, we had around a dozen children in our choir with support



from Caitlin Cellela, singing at monthly children's services and more than 30 singers participated in our Lessons and Carols service, which really is a blessing.

The transept organ requires a bit of care and attention to enable it to remain stable for many years to come. Toward the end of 2024 it was unreliable for Sunday services. I spent many hours with the organ builders identifying, repairing, and thinking through how we can be sensible stewards of the instruments into the future, which will be further discussed in 2025.

I am grateful for the Parish's warm embrace of me and my family. It was wonderful to see both Theo and Emerson baptized into the church family.

## Director of Digital Communications

Submitted by [Heather Fitzgerald](#)

### Summary

During 2024 there was much to communicate about change. We successfully communicated, internally and externally, about our new Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Mo Lederman, via newsletters, the website and social media. We promoted and hired for two other positions. We advertised and executed many fun services, events, and initiatives. All in all, a busy, joyful year!

### Updates

Once Rev. Mo was onboarded, I took time to go through each page of the website, ensuring that it was current and reflected the new leadership. There were many images to replace! If you see any that need changing, please let me know!

### Newsletter

Our newsletter continues to be the bulk of my role. Keeping in touch with the priest, senior warden, Sunday school directors and ministry leads and others is a key part of the job so that we are communicating necessary information to our parish in a timely manner.

Some highlights:

- Sent 70 messages from the St. Peter's email management account (Mailchimp) in 2024! This is a combination of the weekly eNews, obituaries and special announcements.
- Average open rate of 59% (up from 57% in 2023)
- We currently have 463 subscribers on our mailing list

### Website:

I've worked hard to keep the website current, especially our homepage. My goal is to always have two to three "main items" features (upcoming events, announcements, ways to get engaged) so that our parishioners know what's upcoming and so potential newcomers can see what we're up to at St. Peter's.

Next up is to:

- Work behind the scenes to delete older unpublished pages we no longer use that are taking up memory.
- Find new imagery to rotate into the homepage.

- Build out any sections related to St. Peter's youth.

### **Social Media**

I continue to maintain our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

Some highlights include:

- Created 250+ posts across platforms since began working on social media.
- Consistently "liking" posts from other churches and organizations in Connecticut, as well as following them to "spread the love" on social media.
- Placing posts in the Cheshire Community Forum on Facebook.

### **Other:**

- YouTube presence continues to grow! The Stream Team is working hard to offer livestreaming to those who cannot attend in person. We now have 89 subscribers (up from 71 last year). We had 18 when this effort was started in August 2022.
- Worked with CHRO on March for Peace fliers so they can be distributed to all Cheshire elementary schools and had placed on Cheshire Bulletin Board (which was then sent to Power School which goes to all students/parents in the district).

### **Future initiatives:**

- Meet with the new Parish Administrator, Erika Nemeti, to understand how we can best work together
- Tell more St. Peter's stories

## **Parish Administrator Report**

Until her medical leave in the Fall of 2024 and her formal retirement in October 2024, St. Peter's was blessed with the administrative support of Kathy Kirby, who had been with us since XXXX.

Thank you, Kathy, for all your guidance, support and warm welcoming attitude. You are missed.

We have recently hired a new part-time administrator, Erica Nemeti, who will be in the parish office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. Her email is [office@stpeterscheshire.org](mailto:office@stpeterscheshire.org).

### **About Erika:**

Erika has been a member of the Episcopal Church since 2005. She enjoys singing in the choirs of St. Thomas New Haven and Trinity on the Green while being an active and enthusiastic volunteer.

She has held various roles as support staff in the natural medicine side of health care. She enjoys painting, creating stage sets and visiting museums in her free time. Erika lives in Hamden with her husband Michael, her three college-aged children, some elderly backyard chickens and two kittens.

## Our Ministries

### Worship / Liturgy

#### Ushers

Submitted by [Charlie Waggoner](#)

The ushers stand at the door to welcome people and pass out Orders of Service. They make sure the congregation has what they need to fully participate in worship each Sunday. Ushers pass the collection plates during the Offertory anthem and bring them to the altar to be blessed. They then manage participants as they come forward to receive the bread and wine.

Ushers play a very important role in the life of the congregation, helping to make people feel welcome as they come to worship. Carol and Chuck Moakley are the head ushers at 8 am and would love to have others assist them. We do not currently have a head usher for the 10 am service and are looking for help. If you would like to volunteer to oversee the ushers and/or serve as an usher, please talk to Sr. Warden Kim Clarke or to Charlie Waggoner.

#### Acolytes

Submitted by [Alan Blume](#), Coordinator

Acolytes contribute directly to our worship as a community in many ways and it is a ministry for people of all ages. I am extremely grateful to Elizabeth Guest and Sara Johnson for serving at the 8 am service and to Heather Fitzgerald and Chris Morris for serving at the 10 am service. I am also thankful for those youth who have stepped in from time-to-time, including Jack Dringoli, James Fitzgerald, and Ethan Works who have helped at the 10 am service on Children/Youth Sundays.

We need additional acolytes for both services. If you are interested, please speak with me (203-492-9651) or email me at [alblume79@gmail.com](mailto:alblume79@gmail.com) or connect with Rev. Mo.

#### Altar Guild

Submitted by [Amy Kosciuk](#)

Altar Guild continues to make sure all is set up and in place for St. Peter's worship services. We would like to give thanks and appreciation to Jeanne Kosciuk for her many years of service to St. Peter's Altar Guild – including as a member of the team, as well as her many years as the Altar Guild Director. Her knowledge, vision and creativity will be missed as she pursues new volunteer adventures.

Altar Guild would also like to thank John Staab for 25 years of service to Altar Guild! Thank you, John, for all you do.

Respectfully submitted

Amy Kosciuk, Linda Gilbert, Joy Bonitz, Deanna Rozak, Hilda Schmidt and John Staab

## Lay Leaders

Submitted by [Alan Blume](#)

After some experimentation last year, we have adopted the liturgy of Ante-Communion or the Service of the Word, for those Sundays when Rev. Mo is not with us. Although the schedule will change based on the liturgical calendar, the third Sunday of each month and the fifth Sunday for those months with five Sunday are lay-led services. I am grateful to those who have agreed to serve the St. Peter's community in this capacity. I am also grateful to all the members of St. Peter's for their support as evidenced the fact that attendance on Sundays with a lay-led service has been similar to weeks when Holy Eucharist is celebrated.

The current Lay Leaders are:

Christy Chandler  
Liam Considine  
Charles Dimmick  
Elizabeth Guest  
Michaela Hauser-Wagner  
Beryl Lyons

Although most of the Lay Leaders serve as the officiant for either the 8 or 10 am service, Charles has graciously filled in when needed for either of the two services.

## Parish Ministries

### Stewardship

Submitted by [Kim Clarke](#)

For a second year, members of the vestry coordinated our Stewardship campaign. Guided by campaign materials provided by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), we presented the pledge appeal theme "Walk in Love."

We had a "soft opening" for our campaign, as the traditional kick-off day in early October calendar was busy with services and activities: two services, Food Sunday, Children's Choir, Blessing of the Animals, Rite -13 meeting, and 1300+ pumpkins to sell! Our team decided to have an announcement at services, two testimonies (thank you to Carol Moakley and Michaela Hauser-Wagner!) and let the spirit of St. Peter's, and all the activities, speak for themselves.

And that they did! To date our stewardship total is \$255,414 from 85 pledges. Although the number of pledging units has decreased, this figure is an approximate increase of \$6,000 from 2024. And we will continue to look for support from parishioners throughout the coming year.

Thank you to all who submitted pledges to support our worship, activities, and future growth.

## Cemetery and Memorial Garden

Submitted by [Sam Dunlop](#)

St. Peter's Cemetery is the peaceful resting place of many generations. It is a living cemetery where many family members and visitors spend time at gravesites or just enjoy the grounds. The cemetery is a popular route for walkers from the community. It is also a learning opportunity for Cheshire Academy classes and others who have attended tours led by Charlie Waggoner.

The cemetery encompasses the traditional burial ground with plots, and a Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes. During 2024 there was one interment of ashes in the memorial garden. There was one interment of ashes in the cemetery.

Chris Aliano and others pruned the memorial garden and provided plantings at the beginning of the walkway at the driveway corner.

The scouts and parishioners provided annual leaf raking and removal of the cemetery and grounds.

Trees were trimmed and removed along cemetery boundaries. We received support from a family trust to defray the cost of a tree removal and from a separate donation to reseed areas affected by storm damage.

There are limited lots available in the cemetery. Anyone planning a cemetery burial or interment is urged to consider making a purchase. The Memorial Garden has no limit on interments.

## Welcoming Team – Greeters

Submitted by [Hilda Schmidt](#)

As part of the Welcoming Team, the Greeters' ministry is to welcome current parishioners, as well as guests, to our beautiful church on Sundays, before and after the church services. We invite them to join us for coffee hour and show them the way. We seize this opportunity to meet our friends and share in conversation.

We currently have eleven faithful parishioners serving as Greeters. **8:00 service:** Christy Chandler; Carol & Chuck Moakley. **10:00 service:** Alan Bisbort; Cathy & Kym Molaskey; Jayne & Jim O'Brien, Neelan & Earnest Sadiq; Hilda Schmidt. If you enjoy meeting people with a big smile and are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Hilda at [hildacschmidt@hotmail.com](mailto:hildacschmidt@hotmail.com) or (203) 592-4819. We have a flexible rotation schedule, and all are welcome.

## Prayer Team

Prayerfully submitted by [Suki Gadwa](#)

The prayer team continues to maintain a list of people in need of prayer, and to send a monthly or bi-monthly prayer letter via email to a group of parishioners and a few others. This group includes former parishioners and seminarians, who have moved away, but continue to maintain contact with St. Peter's, through prayer. We are made aware of prayer needs, and of answered prayers, by our priest-in-charge, at church in person, by phone, and by email.

Since we no longer use a weekly service bulletin, the prayer list is now published on Thursdays in the weekly St. Peter's eNews and read aloud during the "Prayers of the People" portion of the 10 am service. It is also posted on a bulletin board, in the parish hall. Please inform me, ([sigrun.n.gadwa@gmail.com](mailto:sigrun.n.gadwa@gmail.com)), Kim Clarke, or Heather Fitzgerald (newsletter editor) of prayer needs, as they arise., and please let one of us know when a name should be removed. You can also add a name to the list on the bulletin board, or cross one off. Feel free to post a prayer. Each month, in memory of Bob Sireno who recently died, we post one of Bob's prayers for church ministries.

The group prayer email also addresses more general needs. We pray for the health needs of parishioners and their families and friends, for the families and friends of those who have died, and for the welfare of the parish, our larger society, and the environment. Anyone can send out a group prayer email; Suki Gadwa sends most of them. Regretfully, Avril Cocking, former co-leader, is no longer well enough to help with this. Many thanks for her wonderful contributions to the prayer ministry, over the decades!

Jen Noble has added a wonderful new component to our ministry. She mails lovely cards on behalf of St. Peter's to those who can use encouragement or prayers, especially bereaved family members. The cards are hand-made collages, using dried flower parts. If you know of anyone who can use a card, please send Jen a text (203 494 0834) with the name and mailing address.

This ministry is open to anyone who prays.

## Quilters

Submitted by [Audrey Notation](#); phone 203-271-0791

St. Peter's Quilters have been functioning since December 1999. We make quilts with our prayers for those who are ill, in need of prayers for thanksgiving, for outstanding efforts and for all baptisms.

During 2024 we presented 16 regular quilts, 1 for the golf tourney, 2 for the bazaar and 6 baptismal quilts. There are several quilts already made in reserve.

**Finances:** We were supported by the ECW and donations. The last check from the ECW 7/30/23 was for \$600.00. We received an anonymous sum on 4/14/24 of \$200.00. The current balance held by Audrey Notation is \$661.00. In July 2024, an anonymous donor gave us the \$900 currently being held by St. Peter's Treasurer Charles Waggoner.

The Quilters meet once a week to pin, sew and tie the quilts, labelling them as needed. The fabric is usually Purchased at JoAnn Fabrics along with appropriate fleece. In 2024, our expenses were \$326.78. Our thanks for your financial support.

## Hospitality / Fellowship Ministries

### Hospitality

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

St. Peter's Hospitality Committee has a long-standing tradition of hosting receptions after funeral or memorial services held at St. Peter's. We provide cake and refreshments for baptisms and host other gatherings such as the Maundy Thursday soup dinner. If you like to bake or work in a group in the kitchen or like to serve others, please email Wendy Ciaburri. All are welcome to join this rewarding ministry!

### Coffee Hour

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

Coffee hour is a way for us to catch up with each other every week and to connect with those who may have joined us for the first time. Volunteers are needed. Info will be coming soon in the eNews on ways you can help. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time on Sunday morning to assist with this important ministry.

### Foyers

Submitted by [Christy Chandler](#)

In 2024 a group of parishioners shared dinners together. Hosting duties rotated with an average of 6 parishioners attending each meal. This is a great way to develop relationships and enjoy time together over a shared meal. Unfortunately, interest waned in Fall of 2024 and we held off planning dinner get-togethers. We hope to spark new interest in this ministry in 2025, so please contact Christy if you are interested.

### Meal Train

Submitted by [Christy Chandler](#)

Meal Trains are available for families experiencing a time of need due to health-related or other circumstances when the provision of a home-cooked meal would be appreciated. We have an extensive group of volunteers who readily respond to email requests when needed. We are always looking for others who might like to support this effort. In 2024, we successfully provided Meal Trains to three parish families/individuals. Please contact us if you need help or want to sign up to be on the train when a call comes.

## Faith Formation Ministries

### Women's Faith Sharing

Submitted by Becky Whipple

Women's Faith Sharing — formerly known as Mothers and Others -- invites anyone who identifies as a woman — with or without children — to gather weekly in a supportive and safe environment, sharing our walk in faith through reading, conversation, prayer, and lots of laughter. Our gatherings usually involve a book discussion but are sometimes simply for fellowship. We meet at 6:30 p.m. in St. Peter's library on Mondays throughout the school year. Come as little or as often as you like.

### Living the Questions

Submitted by [Andrea Hoslett](#)

This intergenerational group, led by Andrea Hoslett, meets weekly on Wednesdays at 1 pm in the St. Peter's library. We explore group-chosen topics on spirituality and religion. With videos and books as a springboard, the discussion is thought-provoking and lively.

Membership is fluid and all are welcome to join us as schedules permit.

## Ministries that Reach Beyond Our Parish

### Eco-Justice Council

Submitted by [Joy Bonitz](#) and [Marj Chapman](#)

Our Mission: *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.

### A quick look at our 2024 actions and successes.

We offered a series of forums to inform and engage both St. Peter's parishioners and those in the broader community, including:

March – **EV's, Plug-Ins, Hybrids . . . Oh My** was presented by four St. Peter's parishioners, Peter Festa, Scott Gadwa, Eric Preudhomme and Michaela Hauser-Wagner, who shared their experiences in researching, buying and driving their vehicles.

May – **A Solutions to the Food Waste Crisis In CT** was presented by Sherill Baldwin of CT DEEP.

Throughout the year we organize actions, including

- In April, we organize and partner on local Earth Day activities.
- In May we promote *No-Mow May*, reminding folks that May flowers – dandelions, clover, violets and more – are essential to bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.



- In July, the council oversees a *Plastics-Free July* awareness campaign.
- Sept. 1 to Oct. 4 is *The Season of Creation*, celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all of creation.

AND -- Look for our ongoing deposit-bottle/can recycling effort's repository in the St. Peter's kitchen.

**We Collaborate with Community Partners**, including Cheshire Creation Care, with St. Peter's Eco-Justice Council as a founding member of this interfaith group committed to explore, discover, and restore life-affirming relationships with all of creation. Our member partners are: Cheshire United Methodist Church, First Congregational Church of Cheshire, and Temple Beth David of Cheshire. Additional community partners include [Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire](#), [Cheshire Pollinator Pathway](#), [Suburban Garden Club of Cheshire](#), and [Boulder Knoll Community Farm](#)

In 2024 we maintained our **Boulder Knoll Community Farm** garden plot, where we could definitely use for more help – no expertise required. Come dig with us.

In the late Fall of 2024, we were asked to participate in a Massachusetts-based program – [The Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#). We hope this program will help us grow as we learn from the experience of others.

To learn more about our efforts this year, and stay up to date on our events, [please visit and bookmark the St. Peter's Eco-Justice Council web page](#). And please join our ongoing efforts to care for God's creation.

## Outreach Committee

Submitted by [Barb Sireno](#)

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

Outreach funds now come from a percentage of the annual pumpkin sales. The pumpkin money in 2024 added \$1,400 to our account for a balance of \$6,790. Most Outreach help comes from parishioners who individually and voluntarily respond to needs at various times during the year.

The parish collects non-perishable food and money on the first Sunday of each month for the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries (GWIM), who provide an emergency food bank and free lunches during the week. We also support their summer camp program, which includes noon meals for campers from Waterbury's inner-city. We thankfully have some new volunteers to help do the food delivery to GWIM each month. They are Robyn Acampora, Alan Bisbort, David Ioime, Maryann Lewin, Jayne and Jim O'Brien, and Deanna Rozak. If you would like to help this effort, please contact [Hilda Schmidt](#).

We provided \$127. For Chapel on the Green in January 2024, underwriting sandwiches, fruit and beverages for lunch after the worship service.

In August we provided backpacks, some school uniforms and school supplies to 9 children to give them a good start to the school year. We also bought two bunk beds and mattresses for \$532 to help a single mom with 4 children who had no beds.

In September, we gave Grace United Methodist (Safe Harbor in Southington) \$500 to support refugee settlement.

We received the names of 28 children to provide Christmas gifts, which parishioners generously supported. Christy Chandler and Wendy Ciaburri managed this project.

Outreach Team members include Hilda Schmidt, Barbara Sireno, Ana Dunlop, Marj Chapman, Wendy Ciaburri, Peter Festa, Christy Chandler, Anita Linsley, Mary Ellen Morgan, Jayne O'Brien, plus all interested in supporting our efforts.

### **Chapel on the Green and CT Foodshare**

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 June, St. Peter's parishioners donated food and prepared 200 bagged lunches for those in need. A small group of parishioners participated in the service in New Haven and passed out the lunches.

In February, a group of parishioners sorted food at the Connecticut Foodshare warehouse in Wallingford. Connecticut Foodshare is a member of the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks and supports individuals and families – from one end of the state to the other – by addressing root causes, creating long-term solutions, and distributing nutritious food through local partner programs to alleviate hunger.

### **St. Peter's Events**

#### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Children's March for Peace**

Submitted by St. Peter's Vestry

In January 2024, St. Peter's Church hosted The MLK Jr. Children's March for Peace, which is sponsored by the State of Connecticut's Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. For the third year, St. Peter's was privileged to be the start and finish point for this annual march, which has grown every year. This event celebrates the power of children to make a difference. It focuses on our children as catalysts for manifesting Dr. King's vision of inclusion, nonviolence, and respect for the rights of everyone. Celebrating Dr. King's life and teachings, we ring bells, walk together, and pause at historic landmarks to learn about the history of slavery in our town and to inspire us to build a more equitable future for all.

#### **Community Pumpkin Patch**

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

The **Community Pumpkin Patch** had another successful year of sales! Pumpkin Patch sales were almost \$12,000! Pumpkins USA receives 67% of pumpkin sales and a check was sent to them for \$7,904.00. Our pumpkin selling partners, CHS Best Buddies and ReRead Book Store each

received a check for \$1,315.00. Our St. Peter's Outreach team received \$1,400.00 as well. The other groups involved with the patch are Boy Scout Troop 198 for set up and clean up, Bob Thatcher for wagon and unloading ramps, CHS Girls Softball team for unloading (as well as CHS Best Buddies and other students) and a few Cheshire Academy kids. Many volunteers have experienced special connections with people from our community while working at the patch and as it requires many groups to run. **It truly is a Community Pumpkin Patch.** Many thanks to all the St. Peter's parishioners who generously give their time each year to sell pumpkins -- it couldn't happen without all of you!

**Kids Day in the Patch** was held this year and we had a wonderful community turnout despite its falling on the only cloudy and cool Sunday in October. The Rite 13 kids and Cheshire Academy Girls Volleyball team set up the tables and chairs. We had Pumpkin Painting with a big thanks to Michelle Sadiq for her great people and painting skills and to Caitlin, Ralphie & Vinny for lugging 40 pumpkins into the basement for safekeeping until the big day. The Cheshire Academy Girls Volleyball team assisted with every table and this event could not have happened without them! Pumpkin painting is the only part of the event that requires payment (\$4.00). Make your own s'mores, apples, snacks, Halloween Bingo, Halloween Science Experiments, tattoos, and little kids games are all free with donation jars available. Legos and remote-controlled cars were also part of the fun. Caitlin, Kim D., Becky W., Crystal and Wendy & Jesse D. were all part of the crew to make this a successful community event.

### **Christmas Bazaar**

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#) and [Amanda Salvo](#)

The Christmas Bazaar was held on December 7, 2024, and was a fun-filled and profitable event. This year, the jewelry was moved to the room next to the library; our talented parishioners, Tim Considine, Jack and Kensley Dringoli and Chris Aliano, performed live music; and we had a central location to pay for purchases. We had 7 vendors and team leaders for each table. We made \$4,000 which was put into the Operating Fund. We have "regulars" who have shopped at our Bazaar for years and they were thrilled with the new format. **Many, many** St. Peter's parishioners assisted in making this Bazaar a success.

The St. Peter's team leads were as follows:

- Soup & Bread lunch: Beryl Lyons, Barbara Sireno, Judy & Pieter VanHeiningan, Lois Benas, Colleen O'Brien
- Jewelry room - Many, many helpers, Cindy & John Garvin, Molly, Neelam, Hilda, Mary Lou DeBisschop, Cathy & Kym Molaskey just to name a few
- Bake table – Marj Chapman
- Holiday Decorations – Jayne Krasney & Jeanne Kosciuk
- Handiwork table – Audrey Notation & Sarah Johnson
- Raffle table – Amy Kosciuk
- Pet Gifts -Wendy C.& Jayne K.
- Local Vendor Coordination – Amanda Salvo