



St. Peter's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2025 Annual Report



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Rector's Report

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40

We read these words every week at the 8 am service. They are the crux of our faith – simple to understand, but not always easy to live. The world feels turbulent and hard right now. And we are wearied by the changes and chances of this life and can find it hard to truly rest in God's eternal changelessness. And, perhaps more than usual, I find myself needing to be with this faithful community – a place to share our fears and anxieties and a place to find joy and hope.

I've been thinking a lot about the meaning of church in my own life, and there are two quotes that I keep returning to. The first is a longer one from the Right Reverend Michael Curry, retired Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. In *The Way of Love* podcast he said, "But, you know, if you ask yourself, why do we need to go somewhere and worship with a community of people? I mean, I can do that at home, okay, that's true. But there's a certain sense in which me having to get out of my home and kind of be discomforted a little bit, to have to go somewhere else to be with a bunch of other people, you know. Even if they're family and friends in the church, I know and love and they all love me. But there are probably some of them I wouldn't choose to be with and probably a bunch of them I wouldn't be with in any other context probably. There's something good about me having to get out of my world, Michael's world, and go into a place that's kind of us. That's the first step in unhinging me a little bit from my self-centeredness."

We live in community in order to get out of our own way and to share space and hear other perspectives. It's not always comfortable or easy, but it leads us to a deeper understanding of each other and of God's vision for us. We need each other - as imperfect and messy as that might be.

The second quote is from bell hooks in *All About Love*. "Rarely, if ever, are any of us every healed in isolation. Healing is an act of communion."

We are imperfect and sometimes broken people, living in a broken world. We carry with us burdens and griefs that are often invisible to the outside world and seek healing. In community – in communion with one another – we begin to find that healing. We learn that we are not alone in carrying burdens and we can begin to share some of our troubles with the others around us and with Jesus.

St. Peter's is a space for holding the tension of anger, sadness and fear with blessed joy, peace and passion for what's right. This is the beauty of the gathered faith community.

Our weekly worship is a time for healing and love. With the hope that we bring that healing and love forth into the world. And I am profoundly grateful to those who help us find healing and love on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to all of those who give of their time and talent. Our choir and our altar guild bring holy beauty to this space. Those who serve on the altar and ensure our service is filled with peace. Our children bring their infectious joy and curiosity to this place.

We are blessed to have a variety of preachers. Jocelyn reminded us a few weeks ago that we, like Jacob who is renamed Israel, are God-wrestlers, looking at scripture and seeking guidance on our own lives as God's people. The variety of voices enriches our worship and helps us to use our theological imagination to think about what God wants for us in our personal lives, in our local community and in the world.

And I am especially grateful for those who come, week after week, taking time in your precious weekend to worship together. We lift our hearts and voices to pray to and praise God.

Together we are companions in Christ. I recently learned that the word companion means "with bread." I cannot think of a more apt way to talk about the St. Peter's community. Those who we share bread with on Sunday become our companions in this world. Our companions walk alongside us, as friends and support. They lead us in times when we are lost. They follow us in times when they are in need. Sundays remind me that I am not alone. You are not alone. We are not alone.

And while the world can feel challenging, being here I see glimmers of hope. I see it in the welcome someone receives when coming in through our doors for the first time and the love someone receives when they allow themselves to become truly a part of the community.

I see hope in those who work to make the world a better place – in the incredible outpouring of love shown during our Christmas gift drive, the monthly offerings of food and financial support in our food collection, our partnership with Re-Read Books and Best Buddies in the pumpkin patch. All of these are glimmers of hope.

I see it in the incredible hospitality both to those within the church community and who make their home in our space like AA, AlAnon, Cheshire Symphony Orchestra, and Ball and Socket.

I feel hope when I witness the faithful creation care from our Eco-Justice team, working hard to ensure that all of God's children, present and future, can delight in the beauty of the earth.

I am hopeful witnessing the weekly gathering of our seekers like Women's Faith Sharing and Living the Questions.

I feel hope during our Senior Lunches which are well-attended and joyful events.

I am in awe of the talent and dedication of our quilters, who cloak our members in love and healing prayers.

The MLK Children's March was powerful. And everyone who attended was inspired and left a more hopeful person.

I feel hope in the dedication of our staff. Heather is diligent in her communication with us and the outside world, always shining a light on St. Peter's. Stu leads our choir not just to make our services beautiful, but also in his care for the members of the choir who remind us that music is prayerful ministry. Kim shepherds our growing youth programs. And indeed, I am grateful to all of those who do this work, bringing love and light to our young folk! Dave has been faithful for these many years. Erika is a hub of information and organization, facilitating all that we do!

I am hopeful after meeting with our faithful Vestry, who provide counsel and wisdom in the church. I am uplifted when I meet with our Liturgy Committee, who dedicate their time to thinking about worship and who never fail to make me laugh!

I am grateful to each and every one of you. Thank you for being here, for trusting this community with your griefs, fears, vulnerabilities, joys, and love. May we find our peace and blessing in this sacred space.

Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by [Kim Clarke](#)

Prior to the vestry vote to elect Rev. Mo as Rector, vestry discussed how St. Peter's is functioning with the change from full time to half time clergy. Our conversation was very positive. We agreed that much of the changeover appeared seamless and we are doing very well – new families are joining, programs are running and the energy is palpable.

One item vestry designated as needing attention is Pastoral Care. As with all part-time clergy positions, attending to Pastoral Care within a 20–25-hour work week is a challenge. Therefore, to attentively care for our St. Peter's family, we as parishioners need to determine what pastoral care "looks like" as a parishioner-led ministry and decide its importance to us as a community.

According to the Episcopal Dictionary of the church: Pastoral care is the ministry of caring at the heart of the church's life. It may include hospital visitation, counseling, and ministries of shared presence, listening, and support. Pastoral care can refer to the ministries of hospital chaplains, pastoral counselors and therapists, social workers, and other professionals who serve in the name of the church. It also includes parish ministries of clergy and laity who respond to human need.

As you may notice in this definition, many of the ministries listed are covered by professionally trained individuals. We at St. Peter's need to define as laity, what we are capable of and safely able to manage for those in need. We will need to gather a team to discern and formulate this decision, and I would recommend we speak with other parishes with half-time clergy to determine how they are handling this important church ministry.

Until then, I would offer that we take a look at what we already do and might expand to develop a Compassion Care program. Compassion Care would connect to those who might be ill, overwhelmed and need some temporary help, or perhaps are a part of our parish but cannot attend services. We currently have in place the Meal Train, Senior Lunches, Quilters, and Birthday Card Ministry. To add to those, Amy Kosciuk has agreed to guide us in reinstating the Altar Flower Ministry; we can be trained as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (Chris Aliano could use some partners), and we can develop criteria for Friendly Visitors. And I am sure there is more to be added with the energy and creativity of this parish.

This is a very important ministry to me, for reasons which Chris Morris adeptly summarized in his Stewardship talk. Chris reminded us that, "From our very creation we have been interdependent creatures. We need each other. Despite what we might tell ourselves, none of us can do everything on our own. There are many helping hands all along the track of life. It is together that we can do amazing things, but we must put our hearts into it."

Please join me to reimagine Pastoral, and Compassion Care at St. Peter's.

Junior Warden's Report

Submitted by [Sam Dunlop](#)

Highlights

Energy upgrades – During 2025 the heat pumps for the education wing (parish office, youth room, library, and upstairs offices and the children's rooms) were replaced with more efficient and powerful units. The heat pumps can be programmed by a phone app. They are tied in with the conventional heating so that the gas/hot water heating for the education wing is only used in very cold weather.

A separate project added insulation in the parish hall ceiling and the suspended ceilings in narthex and education wing upstairs hallway.

A special thank-you goes to Peter Festa who researched, organized and coordinated these projects through the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN). He held numerous meetings with the IREJN consultant, vendors and the utility. The project costs were partially offset by government incentives and by a diocesan grant.

An additional project to add insulation above the sanctuary and choir loft is planned for 2026.

Other energy projects that have been reviewed

- 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.
- Replace the parish hall air conditioning unit with a rooftop unit containing a heat pump that can be used for either heating or air conditioning.
- 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.

Front area renovation – The front area renovation project was completed over the spring and summer. The project provided a new plaza with landscaping, along with re-grading of the front area to open the view of the church from the street and sidewalk. A grant from a local trust that provides funding for improvements along Main Street defrayed some of the cost. A special thank-you and recognition to John Clarke, who made the initial designs, led the planning of the project and coordinated the construction and landscaping.

Organ upgrade – Several upgrades were completed on the organ and lower console. These upgrades included software, circuitry and interfaces to enable full connections to the balcony and transept pipes for all of the lower console settings. Additional pipes were installed in the transept.

Building use and rentals – The Cheshire Symphony Orchestra rented the sanctuary for rehearsals and concerts.

The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, educators and other groups held meetings and events in the parish hall and other rooms.

Ball and Socket Arts rented the sanctuary for two spring concerts and a summer concert in the sanctuary.

Other items

- Replaced the main water intake valve and the boiler room sprinkler pressure valve and backflow suppression valves. The valves were found to be defective during an annual inspection. The cost was offset by a diocesan grant.
- Received quotation to replace the sacristy water heater which is no longer working.
- Received quotations from vendors to clean and re-point /repair the interior brickwork in the bell tower.

Plantings and Housekeeping – During 2025 Chris Aliano has overseen the parish entrance garden and nurtured plantings in the front of the church and around the parking area. A special thank you goes to her, and to everyone who assisted in the parish entrance and memorial gardens and during leaf raking and fall cleanup. Thank you to Boulder Knoll Community Farm for taking leaves and garden cuttings.

A special thank-you to Bob and Carol Moakley and to other 'angel' teams who have performed special cleaning of high-use areas in the building.

In summary, we completed projects that enhance both the building and grounds to support our community. Going forward I am confident we will continue to make improvements to make our church efficient, attractive and flexible, both for our worship and events and for use by the many groups that benefit from our space.

Treasurer's Report

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

There was lots of activity in 2025. We transitioned from having Mo for one-half of the year to a full year. There were major projects in 2025 including the landscaping project in front of the church, installation of heat pumps in the education wing and the choir practice room and a large repair of the organ. These three projects involved withdrawals from our endowment and the closing of our Fidelity PPP account.

INCOME and EXPENSE REPORT

The income and expense result for 2025 is shown in the 2026 budget spreadsheet with columns for the 2025 budget and 2025 actual numbers. We ended the year with a surplus of \$21,130, which is unbelievable. The surplus resulted from the following two reasons:

- It turns out that the 2025 contributions to the three pledge accounts (pledge payments last year, pledge payments current year and unpledged payments) are \$16,270 more than the budget. There are only 15 people who have not fulfilled their 2025 pledges ranging from a shortfall of \$1.10 to \$800.00 for a total of \$2,296.60. Most of the shortfalls are insignificant or they are for people who are very generous with their contributions and are a little short. At the same time there are 37 people who have contributed more than their pledges ranging from \$5.00 to \$1,600. As a group these people contributed \$8,738 more than their pledges. Also, contributions from people who do not pledge were \$5,179 over budget. Thank you to everyone who contributed in 2025.
- At the same time total expenses were \$6,000 less than budget and there, with the pledge overage, is pretty much the surplus of \$21,160. The expense category leading the way with coming in less than budget is administrative expenses, \$5,000 below budget. Office supplies and copier expenses are way below budget due to Erika's judicious ordering of supplies and reduced copier usage with the elimination of weekly bulletins and reduction in color copying.

MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2025

The project that we completed in the front of the church had a total cost of \$85,065. The principal sources of funds for this project were \$75,000 from our endowment, \$6,500 from the Julia Humiston Trust, \$930 from a local non-St Peter's community member and \$727 of Fidelity interest.

The HVAC project to install heat pumps in the education wing and choir practice room plus the installation of additional insulation cost \$55,525. Principal sources of income for this project were \$35,123 from the PPP account and \$20,322 from endowment. We received a rebate of \$11,610 from Eversource for this project and it will be used for insulation installation in 2026.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND

During 2025 we set up a maintenance fund which will be used to pay for major organ repairs. The idea here is that the organ account in the operating account will be used for routine organ tuning and minor repairs. Major repairs will be handled by the Organ Maintenance Fund. To establish this fund, we received donations in 2025 of \$2,500, \$5,000 and \$15,000. At the same time the vestry voted to transfer \$11,000 from PPP to this fund to partially pay for a major repair that was

completed in 2025. The current balance in this fund is \$16,767 and it is in one of our Fidelity money market accounts. There are no major repairs on the horizon.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ROOF INSURANCE FUND

In late 2025 we submitted a claim to our insurance company for roof damage and the insurance company is going to pay to have all of our asphalt roofs replaced. The insurance company has sent us provisional payments totaling \$54,786 which we will pay to the roofing contractor in 2026 when the roof replacement is completed. This is a temporary account and will be closed when the roof replacement is complete. This money is in one of our Fidelity money market accounts.

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 2025 was 0.53% of the balance at the beginning of 2025.

The following table shows the overall activity of our endowment in 2025:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance 1-1-2025 | 955,563 |
| Additions | 125,000 |
| Withdrawals to our operating account | -(43,041) |
| Withdrawals for projects | -(95,322) |
| Unrealized Gain | 60,415 |
| Realized Gain | 26,143 |
| Management Fees | -(5,069) |
| Investment Earnings | 27,221 |
| Ending Balance 12-31-2025 | 1,050,910 |

The results of the stock and bond markets in 2025 had a significant positive impact on the endowment. Unrealized gains amounted to \$60,415. At the same time the endowment experienced a realized gain of \$26,143 and investment earnings of \$27,221. The total investment gain was \$113,779. Although the 2025 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 2025 there was a \$125,000 anonymous contribution to the endowment. This contribution was unrestricted so it was deposited in the General Fund portion of the endowment. In 2025 we withdrew \$43,041 from our endowment and this amount was moved to our operating account and used for normal parish expenses. The \$43,041 represents 4.5% withdrawal rate of our January 1, 2025, balance and is within the vestry's guideline of no more than a 5% withdrawal.

We also made withdrawals from the endowment for capital projects:

- \$75,000 in March 2025 to fund the project in front of the church.
- \$20,322 in November 2025 to fund the project for the heat pumps in the education wing. We received a rebate of \$11,610 from Eversource for this project and it will be used for insulation installation in 2026.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

The balance sheet included shows the 12-31-2025 balances in all of our bank and brokerage accounts:

- Operating
 - Checking (Webster Bank) = - (\$1,744)
 - Fidelity Money Market = \$110,471
 - Total = \$108,727
- PPP
 - This account was closed in 2025. It started 2025 with a balance of \$45,094 and earned interest during the year before it was closed. The money in this account was used during 2025 for \$11,000 of organ repair and \$35,123 for the heat pump project.
- Memorial
 - Checking (Ion Bank) = \$ 3,576
 - Fidelity Money Market (Memorial) = \$75,279
 - Fidelity Money Market (Organ Fund) = \$16,767
 - Fidelity Money Market (Insurance Claim for Roof) = \$54,786
 - Total = \$150,408
- Altar Guild = \$209

2026 BUDGET

The budget for 2026 that has been approved by the Vestry is included in this annual report. We have a balanced budget in 2026 meaning a budget without a surplus or deficit.

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

The 2026 budget uses \$248,000 for pledge income. During 2025 we lost several pledges due to deaths and relocations totaling almost \$25,000. I have to admit to some despair about the effect that this would have on our budget and whether we could make up this loss. Our pledge amount for 2026 is \$251,569, which is only \$5,000 less than 2025 so we pretty much made up the lost pledges. Thank you to everyone who has pledged this year and to everyone who increased their pledge. 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 4.7% from our endowment. In the past we used the endowment yearend balance for the prior year and applied the vestry approved withdrawal rate. That's great when the market is going up like it has for the last three years but a killer when the market is going down. ECCT uses a different model which we are partially adopting for 2026 and will fully adopt in 2027. The ECCT model uses the three-year average of the monthly value of one share of the fund times the number of shares we own at the end of the prior year, in this case 2025. This method will reduce the effect of a huge decrease in a year but it also reduces the effect of a large increase. The advantage is it smooths out short-term ups and downs by using a three-year average. For 2026 we are easing into the ECCT model by using a two-year average. The difference is that the two-year modified ECCT method produces an endowment number of \$964,539 vs our actual 12-31-25 value of \$1,050,910. Even using the ECCT method that produces the lower value of \$964,539, the endowment withdrawal rate will be 4.7%.

SUMMARY

We had a very strong 2025 with lots of activity. For 2026 we have a sustainable plan for income and expenses. Let's hope the year develops as planned.

2026 APPROVED BUDGET

| | 2026 Budget 1/25/2026 | Budget 2025 | Actual 2025 | Budget 2026 |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Operating Income</u> | | | | |
| 4000 Pledge Payments - Last Year | | 5,000 | 848 | 2,500 |
| 4010 Pledge Payments - Current Year | | 245,000 | 260,243 | 248,000 |
| 4015 Unpledged Payments | | 11,950 | 17,129 | 15,000 |
| 4100 Loose Collection | | 4,000 | 3,765 | 4,000 |
| 4110 Seasonal Offerings | | 5,000 | 4,026 | 4,000 |
| 4130 Other Income | | 3,000 | 3,975 | 3,000 |
| 4200 Building Use Donations | | 5,000 | 4,535 | 5,000 |
| 4210 Endowment Withdrawals | | 43,223 | 43,041 | 45,005 |
| 4220 Garafelia & George Capewell | | 10,000 | 10,442 | 10,000 |
| 4500 Fundraising Activities | | 6,000 | 5,665 | 6,000 |
| <u>Total Operating Income</u> | | 338,173 | 353,668 | 342,505 |
| <u>Operating Expenses</u> | | | | |
| <u>Administrative Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5200 Office Supplies | | 2,500 | 1,668 | 2,000 |
| 5210 Communications & Marketing | | 2,000 | 1,098 | 1,500 |
| 5220 Postage | | 1,000 | 753 | 1,000 |
| 5230 Telephone | | 2,000 | 2,029 | 2,000 |
| 5250 Copier | | 4,000 | 3,205 | 3,500 |
| 5270 Computer Supplies & Support | | 2,500 | 2,612 | 2,700 |
| 5281 Subscriptions | | 2,500 | 2,424 | 3,000 |
| 5300 Altar Supplies | | 1,000 | 1,556 | 1,500 |
| 5740 Organ & Piano Maintenance | | 3,500 | 3,374 | 2,500 |
| 5830 Accounting Services | | 5,500 | 4,499 | 4,500 |
| 5900 Unbudgeted Expense | | 3,000 | 1,474 | 2,500 |
| 5950 Professional Fees | | 500 | 265 | 500 |
| <u>Total Administrative Expenses</u> | | 30,000 | 24,958 | 27,200 |

2025 Approved Budget (cont.)

| | 2026 Budget 1/25/2026 | Budget 2025 | Actual 2025 | Budget 2026 |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Facilities Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5260 Service Contracts | | 7,000 | 7,043 | 7,000 |
| 5400 Church Building Maintenance | | 10,000 | 12,873 | 12,000 |
| 5410 Electricity | | 12,000 | 11,416 | 14,000 |
| 5411 Eversource Loan Payment | | 1,200 | 1,107 | 1,200 |
| 5420 Heating | | 12,000 | 11,506 | 10,000 |
| 5430 Water & Sewer | | 1,250 | 1,262 | 2,500 |
| 5470 Refuse Disposal | | 3,500 | 3,521 | 4,000 |
| 5480 Cemetery & Grounds | | 13,000 | 10,467 | 13,000 |
| 5490 Insurance | | 19,445 | 20,817 | 21,000 |
| <u>Total Facilities Expenses</u> | | 79,395 | 80,011 | 84,700 |
| <u>Staff/Personnel Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5500 Rector Salary | | 36,977 | 9,875 | 10,206 |
| 5510 Rector SS Allowance | | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,320 |
| 5520 Rector Housing Allowance | | 27,002 | 54,000 | 55,755 |
| 5530 Rector Car Allow & Prof Expense | | 450 | 900 | 900 |
| 5540 Rector Pension | | 12,681 | 13,918 | 14,349 |
| 5550 Rector Life Insurance | | 360 | 320 | 306 |
| 5555 Rector Med & Dental Insurance | | 6,246 | 6,236 | 6,438 |
| 5560 Rector Continuing Education | | 900 | 289 | 900 |
| 5570 Supply Clergy | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5600 CFD Director Salary | | 12,188 | 12,167 | 12,562 |
| 5700 Choir Director Salary | | 31,230 | 31,179 | 32,192 |
| 5710 Supply Organist | | 0 | 720 | 0 |
| 5840 Parish Administrator Salary | | 20,800 | 19,538 | 20,172 |
| 5841 Communications | | 9,984 | 9,921 | 10,244 |
| 5842 Housekeeping Salary | | 11,903 | 11,936 | 12,366 |
| 5870 FICA & Medicare [All Staff] | | 6,587 | 6,483 | 6,697 |
| <u>Total Staff/Personnel Expenses</u> | | 184,407 | 184,580 | 190,408 |

2025 Approved Budget (cont.)

| 2026 Budget 1/25/2026 | Budget 2025 | Actual 2025 | Budget 2026 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Outreach & Diocese Expenses</u> | | | |
| 5000 Diocese Mission & Ministry | 37,853 | 37,883 | 33,547 |
| 5010 Outreach | 1,000 | (5) | 1,000 |
| 5030 Seminarian Stipend | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| <u>Total Outreach & Diocese Expenses</u> | 39,853 | 38,878 | 35,547 |
| <u>Program & Ministry Expenses</u> | | | |
| 5120 Hospitality | 750 | 840 | 750 |
| 5650 Christian Education - Children | 1,000 | 1,131 | 1,200 |
| 5660 Parish Faith Enrichment | 300 | 90 | 200 |
| 5670 Youth Group | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| 5680 Child Care | 1,600 | 1,200 | 1,500 |
| 5720 Music/Choir | 1,000 | 821 | 1,000 |
| <u>Total Program & Ministry Expenses</u> | 5,150 | 4,081 | 4,650 |
| <u>Total Operating Expenses</u> | 338,805 | 332,508 | 342,505 |
| <u>Net Operating Income (Loss)</u> | 0 | 21,160 | 0 |

Statement of Financial Position
SAINT PETERS CHURCH
 As of December 31, 2025

| DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------------|
| Assets | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | |
| 1000 Webster Bank | -1,744.12 |
| 1005 Ion Bank - Memorial | 3,576.25 |
| 1025 Altar Guild Account | 208.57 |
| 1030 Fidelity Brokerage | |
| 1031 Fidelity GF (CORE) - SPAXX | 110,471.05 |
| 1034 Fidelity - Memorial MM - FDLXX | 75,279.34 |
| 1039 Fidelity - Organ Fund - FDRXX | 16,767.44 |
| 1040 Fidelity - Roof Claim - FZFX | 54,785.98 |
| Total for 1030 Fidelity Brokerage | \$257,303.81 |
| 1099 Cash Transfer | 0.00 |
| Total for Bank Accounts | \$259,344.51 |
| Accounts Receivable | |
| 11000 Accounts Receivable | 0.00 |
| Total for Accounts Receivable | \$0.00 |
| Other Current Assets | |
| 1200 Endowment Accounts | |
| 1210 Capewell Fund | \$46,995.22 |
| 1220 William H Heineman Fund | \$38,271.06 |
| 1230 General Fund | \$548,605.59 |
| 1240 Housing Fund | \$216,692.22 |
| 1250 Naomi Law Terrell Fund | \$176,266.51 |
| 1260 Burton & Sally Guilford Fund | \$24,078.96 |
| Total for 1200 Endowment Accounts | \$1,050,909.56 |
| 1290 Prepaid Expenses | 91.25 |
| QuickBooks Tax Holding Account | -691.87 |
| Total for Other Current Assets | \$1,050,308.94 |
| Total for Current Assets | \$1,309,653.45 |
| Total for Assets | \$1,309,653.45 |
| Liabilities and Equity | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | \$0.00 |

Statement of Financial Position

SAINT PETERS CHURCH

As of December 31, 2025

| DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT | TOTAL |
|--|--------------------|
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| 2001 Accrued Expenses | 0.00 |
| 2002 Cash Receipts in Advance | 17,646.03 |
| 2010 Payroll Taxes Payable | 2,132.81 |
| 2011 Accrued CT Withholding | 38.91 |
| 2012 CT Paid Family Leave | 3.31 |
| 2020 Emergency Food Bank | 123.10 |
| 2110 Direct Deposit Liabilities | 0.00 |
| 6000 401K Payable | 0.00 |
| Direct Deposit Payable | 0.00 |
| Payroll Liabilities | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| Total for Other Current Liabilities | \$19,944.16 |
| Total for Current Liabilities | \$19,944.16 |
| Long-term Liabilities | |
| 2500 Memorial Fund | \$0.00 |
| 2501 General | 19,172.82 |
| 2502 Altar Guild | 5,673.46 |
| 2503 Music Fund | \$0.00 |
| 2515 McKee/Siebert Evensong | 1,171.25 |
| 2519 Drama Camp | 7,490.15 |
| 2534 General Music | 4,084.94 |
| 2535 Lessons & Carols | 200.00 |
| Total for 2503 Music Fund | \$12,946.34 |
| 2504 Cemetery | 12,283.03 |
| 2505 Outreach | 8,590.32 |
| 2506 Rector's Discretion | 6,103.10 |
| 2507 Camp Washington | -20.00 |
| 2512 Jr Chorister Camp | 1,440.39 |
| 2514 Childrens Giving | 128.61 |
| 2523 Pumpkin Sales | 457.36 |
| 2530 Camp Scholarships | 3,051.40 |
| 2533 Atterbury Prayer Garden | 3,212.80 |
| 2538 Front Lawn of Church | 0.00 |
| 2539 Reimagining | 700.01 |
| 2540 Stewardship Reality | 3,000.00 |
| 2541 Eco-Justice | 1,019.00 |
| 2543 Quilters | 1,100.00 |
| 2544 Organ Maintenance Fund | 16,764.39 |
| 2545 HVAC | 0.00 |
| 2546 Roof Insurance Claim 2025 | 54,785.98 |

Statement of Financial Position

SAINT PETERS CHURCH

As of December 31, 2025

| DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------------|
| Total for 2500 Memorial Fund | \$150,409.01 |
| 2550 Eversource Loan Liability | 2,755.72 |
| Total for Long-term Liabilities | \$153,164.73 |
| Total for Liabilities | \$173,108.89 |
| Equity | |
| 2990 Opening Balance Equity | 103.19 |
| 2995 Restricted Retained Earnings | 100,000.00 |
| 3000 Unrestricted Retained Earnings | 947,567.76 |
| Net Income | 88,873.61 |
| Total for Equity | \$1,136,544.56 |
| Total for Liabilities and Equity | \$1,309,653.45 |

Staff Annual Reports

Director of Children's Ministries

Submitted by [Kim Donaldson](#)

Children's Worship (1-6 grades)

Special thanks to Eileen Graves, who volunteers as a co-teacher almost every Sunday we hold class.

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 and service events. There are 8 children currently in this class. There were also 8 last year, as four children have moved up to Confirmation class and were replaced by four children who moved up from Sunday School 1-6.

Confirmation — in-person meetings twice a month taught by Colleen O'Brien and Bryan Dougan. Running from September 2025 to May 2026.

- January 2025: MLK Children's March for Peace
- March: Easter Sunday Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny
- May: Mother's Day crafts 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 has been another wonderful year serving as St. Peter's Interim Music Minister. While last year focused on reestablishing the choir, this year has been about strengthening and deepening that work—building a more stable foundation for our singers and for the congregation's musical participation in worship.

I am deeply grateful to the choir members who give their Tuesday evenings week after week to support the congregation on Sundays through music, worship, and engagement with the liturgy. They have shown impressive dedication, not only in singing a wide variety of choral styles, but also in their willingness to step out in faith and take on new and challenging repertoire. Their commitment is a gift to this parish.

One area of potential growth for St. Peter's is the development of a children's choir. At present, we do not have the staffing capacity, logistical support, or broader volunteer infrastructure to make this sustainable. Establishing a children's choir requires intentional planning, consistent leadership, and strong community engagement. My hope is that in the coming years we will be able to begin shaping the musical formation of our wonderful—and growing—community of children at St. Peter's.

On a more practical note, I highlighted in last year's report the need for organ repairs in 2025. I am grateful that we were able to move forward with a baseline level of support for the instrument, and I am especially thankful that an organ fund has now been established. This is an important step toward long-term stewardship of a major part of our worship life.

At the same time, it is important to name a reality of organ ownership: pipe organs are highly specialized instruments, unique to each church in their architecture, mechanics, and sound. They require regular care, and they are costly to maintain properly over time. The healthiest approach—financially and musically—is to plan for ongoing maintenance and incremental improvement rather than waiting for urgent repairs.

This year, I advocated adding a modest annual contribution to the organ fund as part of a long-term plan to keep the instrument healthy for decades to come. I also proposed expanding the scope of this year's work to include a small set of chamber pipes to complete the lower section of the organ. In addition to strengthening the sound that supports congregational singing, this would have replaced older components with newer, more reliable ones—reducing maintenance complexity over time. Ultimately, that additional one-time cost was not approved.

Looking ahead, I strongly encourage continued investment in the organ fund, including an annual contribution in the range of \$1,000–\$2,000. Even relatively small yearly additions make a meaningful difference in preparing for future repairs and ensuring the long-term reliability of the instrument. If St. Peter's values its organ and the congregational hymnody it supports, this kind of steady planning will help preserve the instrument for the next generation.

Finally, I want to emphasize that clear, consistent communication and shared trust are essential in this work. Maintaining a pipe organ well requires musical and technical foresight, and it is much easier when the parish has an agreed-upon plan. If St. Peter's would prefer additional outside

guidance, an organ consultant can also be engaged every 3–5 years to help assess the instrument and recommend a maintenance and development plan—though this does represent an additional cost. My hope is that we can continue building a sustainable, proactive approach to caring for this vital part of our worship.

Director of Digital Communications

Submitted by [Heather Fitzgerald](#)

Summary

It has been a great year! Newsletters were full of information for our parish, and many special messages were sent...from Scam Alerts to Obituaries to Inclement Weather updates. We advertised and executed many fun services, events, and initiatives. We added "Thursday Thoughts", quotes from each week's sermon, which have been well received. We also created a special landing page and eNews about the beautiful patio project.

Newsletter

Our newsletter continues to be the bulk of my role. Keeping in touch with the rector, office staff, Vestry, and Sunday School director, 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 87 messages from the St. Peter's email management account (Mailchimp) in 2025. This is a combination of the weekly eNews, obituaries and special announcements.
- Average open rate of 53%
- We currently have 414 email addresses on our newsletter 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 item" 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.

Social Media

I continue to maintain our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram, posting our stories, fun items, as well as event promotion. We have added "Thursday Thoughts" as a social media series.

Other:

- YouTube presence continues to grow! Nancy Staab and the team are doing wonderful work to offer livestreaming to those who cannot attend in person. We now have 114 subscribers (up from 89 last year). We had 18 when this effort was started in August 2022.

- Worked with CHRO on MLK March for Peace fliers so they can be distributed to all Cheshire elementary schools and had placed on Cheshire Public Schools Bulletin Board (which was then sent to Power School which goes to all students/parents in the district). Also placed on Cheshire Patch.

Many thanks

I would very much like to thank:

- Rev. Mo for meeting with me each week to share important information and to consider new ideas.
- Erika Nemeti for keeping the calendar updated and for feedback on the weekly newsletters
- Alan Bisbort for the many articles he writes for us each year!

Parish Administrator's Report

Submitted by [Erika Nemeti](#)

It has been such a delight to join St. Peter's Church for the past year! I am so grateful for everyone who stepped up to train, guide, and advise me following the retirement of Kathy Kirby. Kathy left an excellent foundation for me to build upon. Ongoing thanks to Kim Clarke for organizing the office prior to my hiring and covering my position when I'm away. This parish is full of dedicated, kind, caring, and hard-working volunteers, and it has been my pleasure to work with you!

As the Parish Administrator, I am responsible for:

- Greeting folks and responding to communications.
- Support for the Rector and executive committee.
- Scheduling readers, altar servers, and coffee hour hosts. If you feel called to join any of these ministries, I'd be happy to add you to the list.
- Producing bulletins for holidays, baptisms, funerals, and weddings.
- Keeping the online calendar up to date.
- Coordinating building use.
- Keeping our membership current in Servant Keeper.
- Recording funerals, baptisms, confirmations, and weddings.
- Recording and filing Safe Church Certificates.
- Ordering office, kitchen, and housekeeping supplies.
- Mailing out an abridged paper version of the eNews to senior parishioners not on email.
- Working with our cemetery sexton to become current on our mandatory reporting of funerals to the state.

- Setting up and maintaining the new ECCT electronic online Parish Register in the beginning of 2025, in addition to using the traditional red record book. This will greatly streamline our yearly parochial report to the diocese and ensure more accurate record keeping of services.
- Ongoing organization of physical and digital office files and records.
- In 2026, Microsoft will discontinue Publisher, our bulletin software. I will be converting many years of existing files into a format that we will still be able to open and access, as we transition to a new publishing software.

Parish office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM to 3 PM. If we haven't met yet, please feel free to drop in and say hello!

Our Ministries

Worship / Liturgy

Acolytes

Submitted by [Chris Morris](#), 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, Colleen O'Brien and Bryan Dougan, our seminarian, 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, Kensley Dringoli, and James Fitzgerald 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- 605-2574) or email me at wcmorris628@gmail.com or connect with Rev. Mo.

Altar Guild

Submitted by [Amy Kosciuk](#)

The Altar Guild team has grown by 2 this year! We are happy to have Pat Morgan and Colleen O'Brien join our team. We all take pride in making sure the services are set up and all is in place.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Kosciuk, Linda Galgano, Hilda Schmidt, John Staab, Joy Bonitz, Deanna Rozak, Colleen O'Brien and Pat Morgan

Lay Leaders

Submitted by [Rev. Mo Lederman](#)

We are blessed to have a wide array of voices and leadership styles on Sunday mornings. Our lay preachers continue to bring us a good word and support the faith life of our parish. 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.

The current Lay Leaders are Christy Chandler, Liam Considine, Charles Dimmick, Seminarian Bryan Dougan, Elizabeth Guest, Michaela Hauser-Wagner, Jocelyn Linnekin, Beryl Lyons, and Andrew Myers. Also, Marj Chapman and Peter Festa led services focused on Caring for God's Creation in 2025. You are welcome to join this important ministry.

Parish Ministries

Stewardship

Submitted by [Kim Clarke](#) and [Charlie Waggoner](#)

Kim Clarke and Charlie Waggoner coordinated the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, guided by campaign materials provided by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). This year's theme was *Tell Out My Soul* as we focused on the stories we tell and the ways we are called to share our words, actions, love, and joy with the world. We heard from parishioner Chris Morris, who gave a beautiful sermon about his faith journey and his commitment to St. Peter's.

After years of the same pledge card, we decided to update our message by including calculations of a 5%, 10% and 15% increase for each individual and family based upon their 2025 pledge amount. It is unknown to us whether it was the words of our campaign, or outlining the percentage increases, but the response was fantastic, with 58 individuals and families increasing their pledges. The range of the pledge increases range from \$25-\$5,000, with a total increase of \$30,104.

And with the increases, there are those who decrease. Although the reason is not always provided with the change in amount, many times it is due to circumstances associated with household budgeting. For 2026, six units decreased their pledge, for a total of \$8,876.

There were 4 new pledging units this year, and 5 returning pledges from parishioners who had not pledged in the past few years. We are especially grateful for these new pledges, returning pledges and increases, as we had a decrease in pledging units with 5 families moving to other states and towns this year, and parishioners who passed away, for a total loss of revenue of nearly \$25,000.

To date, our 2026 Stewardship campaign has raised a total of \$251,569 from 87 pledges. Pledges range in amounts from \$260 to \$15,000.

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. Parishioners and local school classes 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 2025 there were two interments of ashes in the memorial garden. There were three interments 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 for the cemetery and grounds.

There are limited plots 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:** Carol and Chuck Moakley. **10:00 service:** Alan Bisbort; Augie Milano; Cathy and Kym Molaskey; Jayne and Jim O'Brien; Neelam and Earnest Sadiq; Hilda Schmidt. If you enjoy meeting people with a big smile and are interested in joining this ministry, please email [Hilda](#) or call (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 learn of prayer needs, and of answered prayers, by our priest-in-charge, at church in person, by phone, and by email.

The prayer list is 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), 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.

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.

Jen Noble has added a wonderful new component to our ministry. She mails lovely cards on behalf of St. Peter's to those who need 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. This year's monthly Taisé healing services have enriched the prayer life of St. Peter's parishioners.

Quilters

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

St. Peter's Quilters has had a good year though we could use some more workers! Because we make quilts for those in need of our prayers and/or for us to give thanks to them, we ask you to send us the relevant names so that we can fulfill our purpose.

We are funded by donations and currently Charles Waggoner is holding \$600 in anonymous contributions. From previous anonymous contributions I am holding \$321.87 in petty cash. We spent a large sum on fabric, which we are currently using because our supplier JoAnn Fabrics has gone out of business.

This year we presented 6 regular quilts, 3 baptismal quilts and 2 quilts to the Bazaar raffle.

Quilters meet on Thursday mornings in the library at St. Peter's from 10 - 12.

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. This year we hosted birthday parties, farewell parties, the Senior Luncheons and 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](#)

Starting in September 2025, teams made up of 8:00 and 10:00 parishioners have been assigned to host coffee hour. Thanks to Mo for coordinating and supporting this and to our church administrator Erika Nemeti for setting up the assignment list and for preparing the urn of coffee each week. 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. The new process gives everyone a chance to share in this important ministry.

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 2025, we were only called upon once to deliver pre-made meals to a parishioner recovering from surgery. 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 invites anyone who identifies as a woman to gather weekly in a supportive and safe environment, sharing our walk in faith through reading, conversation, prayer, and lots of laughter. Our gatherings are usually for fellowship, but can involve a book discussion, bible study or other topic. 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 12:30 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 2025 actions and successes.

We strive to model and promote both individual and parish actions throughout the calendar year:

- In April, we organize and partner on local Earth Day activities.
- In late-April-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.
- In November – December we educate about sustainable holidays.

Look for our ongoing deposit-bottle/can and other recycling efforts in the St. Peter's parish ramp entryway.

This year we focused on integrating our efforts with both liturgical and infrastructure parish efforts. We planned and led services for Earth Sunday in April, Season of Creation in the Fall, and Caring for Creation Sunday in November. Council and Vestry member Peter Festa was instrumental in guiding significant HVAC improvements in 2025 and continuing into 2026.

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 2025 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 2024 –2025 school year, we participated in a Massachusetts-based program – [The Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#). Although valuable to network with eco-justice activities in New England, we decided that it was not a good fit. We hope to network with CT parishes to share efforts.

We welcome new members to the council. Please join our efforts to care for God's creation. To stay up to date on our activities, [please visit the St. Peter's Eco-Justice Council web page](#).

Outreach Committee

Submitted by [Christy Chandler](#)

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. Major initiatives listed below:

GWIM: 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 have sent \$4,900 to GWIM from the food money donated by our members. Donations from members in 2025 = \$4,758. This money is in addition to the food items brought to church by our members and then delivered to GWIM. If you would like to help this effort, please contact [Hilda Schmidt](#).

Diaper Drive: Becky Whipple managed this project in March 2025, that delivered thousands of diapers and wipes and a few hundred dollars in cash donations to the CT Diaper Bank.

CT Kids Matter:

- March: Parishioners provided mattresses and rugs to a grandmother in need.
- July: Parishioners provided an air conditioning unit to a grandmother in need.
- July: The parish provided school supplies and backpacks to 20 students in need of our support.
- December: The parish generously responded to the request for fifty-seven Angel Tree gifts to ensure a merry Christmas for families needing support.

Chapel on the Green: - 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. We provided food and drinks for two Sundays this year – March 23 and August 24, 2025.

Shelter Now: In June Beth Bevilacqua and Kim Clarke gathered items for a toiletry drive. For future drives, we will publicize this in the e-news so parishioners will be aware and involved.

Finances: In November \$1,800 profits from the Community Pumpkin Patch were transferred to the Outreach account in the Memorial Fund. The current Outreach balance is \$8,590.32.

Members of the Outreach Team are Christy C., Barb S., Marj C., Wendy C. Joy B., Hilda S., Kevin M., and Becky W.

St. Peter's Events

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

Submitted by St. Peter's Vestry

In January 2025, 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 fourth year, St. Peter's was privileged to be the start and finish point for this annual march. 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.

The Community Pumpkin Patch and Kids Day in the Patch

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

The **Community Pumpkin Patch's** 19th year was its most successful year in sales! Pumpkin Patch sales were just over \$14,000! Pumpkins USA receives 67% of pumpkin sales and a check was sent to them for \$9353.75. Our pumpkin selling partners, CHS Best Buddies and ReRead Book Store, each received a check for \$1,557.64 . Our St. Peter's Outreach team received \$1,800.00, The other groups involved with the patch this year were: Boy Scout Troop 198 and Don and Sarah Michaud for set up and clean up, Bob Thatcher for wagon,, CHS Girls Softball team for unloading (as well as CHS Best Buddies and other students), Jesse Dringoli and Justin Ivey put up the shed, Gage Earthworks brought the extra pumpkins to Lockett Meadow Farm in Bethany, Kathy Reed who weekly takes our mushy pumpkins to the farm for the pig and my husband Andy and the Rozaks and their nephews for coming to help when the shed blew over in the wind! . 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 can be said that it truly is a Community Pumpkin Patch. Many thanks to all St. Peter's parishioners that generously give of 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! 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 and 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 (\$5.00). 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-control cars were also part of the fun. Thanks to Kim Donaldson and her family, Mo for her support, Cathy and Kym Molasky for running Bingo, Heather Fitzgerald for helping with setup and all who helped out that day. It's a great way to meet our community!

Christmas Bazaar

Submitted by [Wendy Ciaburri](#)

The Christmas Bazaar was held on December 6, 2025, and was a fun-filled and profitable event. This year we had 10 vendor tables which included Boy Scout Troop 198 selling wreaths and greens, temporary tattoos by Glitter and Ink, Hannah's Happy Plants and several other talented artists and crafters! The vendors add a special touch to our St. Peter's offerings. We carried on with our new format from last year by having the jewelry in its own room next to the library and a central location for payment. This year we made the most ever with a bit over \$4000 going to the St. Peter's Operating Fund. Many St. Peter's parishioners assisted in making this Bazaar a success. Please consider volunteering for this important fundraiser in 2026! The St. Peter's teams included:

- Soup and Bread lunch: Beryl Lyons, Barbara Sireno, Judy and Pieter Van Heiningan, Lois Benas, Cathy and Kym Molaskey and all the many soup and bread makers
- Jewelry room - Cindy and John Garvin, Molly Preudhomme, Hilda Schmidt , Mary Lou DeBisschop, Deanna Rozak and many other helpers to make it look beautiful!
- Bake table – Marj Chapman and many of our St. Peter's wonderful bakers and honey makers!
- Holiday Decorations – many helpers! including Kevin and Pat Morgan, Becky Whipple, Kim Clarke, Joan Hodgson - to name a few
- Handiwork table – Sara Johnson
- Raffle table – Amy Kosciuk
- Local Vendor Coordination – Amanda Salvo
- Cashiers – Christy Chandler and Amanda Salvo
- Live Music – Tim Considine and Chris Aliano
- Santa – Ray Cirimo