



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EST. 1868

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in St. Peter's Annual Meeting for the renewal and mission of your Church.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory.
Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer for a Church Meeting
Page 818 of Book of Common Prayer

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Clergy

The Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson, The Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
The Reverend Dr. Rob Voyle, Interim Rector
The Reverend Kelly Carlson, Associate Rector
The Reverend Joseph Wallace-Williams, Associate Rector
Shug Goodlow, Intern

Parish Staff

Angela Mahan, Chief of Staff / Administrator
David Sinden, Organist and Director of Music
Jennifer Spohr, Assistant Organist
Janet Rouse, Director of Stewardship and Parish Life
Annie Knapp, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
Lisa Reynolds, Playgroup Director
Darlene Horton, Financial Administrator
Jacquelyn VanWeelden, Director of Communications
Tony Huenneke, Full Time Sexton
Florica Mixich, Part Time Sexton

Wardens and Vestry

Jeanie Davis, Senior Warden	Cheryl Meyer
DeWayne Trainer, Junior Warden	Michael Newport
Bob Butler, Treasurer	Julie Peters
Lisa Acker	Mary Stillman
Drew Gulick	Liza Weiss
Louise Jones	Jerry Wille
Michael Lauer	

Convention Delegates

Page Melton Ivie	Doug Adderton (alt)
Chris Knight	Liz DeLaperouse (alt)
Ann Parish	Penny George (alt)
Ann Randazzo	Jimmy Grimmett (alt)
Kelly Sulliivan	

Annual Meeting Minutes – Sunday, January 26, 2020

The Rector, the Rev. Luke Jernagan, called the Annual Meeting of St. Peter's Episcopal Church to order at 9:02 a.m. Luke offered opening prayers. He then referred parishioners to the 2019 Annual Report, which contain detailed commentary for the various reports summarized in these minutes.

The officials of the meeting were introduced. They were DeWayne Trainer, Judge of Elections, and Ann Randazzo, Secretary. The polls were officially opened at 9:05 a.m. to stay open for a period of not less than one half hour.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Jeanie Davis, Senior Warden

The Nominating Committee is comprised of Vestry members whose terms are expiring, the current Junior and Senior Wardens, and the immediate past Senior Warden. The Committee seeks nominees who actively participate in Sunday Worship, actively participate in parish life and the mission of the Church and make an annual pledge to St. Peter's Church. The nominees for the 2020 Vestry (for terms to expire 2023) presented by Jeanie were: Lisa Acker, Mike Newport, Louise Jones, and Julie Peters.

The Nominating Committee also presented the following nominees to serve as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention (for terms to expire 2023): Ann Randazzo, Doug Adderton, Jimmy Grimmett, and Liz DeLaperouse.

The minutes of the January 27, 2019 Annual Meeting were presented and approved.

Report of the Senior Warden – Jeanie Davis

Jeanie requested the Senior Warden report, found on page 9 of the Annual Report 2019 be read by everyone. She gave her thanks to the staff, lay persons and St. Peter's Cares for all their support this past year. The initial 2020 budget has been set. At this point we are short on pledges due to moves, death and transition. The Vestry will meet in February 2020 to refine the budget. We are moving ahead on transition with transparency. Anne Schmidt has been hired as search consultant. It will likely take one year for search. Rob Volye, hired as interim rector, will be starting March 1, 2020.

Budget Report – The Rev. Luke Jernagan

Luke discussed data which are also found in the written Budget Committee Summary Report on pages 13, 14 and 15 in the Annual Report 2019. 2019 was a good year although the number of expenses was higher than usual. The endowment transfer was 4% versus budget of 3%. 2019 facilities expenses were over budget by \$40,000. For 2020, facilities expenses are budgeted at \$110,000 which allows \$20,000 more for repairs than the \$90,000 that covers general expenses. The 2020 budget is a work in progress due to leadership change. The revised budget was updated to include the current rector's departure, an interim rector through the end of the year, and new rector expenses.

A motion was made to approve the 2020 revised budget. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Report of the Rector – The Rev. Luke Jernagan

Luke said 2019 was a very good year. He was grateful for the sabbatical. The highlights of Luke's seven years of service:

1. Bacon, Sunday breakfast and community
2. Children's ministry led by Ann Babington, committed teachers and parents.

-
3. Renovated church including the kitchen, undercroft, Elliot room and expanded columbarium.
 4. Paying the full Diocesan assessment
 5. Growth in attendance and membership
 6. Growth in the ministry budget
 7. St. Peter's is a joyful and welcoming church. It has been fun to be the Rector out in the community.

Luke expressed his thanks to the staff: Kelly, Joseph, David, Jennifer, Ann, Janet, Darlene, Carol, Jacquelyn, Tony, Sharon, Ica, Lisa and Angela. He also thanked all the wardens he has worked with as delightful partners in ministry.

Declaration of Closing of the Polls and Casting of Ballots

At 9:46 a.m. it was declared that the polls could be closed. A motion was made to close the polls and elect the entire slate of individuals proposed by the Nominating Committee to be Vestry members and Diocesan delegates. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Annual Meeting of St. Peter's Episcopal Church was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Randazzo

Parish Membership in 2020

Increases (all members added by Baptism, Confirmation, reception, or transfer): 32

Decreases (all members lost by death, transferred, or removed): 40

Total Members at end of year	1212
Adults 16 years and older	1054
Children under 16	158
Number of Households	500

Sacraments and Services 2020

Average Sunday Attendance for Jan 1st – Mar 1st 270*

(ASA is total attendance divided by number of Sundays; ASA for 2019 was 273)

* The Episcopal Church is limiting 2020 ASA statistics to Sundays through March 1st.

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Total Sunday Eucharists/Spiritual Communion	46	38
Total Weekday Eucharists	13	0
Daily Offices held on Sunday	3	6
Daily Offices held on Weekdays	0	205
Marriages	5	0
Burials	15	0
Memorial Services/Funerals 3		
Services of Committal 3		
Graveside Service 9		
Baptisms	5	3*
*Three of the five baptisms were woven into virtual Sunday services All the baptized were under 16 years of age		
Confirmations	9	0
Eight Confirmands were under 16 years of age	8	
One Confirmand was above 16 years of age	1	

The Report of the Reverend Dr. Rob Voyle, Interim Rector

What in God's Name Has Gone On at St. Peter's: While Our Buildings May be Closed Our Hearts Have Remained Open

Two weeks after I arrived at St. Peter's, we closed our buildings as part of our civic responsibility to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Overnight we had to discover how to keep our hearts and minds open as the Body of Christ while our physical property was shuttered. Clearly many of the activities that the people of St. Peter's enjoy, worship, music, and especially those that involve eating, such as the Men's Breakfast, the Woman's Guild Luncheons, and the Sunday Breakfast have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. While I acknowledge that engaging on Zoom, YouTube, and other internet platforms are not helpful to everyone, they have afforded many parishioners the opportunity to continue to worship, pray morning prayer, meet for Bible study, anti-racism study, and fellowship.

I am extremely grateful to the staff who overnight began inventing and creating ways to stay engaged and especially to offer a worship experience that is consistent with St. Peter's spiritual and aesthetic sensitivities. I am also grateful to the numerous parishioners who stepped up and provided video recordings of readings and responses in our worship service. Despite the pandemic, under Kelly+'s guidance, pastoral care, baptisms, weddings, and funerals have continued to occur, albeit in very different formats, but the reality was and still remains; our buildings may be closed but our hearts have remained open.

Children's programming has also continued ably led by Ann Babington before she retired and subsequently by Annie Knapp. Participating in the live zoom Children's Chapel has often been the highlight of my week. Memories of staff and parishioners' faithfulness and creativity in the midst of the pandemic are one of things I will treasure from my time at St. Peter's.

In the 1450's Jesus met Gutenberg who made the Scriptures accessible to ordinary people which began a revolution in the church. In 2020, Jesus met the internet and now every church in the world is no longer limited to their geographic boundaries, which I believe will start another revolution. Here at St. Peter's we have people joining in our Sunday worship services and our daily morning prayer services from beyond St. Louis. This will be a significant part of the church's post-pandemic future. Here at St. Peter's we have recently completed a significant upgrade to our audio and video capabilities and we now have the capacity to engage in live-streaming of church services from within the nave.

George Floyd's murder, at the hands of the police, on May 25th rocked our nation and brought into clear focus the systemic racism that exists in our country. To confront this evil, numerous parishioners along with Joseph+ and Shug, our clergy intern, created an active anti-racism core group with an inward-facing education focus and an outward-focused group that is actively exploring opportunities to engage in dismantling racism in our community. The outward-facing group is currently engaging with Pastor Andre and the people of Tabernacle Church in North St. Louis to determine how they can collaborate to create a just society in St. Louis.

Speaking personally, I have often been a guilty bystander when it comes to the racism in our society, and my participation in the anti-racism core group at St. Peter's has given me a sense that I am no longer a bystander and has given me hope that I can do something that will have a lasting positive impact in creating the beloved community that Dr. King saw and calls us, in the name of God, to work toward. As I take my leave from St. Peter's my heart is inspired by the work of the anti-racism core group.

The pandemic has sorely hindered our ability to engage in several of the significant activities that I would typically occur during an interim. Or to be more honest, I was not able to translate my transitional ministry skills to the virtual world. In the parish survey, that was conducted as part of preparing the parish profile, parishioners expressed two key concerns:

- a. A desire for a deeper sense of clarity and understanding of St. Peter's vision and mission
- b. A more focused and deeper sense of outreach

I think these two are very connected and it is my regret that we were unable to engage in exploring these issues during the pandemic. Without a sense of mission and outreach to the wider community, a church will be nothing more than a club with religious trimmings. But we are not called to be a club. We are called to be an expression of God's healing love in the world. As the collective Body of Christ, we are called to empower parishioners to do something together in the world that no individual can do on their own. Discerning that mission will be one of the big priorities of St. Peter's when the pandemic-induced limitations are over.

Typically, when I take an interim position, I sign a 12-month contract with a monthly renewal until the new rector is called. After much thought and prayerful reflection, I decided not to renew my contract because, due to COVID-19 and our virtual existence together, I felt limited in what I was able to accomplish here, and my absence would also reduce financial strain on the parish.

When I arrived, just pre-pandemic, St. Peter's was facing a \$250,000 deficit. Fortunately in 2020 the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan covered the majority of that deficit. Despite massive efforts by Janet Rouse and our stewardship team, our projected income for 2021 is about the same as for 2020 so before my (and then Joseph's) decision to move away from St. Peter's, we were potentially facing the same \$250,000 for this year. When faced with a deficit we have two tasks: to increase revenues and decrease costs.

Most church budgets, and St. Peter's is no exception, have very little room to decrease costs except for reducing personnel, something I was loathe to do, especially given the competence and the energy the staff have put into the task of ministry at St. Peter's during the pandemic. We have lost one administrative staff member to retirement, which we have not replaced because of budget constraints, which has left a greater burden on the current administrative staff. The only other place I can see to make staffing cuts is in the clergy.

When I look at St. Peter's current (pre and post pandemic) clergy needs I do not think it needs three clergy given its current level of membership and engagement in parish programming. I could see it having the services of three clergy if one was fully funded to engage in outreach work beyond the parish, but I do not see the need if the focus is only parishioner needs. Creating a balanced budget for 2022 will be a significant challenge for the new rector if St. Peter's wishes to retain two full-time clergy and rehire a Parish Secretary. Pledge income must grow to accomplish these things.

Let me be clear, St. Peter's is not in a financial crisis, we like many businesses have a cash flow problem, especially as it relates to funding day-to-day operations. The solution to this dilemma is actually present in the two concerns that parishioners noted in the survey: a deeper sense of mission and growing outreach. If we want to increase income, people need a clear, compelling, and ennobling reason to engage in the life of the congregation and contribute financially to its work.

In times of transition, congregations often establish goals for the future and one common goal that many congregations create is a desire to grow. When I have enquired of congregations why they want to grow,

they will usually fall back on a pattern of thinking that goes like: “we need more people because we need more money.” Within the church this goal will never be achieved because this goal is fundamentally self-serving and consequently ungodly. Godly growth is always the byproduct of fulfilling a worthwhile mission and purpose that serves and benefits humanity. Discovering and living into its God-given mission will be an essential next step for St. Peter’s.

As I step back and look at St. Peter’s, I see a sleeping giant that has a profound potential for good in our world. Within your members you have intellectual, political, economic, and social resources that are way beyond most congregations in our nation. I wonder what you imagine you could achieve if the giant woke up and you came together and leveraged those resources for the glory of God and the greater good.

In 1931, William H. Danforth, founder of Ralston Purina and grandfather to our very own recently departed Bill Danforth, wrote a book entitled, ***I Dare You!*** in which he dared people to take their unused talents and latent ability to be their very best. I will leave you with his words because I could not say it any better:

*I Dare You, heir of wealth and proud ancestry, with your generations of worthy stock,
your traditions of leadership —I dare you to achieve something that will make the future
point to you with even more pride than the present is pointing to those who have gone
before.*

*I Dare You, whoever you are, to share with others the fruit of your daring. Catch a
passion for helping others and a richer life will come back to you!*

William H. Danforth

I Dare You, sleeping giant, to awake and rock St. Louis with your love!

With Love and Gratitude for Our Time Together.

Rob+

The Report of the Reverend Kelly B. Carlson, Associate Rector

I tend not to use this space as it is intended - a look back at the year just ended. I never seem to be able to keep my thoughts from turning to the year ahead. This has never been more true than today. All I want to say about 2020 is a huge “thank you” to all St. Peter’s parishioners and staff. Thank you for being the Body of Christ, supporting one another, buoying your clergy, and serving in so many ways that enabled ministry to continue in the midst of the challenges posed by a pandemic striking at the beginning of an interim period in the life of the parish.

As we begin 2021, the challenges of 2020 remain. The world is still in the midst of a pandemic, with the COVID-19 virus mutating at the same time that vaccine distribution promises better days ahead, but not quite yet. And St. Peter’s continues to live in the particularly in-between time of clergy transition. In November, our Search Committee completed the mammoth task of gathering parishioner insights and desires into a Parish Profile, all while our buildings were closed. The Committee now seeks to reap the fruit of that hard work as it prepares to review candidate applications, looking for the person God is calling to be St. Peter’s next rector. The Vestry will call a new rector this year, but not quite yet.

The question that comes for me as we begin this new year is “what now?” What are we to do in the meantime, while we wait for the “not quite yet” to arrive? What is our calling right now?

- To gather for worship and study, giving thanks to God and remembering who and whose we are as followers of Jesus Christ?
- To support one another through the ministries of St. Peter’s Cares, prayers offered in worship and privately, and mutual love and caring?
- To respond to the great needs in the St. Louis community and beyond, especially as the pandemic continues to contribute to unemployment and all the ills it brings?
- To pray and work for justice and peace as we witness alarming fissures in our society rent by prejudice, anger, and fear?
- To have fun together, celebrating the joys of belonging to a community of faith held in the love and grace of God?

In sum, as we wait for the “not quite yet” of healthier, safer days with a new rector, God calls us to continue to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on what Bishop Curry calls the Way of Love. As 2020 revealed, changing seasons and circumstances may mean we need to creatively adapt and change how we follow on that way, but follow we will. So my next question is: “Where do you see yourself in God’s call to St. Peter’s in this new year?” How will you respond, joining with fellow parishioners, staff, and clergy, to make Jesus’ way of love known?

I feel deeply privileged to walk this way with each of you, and I look forward to the journey we will travel together in 2021.

With prayers for the journeys on which Rob and Joseph embark, and with a grateful and hopeful heart.

Yours in Christ,
Kelly+

The Report of the Reverend Joseph Wallace-Williams, Associate Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been more than two years now since my arrival here and your gracious welcome! I can recall the very first kind notes I received from parishioners after my interview inviting me to seriously consider joining with you in the work of building God's kingdom! Since the first moments of encounter with you, we have been through a lot together.

Since day one, I have sought to be a good and faithful priest, and a pastor that helps God's people in different times and stages of their lives. This means that, at times, I have needed to call forth the talents and abilities of someone who is selling herself short. And, at times, the grandiosity or self-pity of a person in a midlife crisis needed to be challenged. And at other times, our elders have needed to know that maybe now their prayer is more powerful and more influential than in all their years of service. To live out of that truth and vision takes a lot of faith in our golden years.

I believe that the best days of St. Peter's lie ahead, as individuals and families answer the call to become disciples and deepen the faith that is already present. A disciple is one who sits at the feet of Jesus and learns and then acts. The challenges of our day make this an invaluable time to grow in grace and to cultivate a joy in proclaiming the gospel that draws other thirsting souls to the font of life-giving water that is Jesus Christ.

Know that you will always hold a special place in my heart as I make this move to be the 9th Rector of the Church of St. Luke and The Epiphany, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You taught me how to be a faithful pastor, and I will be forever grateful for your patience, understanding, faith, and, above all, your love and joy.

Pax,
Fr. Joseph

The Report of the Senior Warden

One year ago, we said goodbye to our Rector, the Rev. Luke Jernagan, with a gathering on January 31 and at a luncheon on February 9, his last day at St. Peter's. On March 1, the Rev. Rob Voyle came to us as our interim rector. Two weeks later, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us into shutdown mode. It's hard to imagine a more challenging situation for new pastoral leadership.

Our dedicated clergy – Rob, the Rev. Kelly Carlson, and the Rev. Joseph Wallace-Williams – have led us through a very challenging year with creativity and grace. They have been supported by a very talented staff and engaged Vestry. We have not been able to gather in our building in the traditional ways, but St. Peter's Church has never been "closed."

Our clergy and staff quickly created high-quality online worship services, outdoor worship, virtual Sunday morning conversations, musical offerings, live-streamed services from our nave, and gatherings in the church garden. They have worked harder than ever to provide all these experiences for us in new formats and media. Thank you to Jacquelyn, David, Shug, Angela, Janet, Darlene, Carol, Ann, Annie, and Tony!

In late February, the Vestry supported our Outreach Committee with commitments to five local nonprofits whose needs were compounded by the pandemic: Great Circle, the St. Louis Community Foundation, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, the St. Louis Area Food Bank, and the Trinity CWE food ministry. With Kelly's leadership, Caring Circles were formed to help our parishioners stay in touch with each other when many felt isolated. St. Peter's Cares prayer teams have continued their dedicated support of our parishioners and friends.

We appointed a Re-Opening Steering Committee, under Kelly's direction, to update plans for St. Peter's under guidelines from the Diocese of Missouri and the St. Louis County Health Department. We have been fortunate to have three physicians in our parish serving on this committee.

Our Rector Search Committee, formed early in the year, met regularly and worked hard to develop our Parish Profile for distribution. Thanks to our consultant Anne Schmidt, committee chair Chris Knight, our chaplain the Rev. Susie Skinner, and committee members: Mokie Carmichael, Dr. Sarah Fouke, Laurie Haffenreffer, Dr. Amy Hilmer, Allan Ivie, Hedy Lee, Sally Lemkemeier, Danny Orthwein, Susan Schettler, and DeWayne Trainer.

The Parish has responded well to our annual stewardship campaign during this challenging time; everyone's contribution is extremely important and greatly appreciated. It is never too late to pledge your support or increase it if you're able to do so.

Our Vestry welcomes new members Ann Babington, Bob Craig, Jimmy Grimmett, Claire O'Brien, and Lynn Stockwell – plus Hal Burroughs, who is filling the term of a member who moved away. We thank retiring Vestry members Bob Butler, Michael Lauer, Mary Stillman, and Liza Weiss. Special thanks to DeWayne Trainer for his service as Junior Warden in addition to his work on the Search Committee.

I want to personally thank Rob and Joseph for their ministry among us and wish them well as they move to new positions for which they have been called: Rob as Interim Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, California, and Joseph as Rector of the Church of St. Luke and The Epiphany in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These are wonderful opportunities for them as true leaders in our wider church.

We are in very good hands with Kelly as our Senior Associate Rector in Charge, and with the Rev. Shug Goodlow as our newly ordained Deacon. They have complementary talents and relationships in the St. Peter's parish and our community.

We can all look forward to this year at St. Peter's, trusting that we will call a new rector and be able to restore our traditions in worship and fellowship as we emerge from the pandemic. I am stepping down as Senior Warden and serving the last year in my Vestry term. It has been my honor to serve as your Senior Warden in a challenging time for us all.

Faithfully,
Jeanie Davis
Senior Warden

The Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is comprised of the current retiring members of the Vestry, current Junior and Senior Wardens, and the immediate past Senior Warden of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The Committee met several times, publicized the Vestry nomination process, canvassed the parish, and secured the necessary consent to serve, if elected, from five duly qualified individuals, a term of three years.

The Nominating Committee seeks those they believe will help meet the current needs of the Vestry to efficiently carry out the business of St. Peter's and help the Rector bring to life the vision and mission of the Church. In particular, the committee seeks to identify potential nominees of the congregation that:

- Actively participate in Sunday worship
- Actively participate in parish life and the mission of the Church
- Make an annual pledge commitment to St. Peter's Church

The Nominating Committee has secured the necessary consent to serve a 3-year term on the Vestry, if elected, from:

- Ann Babington for a term to expire 2024
- Bob Craig for a term to expire 2024
- Jimmy Grimmett for a term to expire 2024
- Claire O'Brien for a term to expire 2024
- Lynn Stockwell for a term to expire 2024

While an additional role of the Nominating Committee is to elect Diocesan delegates and/or alternates, there are no terms expiring for the current year. Thus, no candidates were considered at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanie Davis, Senior Warden
DeWayne Trainer, Junior Warden
Laurie Haffenreffer, Past Senior Warden
Bob Butler
Drew Gulick
Michael Lauer
Mary Stillman
Liza Weiss

Our Delegates at Work

The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri held its 181st Convention virtually from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion in University City from November 19-21, 2020. St. Peter's Episcopal Church was ably represented by delegates Page Melton Ivie, Chris Knight, Ann Parish, Ann Randazzo, and Kelly Sullivan, along with clergy Kelly Carlson and Joseph Wallace-Williams. Parishioner Hal Burroughs was also in attendance, very ably serving as Diocesan Chancellor.

The business of Convention included:

1. Adoption of three resolutions:

A-181 Clergy Compensation.

B-181 WIFI Connectivity Assistance for Elected Diocesan Leaders.

C-181 Amendment to Constitution and Canons (Canon III (4) and (5)).

2. Election of the following persons to serve the Diocese:

Diocesan Council: Bill Haggerty and Annette Webb.

Standing Committee: Matthew Jackson, the Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd, and the Rev. Dr. Emily Hillquist-Davis.

Disciplinary Board: Carol Brown, Patricia Marsh O'Briend, and the Rev. Peter Speropulos.

Cathedral Chapter: Michael Fowler, Machele West, and the Rev. Tamsen Whistler.

3. Adoption of the 2021 operating budget for the Diocese, as submitted.

And

4. The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson's inaugural Convention Address as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri!

The 182nd Diocesan Convention will be held November 19-20, 2021, in Chesterfield.

Look for details on the 181st Convention to be published on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.diocesemo.org/news>.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Carlson+

Budget Committee Summary Report for 2020

2020 Financial Highlights

- Excluding endowment transfers, total income received was \$1,202,894 vs. a budget of \$1,604,520 and a decrease from \$1,434,762 in 2019.
- In 2020 total parishioner giving was \$1,151,644 vs. a budget of \$1,547,000. The primary drivers for this shortfall were:
 - Lower contribution and plate offerings due to cancelled services resulting from COVID-19
 - Pledge campaign income was 24% below budget
- The average pledge in 2020 was \$3,511
- A Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$227,600 was secured in 2020. We expect this to be forgiven in full in 2021.
- The 2018 White Fund loan balance at year-end was \$328,950
- Due to the closure necessitated by COVID-19 we saw a savings of ~\$108,500

Endowment

- The closing balance on December 31, 2020 was \$5,364,475, representing a 13.1% increase over the prior year closing balance.
- Contributions of \$21,307 were made to the Aitken and Wetzel Funds throughout the year. Another \$10,000 was transferred to the Columbarium Fund from the sale of niches.

Budget Notes

- Securing the PPP loan helped us avoid a budget shortfall in 2020.
- 2021 operating expenses are estimated to be ~\$220,000 less than 2020 driven primarily by a decrease in clergy salary resulting from departure of both Rob+ and Joseph+ in January, along with an assumed mid-year start for the new rector.

Budget Committee

The Rev. Rob Voyle, Interim Rector

The Rev. Kelly Carlson

Drew Gulick, Treasurer

Bob Butler

Kelly Sullivan

Jeff Yount

Julie Peters

Jack Gillis

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Endowment Investment Funds
January 1 to December 31, 2020

	Commerce	Schwab				Total Investments	
	Main	Aitken	Columbarium	Leschen	Wetzel		Zacher
Opening Balance	3,449,496	229,682	261,016	193,869	462,906	147,125	4,744,094
Realized Gains (Losses)	341,529	350	111			1,098	343,088
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	205,986	14,366	17,948	12,463	73,771	8,715	333,248
Investment Income	60,234	10,857	12,794	9,474	8,098	7,090	108,547
Contributions		20,307	10,000		1,000		31,307
Transfer <i>from</i> Operations	0		0				0
Total Income	607,748	45,881	40,853	21,937	82,869	16,902	816,221
Investment Fees	5,420	188	188	188		188	6,170
Transfer	112		(112)				0
Transfer <i>to</i> Operations	167,455	9,854			8,493	3,838	189,640
Total Expense	172,987	10,042	75	188	8,493	4,025	195,828
Net Change in Value	434,761	35,840	40,778	21,749	74,376	12,877	620,380
Closing Balance at Month End	3,884,257	265,522	301,794	215,618	537,282	160,002	5,364,475

<p style="text-align: center;">\$ 778,713 Y-T-D Increase 11.56% Overall Increase</p>

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Operating Fund Income/Expense and Cash Flow
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Projected	2021 Budget
OPERATING INCOME				
Annual Pledge Campaign (& prior yr)	1,191,044	1,400,000	1,064,515	1,031,990
Foundation Gifts	32,000	17,000	7,000	7,000
Plate and Other Giving	109,356	130,000	80,129	75,400
Subtotal Giving by Parishioners	1,332,399	1,547,000	1,151,644	1,114,390
Other Income	46,083	43,220	33,191	57,960
Designated Gifts (matched in exp)	19,809	6,300	1,275	6,300
Outreach	22,721	0	10,984	6,305
RDF Income (matched in exp)	13,750	8,000	5,800	5,000
Main Endowment Transfer	141,135	167,455	167,455	170,340
Columbarium Endowment Trfr. - 5%	7,745	9,771	9,854	11,541
Music Endowment Transfer - 5%	7,700	9,343	9,440	10,766
Other Endowment Transfers (Wetzel)	15,000	0	12,331	8,097
TOTAL INCOME	1,606,342	1,791,089	1,401,973	1,390,699
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Support for Diocese	170,724	162,470	162,480	171,790
Clergy	425,969	489,189	481,909	286,895
Administrative Staff	304,888	294,765	280,621	236,171
Facilities Staff	111,429	121,133	88,191	80,918
Program Staff	168,405	247,882	246,231	268,493
Subtotal Payroll Expense	1,010,692	1,152,969	1,096,952	872,477
Administrative Expenses	116,571	151,241	110,378	125,652
Facility Expenses	130,072	110,000	88,128	95,000
Music	94,214	90,000	59,591	60,000
Youth Ministries	9,004	7,500	664	3,000
Young Adults	1,805	1,600	193	600
Christian Education	3,951	4,150	2,520	4,150
Family Ministries	1,672	1,100	497	1,000
Adult Education	1,010	2,600	3,336	2,800
Parish Program	17,419	23,950	31,434	16,800
Pastoral Care	1,321	2,510	404	1,375
Worship	18,437	16,700	9,563	17,450
Subtotal Program Expenses	148,834	150,110	108,201	107,175
Designated Gifts	8,932	6,300	1,501	6,300
Outreach	23,985	50,000	35,035	7,305
RDF Expense	11,872	8,000	10,837	5,000
Accounting Transfers	-30,518	0	0	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,591,164	1,791,089	1,613,512	1,390,699
NET CASH FLOW OPERATIONS	15,178	(0)	(211,539)	0
OTHER CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW)				
Capitalized Expenses	0	0	0	0
PPP Loan	0	0	227,600	0
Subtotal Other Inflow/(Outflow)	0	0	227,600	0
CASH FLOW BEFORE TRANSFERS	15,178	(0)	16,061	0

Stewardship Campaign Report

2020

Thank you to all parishioners who continued their financial support to St. Peter's throughout the year. From the special donations to pledges that were paid earlier in the year than usual, we appreciate your continuing to bless St. Peter's with your generosity.

2021 Annual Giving Campaign

Given the challenges of this year, the Stewardship Committee worked hard to implement a plan for our 2021 Annual Giving Campaign. During the year, it had become evident that being grounded – being rooted – in our faith was central to our finding hope in uncertain times. Our theme, ***Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope*** reflected that belief. The formal part of this year's campaign kicked off on October 18 and culminated with Dedication Sunday on November 22. We were able to worship outdoors in October, and a few parishioners were asked to speak during the service on behalf of the campaign. Since most of our worship and communication in 2020 was virtual, we produced multiple videos from parishioners focusing on the importance of giving, the financial position relative to the campaign, and, best of all, why parishioners give. These videos were posted during Sunday virtual worship and on social media to reach as many parishioners as possible. Our 2018 anniversary video was adapted to be used as a marketing tool for ongoing stewardship and the rector search. Additionally, committee members wrote personal notes and made numerous calls to connect with parishioners personally. The October issue of *The Cornerstone*, our digital magazine, was an avenue to highlight the campaign and share our faith-filled response to our community this year.

2021 Annual Giving Campaign (as of 1/20/2021):

Total Number of Pledges	279
Pledge Dollars	\$1,000,329
New Pledges	23
Pledges Increased	88
Average Pledge	\$3,585
Median Pledge	\$2,000
Pledge Campaign Goal	\$1,400,000

Please help us wrap up our 2021 campaign by sending in your pledge if you have not yet done so. The Annual Giving Campaign supports the operating budget for every ministry of St. Peter's. Our success is contingent upon all of us giving what we can and sharing the gifts we have been given. Every pledge matters!

A great big **THANK YOU** to the Stewardship committee members:

Laurie Haffenreffer – Committee Chair, Jeanie Davis, Luke Fouke, Page Ivie, Jim Johnson, Louise Jones, Connie Lohr, and Sandy Peters.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Rouse

Director of Stewardship and Parish Life

Buildings and Grounds Commission Report

The year 2020 will be one we all remember. Fortunately, no major repairs were necessary this year. Since the buildings were open mainly to staff, the utilities costs were less than budgeted. The normal exterior maintenance items were maintained to keep the grounds looking attractive. In March, 12 parishioners helped clean up the grounds, wash Undercroft windows, and other miscellaneous tasks to get the property ready for spring.

In February, a room on the office level that had been used as a storage closet was transformed into an office for Jacquelyn, with the help of 6 parishioners. The contents were relocated, and the walls painted. Needed utilities were installed.

The year also started out with a leak in the office hall by the elevator and some water damage to the wall and ceiling tile. After multiple repair attempts, the leak was fixed, and the damaged wall repaired. A lighter color paint was selected to brighten up the office area. In the interest of health safety, painting was stopped after a few walls were finished. The painting task will resume when we feel it is prudent to have more people together.

The contracted painting of the soffits and gutter trim on all buildings was completed in November after many COVID related delays. Many areas were definitely in need of painting to prevent rotting. I want to give many thanks to Keith Boris for getting bids and following the project to completion.

The Columbarium was refreshed by tuckpointing and replacing cracked bricks on the floor and wall areas.

Enhancements to the audio/visual system were completed in December. Cameras as well as new microphones were added. This improved system provides the capability to live stream services from the church.

Ameren Missouri purchased a 10 feet wide easement along Warson Road for \$30,000. Two small trees will be removed when Ameren installs new poles along Warson Road.

A wood chip trail from the Little Building to the creek was completed as a Boy Scout Eagle Project by Peter Grace. It is a nice short circular trail that winds through the woods to the creek and back. Go try it out! It offers a relaxing walk in an area of the property that you probably didn't know existed.

I thank the office staff, interim rector, and clergy for their support and patience during this very unusual year. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Wille,
Vestry Buildings and Grounds

The Rector Search Committee Report

The Search Committee met for the first time on January 18, 2020 with Anne Schmidt, our calling consultant, to map out the search process for our new rector. Obviously, it has been a challenging year for us all, but with God's help and Anne's steady guidance we are faithfully navigating through unprecedented times on this spiritual journey to find our new rector. Thanks to our parishioners, we completed the congregation self-study portion of the search process in early fall with nearly 200 parishioners participating in the HolyCow! Survey and another 100+ providing additional input in 20 separate Holy Conversations. This was all accomplished in a manner consistent with public health safety measures that were required during the global pandemic. No one said this would be easy, but we were able to complete and publish our parish profile in November and begin the process of calling for applications, working with the Diocese.

The opening is also published by the Episcopal Church's Office of Transition Ministries (OTM). Additionally, the Rev. Doris Westfall, Canon to the Ordinary in the Bishop's office, presents St. Peter's profile at national conferences for transitional ministries. The opening is being advertised in the Episcopal News Service and many parishioners have shared our parish profile with those they think may be a good fit as our next rector. We continue to encourage parishioners to send the profile to potential candidates. All applications first go to Canon Westfall to ensure that there is nothing to prevent the applicant(s) from being considered. When the application window closes, Canon Westfall will forward the vetted applications to the Search Committee for our discernment to begin.

Canon Westfall has remained in contact with us throughout this process and has let us know that applications have been slow to arrive, not only for St. Peter's but nationally. Due to the expectation that the pandemic has slowed applications, she recommended we wait until our closing date (January 15) to decide how to proceed, as in many cases, applications arrive at the deadline. The Bishop's office has received applications in the last days of the current application window and is aware of additional candidates who are in the process of filing their application paperwork. Consequently, Canon Westfall has recommended we extend the deadline until February 16, and she remains optimistic that we will have a full slate of candidates to enter discernment with us at that point.

The Search Committee appreciates your ongoing prayers as we all move through this spiritual journey. We know that God is present and that with hope and God's help we will soon call our next rector and, as a parish, welcome him/her to ministry at St. Peter's.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Knight
Search Committee Chair

The Columbarium Report

The Columbarium has a total of 286 niches. There are 151 niches in the old section, all sold; and 135 in the newer section, of which 81 are still available. As niches are sold, the monies received are reinvested into the Columbarium Endowment Fund to provide for future maintenance and expansion requirements.

The cost of a niche (each containing space for two urns) is \$5,000. Parishioners interested in reserving a Columbarium niche should contact the Church Financial Administrator for a booklet outlining the policies for niche holders, and for an indenture form. Both the notarized indenture and an initial payment must be received in order to reserve a niche.

The Altar Guild Report

Altar Guild members take care of the sacristy and prepare for Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 services, as well as helping with memorial services, weddings, baptisms, and special days of the church year. Our members are Merrill Buettner, Jan Craig, Frances Gay, Cheryl Gelstein, Nancy Grimes, Lynn Hedrick, Connie Lohr, Claudia McMillin, Wendy Olk, Trent Phelps, Vicky Pruellage, Susan Schettler, DeWayne Trainer, Caren Vredenburgh and Susie Wilson. While we took quite a long break during 2020, we were back in the fall for outdoor worship and look forward to serving at more in-person services this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Schettler
Chair

The Report of the Organist and Choirmaster

Worship is the regular gathering “to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God’s Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 857). For the first two and a half months of the year, the Choirs of St. Peter’s were able to do this.

The music at St. Peter’s is led by three choirs: the St. Peter’s Choristers, a choir for young people affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music; the St. Peter’s Choir, the parish choir of adult singers; and the St. Peter’s Singers, a sixteen-voice professional choir that sings for most evening services.

Through March 15, the St. Peter’s Choir was present at every Sunday 10:30 a.m. service. A semi-chorus from the choir was present at two 8:00 a.m. services in February, continuing our pattern of having a semi-chorus at this service about once per month. St. Peter’s offered evening choral services (Choral Evensong; Lessons and Carols) in each of the first three months of the year.

My predecessor, S. William Aitken, the Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus, instituted monthly Choral Evensong services at St. Peter’s on March 4, 1990. The Choral Evensong held Sunday, March 8, therefore, marked 30 years of monthly Choral Evensong services at St. Peter’s. It remains my hope that more of the parish would avail themselves of this part of our liturgical heritage in the coming years. To that end, I inaugurated the Living Tradition series, which aims to be an ongoing exploration of sacred music and liturgy to celebrate this parish’s long history of Choral Evensong during a time when Evensong itself is not feasible.

In the pandemic, the St. Peter’s Choir can gather virtually on Thursday nights, and the St. Peter’s Choristers can gather on Tuesday afternoons. Members of the St. Peter’s Choir have recorded several pieces of music “virtually” by recording their parts individually from home. Other singers have contributed solo Introsits, Alleluias, and Offertory chants to our virtual service videos. We have relied heavily on our archival recordings of hymns, anthems, and service music to provide music for weekly service videos. Assistant Organist Jennifer Spohr has been furloughed since July.

In September, Regent Records released the St. Peter’s Choir’s new CD *Longing for Home*, which is also available on Apple Music and Spotify. The recording was produced by Gary Cole and engineered by Daniel Ruder. A generous donor has purchased copies of the CD for every member household who would like one, and many parishioners have received copies. I am happy to report that the recording has been well received. A review in *The American Organist* magazine called it “excellent...richly sung.” The radio program *With Heart and Voice* recently broadcast a piece from this recording.

Upon assuming my position at St. Peter’s in 2015, I found the system for recording services in the church to be very satisfactory, and we began keeping archival recordings of every service. St. Peter’s did not request or anticipate changes to the recording system with the installation of a new church/undercroft sound system (March through December 2018). Unfortunately, we gradually discovered that the recording system had been inadvertently negatively affected by the new installation and was no longer capable of making satisfactory recordings of the music sung and played in the church. This year St. Peter’s engaged an audio/visual company to make necessary upgrades to the audio recording and video live streaming systems. I also consulted with Daniel Ruder to get the advice of a recording engineer familiar with recording choral and organ music at St. Peter’s.

After Vestry approval and much hard work, these changes were completed in December, and we made our first live webcast from the church just before Christmas. Our previous recording microphones served us for 30 years. Our four new top-quality microphones (two are cardioid, two are omnidirectional) now provide us with high-fidelity recordings. These microphones should serve us well for at least the next 30 years. Our new recording setup gives us the ability to mix signals from these microphones separately for recording and webcasting.

I especially want to thank my colleague Jacquelyn VanWeelden, Director of Communications. Her work has been essential in archiving our recordings for the past five years, and she has been instrumental in the process of upgrading our audio/visual equipment in preparation for webcasting.

The Mander organ in the church was exceedingly well maintained by Patrick Fischer and David Kazimir. St. Peter's is very fortunate to have engaged Messrs. Fischer and Kazimir, the finest team of organ curators with whom I have ever worked. With sadness, we noted the Mander Organ company's unexpected closing in July, making the regular, attentive curation of this instrument, installed in 2001, even more vital.

Many generous donations and bequests to the S. William Aitken Endowment Fund have been received this year. This fund continues to ensure a vibrant future for the music ministry at St. Peter's.

Major choral services and other items of note in the past year include:

- A Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas on Sunday, January 5.
- A Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany on Sunday, January 13.
- A service of Choral Evensong for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 9. This was the fourth annual joint service of Choral Evensong with the Choir of the Church of St. Michael & St. George (CSMSG), Clayton (the Rev. Andrew Archie, Rector; Robert Lehman, Organist and Choirmaster). The fifth annual joint service was to have been held at CSMSG in February 2021.
- I presented Sarah Bryan Miller with the Choirmaster's Award for distinguished service to the St. Peter's Choir on March 8.
- Music for Meditation, a weekly series of music in the church on Sunday mornings, began July 19.
- In lieu of an Advent Lessons and Carols service, the clergy, lectors, and choir offered a series of eight short video services based on the "O" Antiphons throughout the Advent season. Each service included a newly sung "O" Antiphon and an appropriate piece of music from our archives.
- Various music offerings published on our YouTube channel have received more than 3,500 views.

Prior to the pandemic, Music at St. Peter's took many different forms, ranging from a hymn sung by the full congregation to a choral masterwork sung by choir, soloists, and orchestra. The presence of additional instruments enhanced our worship and concerts. I am very grateful for all our choirs' commitment and hard work, and the stewardship that makes all this music possible. I look forward to the time when this manner of music-making will return.

Respectfully submitted,
David Sinden

Parish Life Report

The year began with fellowship gatherings at breakfast on Sundays, Sunday Coffee Hours after worship, and other gatherings during the week. Most notably, we had a farewell event for the Rev. Luke Jernagan in January which was very well-attended and enjoyed immensely. It was a great opportunity for thanks and to gather as a parish for celebration. We continued the goodbyes with a family celebration in the Undercroft after services on one Sunday in February. It was a wonderful opportunity for families at St. Peter's to get together, connect as a parish and enjoy a meal together.

After the campus was temporarily closed in March, our approach to fellowship, like worship, was to create virtual opportunities for connection. **Coffee with the Rector** was held virtually on Sunday mornings, and a wide variety of topics and conversations kept many of the parishioners connected to each other and the happenings at church. When we were able to worship outdoors, **coffee** was available after each service for parishioners to enjoy and be able to mingle safely.

The **St. Peter's Chill Lounge** was virtually "opened" as a venue for casual conversation and fun events on a select number of evenings through the summer. Sessions of music, Trivia with the Bishop, Olympic games, and even a cooking class were held. All evenings were enjoyable and fun for those who attended.

Coffee in the Garden was held weekly in September and October on Wednesday mornings to coincide with our personal prayer sessions. It was open and available to anyone who wanted to stop by and safely meet with staff and fellow parishioners.

The Men's Breakfast group creatively held the **First Responders' Breakfast** in September. It was a great way to continue to show appreciation for the police and fire departments' hard work and dedication to our communities.

We celebrated **St. Peter's Day** with our first outdoor celebration of the Holy Eucharist and it could not have been better. Worshipping under beautiful blue skies (with an effective outdoor sound system!) was the best way to come together after months apart. It was great to see so many familiar faces, recognizable even behind masks, and catch up over a cup of coffee after the service. Our patronal feast continued in the afternoon with an ice cream social, socially-distanced of course. Some great artistic endeavors were undertaken with sidewalk chalk while we listened to a talented musician and visited with old and new friends.

Trunk or Treat was held in the parking lot in October with many of our families attending. The children loved the activities and the goody bags that were handed out. The favorite activity may have been the s'mores-making – both the adults and the kids enjoyed a sweet treat by the fire.

We look forward to the new year and being able to gather again soon!

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Rouse
Director of Stewardship and Parish Life

Communications Report

The beginning of 2020 saw the continuation of projects begun in 2019, including the transition to **Realm**, an interactive online directory, and periodical issues of our digital magazine *The Cornerstone*. However, as stated in many reports, St. Peter's parishioners and staff had to find new ways to stay in touch and communicate news. In mid-March, we immediately shifted to virtual worship in the form of pre-made videos merged together to create one cohesive and meaningful service. Each week, parishioners, choir members, and clergy participated in this new form of worship right from their living rooms (sometimes with a pet companion jumping in!).

To say that communicating with each other this year has been an interesting learning experience would be downplaying the incredible changes everyone has made within their church community and personal lives. As we found new ways to "gather," we collectively battled the learning curve of technology, doling out Zoom codes and learning how to tell if we are on Mute or not. Together, we learned the ins and outs of recording, sending files, video chat, live-streaming, and so on.

During this time our weekly newsletter, *News from the Rock*, has become the best form of communicating events and locating Zoom links. In the weeks to come, look for a slightly altered look to this weekly email. We hope these few soon-to-be implemented changes will help parishioners get a better sense of the happenings of the church, along with weekly staple activities and information.

Another upcoming change is our web address. Soon, St. Peter's website will change from stpetersepisopal.org to specstl.org, along with the endings for staff emails. But not to worry! The old @stpetersepisopal.org will still work as well!

As 2021 proves to be another year of ever-shifting norms, we will continue to provide you with clear, updated information. Do your part to stay connected with St. Peter's! Here's how:

- Keep up with St. Peter's on social media: Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/specstl) and Instagram (@specstl).
- Log in and update your Realm account: Parishioners can log in and see their contact information, giving history, church groups, and a parish directory (no more asking for phone numbers!). You can update personal information, add a profile picture (a great way to connect with other church members), change privacy settings, update or edit gifts, and join groups. Haven't signed up yet? Email me at jacquelyn@specstl.org with your full name, email, and phone number to receive an invitation to create your login.
- Make sure you are signed up for *News from the Rock*: Not receiving our weekly emails? If you believe you are signed up, please first check junk or spam folders. If you are not yet signed up, please send an email with your name and preferred email requesting to sign up!

As always, please do not hesitate to email me at jacquelyn@specstl.org with any questions about St. Peter's communications.

Jacquelyn VanWeelden
Director of Communications

St. Peter's Cares

Happy Anniversary! St. Peter's Cares reached a milestone in 2020 – five years of parishioners caring for one another through the providing of prayer, meals, and transportation. True to form since this wonderful ministry of pastoral care began, its members would not let something like a worldwide pandemic slow them down! From September 2019 through August 2020:

- Our Prayer Ministry Team prayed daily in response to 360 requests.
- Our Meal Ministry Team delivered 144 home-cooked meals.
- Our Transportation Ministry Team provided 20 rides to medical appointments and church services before the pandemic temporarily halted requests.

Every fall since St. Peter's Cares began, its members have participated in pastoral care training. Not being able to gather in person in 2020, and not feeling enthusiastic about “virtual” training, we took the opportunity to instead celebrate the ministry's anniversary with a St. Peter's Cares Ministry Member Appreciation Drive. Charlie Claggett and I crisscrossed St. Louis delivering to ministry members anniversary goody bags filled with everything from inspirational scripture cards to the Choir's newest CD to decorated heart-shaped cookies homemade by Sandy Knight (with a decorating assist by Chris). To end this anniversary year, I want to recognize every member of St. Peter's Cares, with a HUGE thank you for their devotion to caring for our parish family, no matter what challenges a year may bring:

Shepherds: Frances Gay and Nancy Grimes, who receive and coordinate parishioner requests **365** days a year.

Meal Ministry Team: Sandy Knight (Team Leader), Lisa Acker, Ann Babington, Maureen Bahn, Merrill Buettner, Brooke Erwin, Sarah Fouke, Frances Gay, Nancy Grimes, Karen Hempstead, Nikki Jansson, Suzanne Johnson, Chris Knight, Ashley Margulies, Sara Moseley, Wendy Olk, Andrea Osman, Holly Parks, Jean Saunders, Annie Schlafly, John Schoenecker, DeWayne Trainer, Amy Varble, Caren Vredenburgh, and Jerry Wille.

Prayer Ministry Team: Charlie Claggett (Team Leader), Mimi Carnal, Jan Craig, Frances Gay, Elli Jordan, Sally Lemkemeier, Maureen Manget, Cheryl Meyer, Bryan Miller, Holly Parks, Kathryn Trinkaus, Annie Vogt, and Cathie Wille.

Transportation Ministry Team: Bill Gay (Team Leader), Doug Adderton, Bob and Marilyn Evans, Dudley Grove, Dick Gulick, Nancy Gulick, Bette Handy, Rich Huck, Kelly Sullivan, and Bud Wilson.

While we were not able to deliver Easter flowers in the spring, I want to give great thanks to the twenty some parishioners and staff who delivered upwards of 90(!!!) poinsettias to St. Peter's mostly-at-home and bereaved parishioners during Advent. While maintaining safe social distances, a small bit of comfort and joy was delivered with every beautiful flower. I give thanks for the privilege of serving a parish with such a big heart!

If you ever need a meal, a ride, or prayer, just leave a message for a Shepherd at 314-993-2306 ext 125 or shepherd@stpetersepiscopal.org, and Frances or Nancy will contact you within 24 hours.

Yours in Christ,
Kelly+

Children and Youth Ministries Report

St. Peter's Children's Ministries have taken a pause during the pandemic. These ministries include Sandwich Makers, Caring Cards, and Blessing Bags. Vacation Bible School moved to a virtual format with around a dozen children in attendance. Children's Chapel has been the most successful Children's event during the pandemic. Numbers are relatively consistent and new families are joining when they are available. Coloring pages were added to the Children's Chapel bulletin in order to make it more interactive and inviting. All families are invited to lead Children's Chapel to further increase engagement and sense of belonging. Sunday School has been closed since March, but "Learning at Home Kits" were offered in the fall as an aid to nurture children's faith. Thirteen families signed up to receive kits, totaling 39 young participants.

Several events were offered at the start of the program year for children. Blessing of the Backpacks was held as a drive-through event in August. As families drove through the circle drive, they received a blessing, backpack tag, and a start of school goody bag. Chalk the Walk was held in the circle drive in early September. This was an opportunity for children to interact with each other and explore their artistic nature in a socially distant manner. Around ten families attended these events combined. Trunk or Treat was held in late October and was the most successful event of the fall with about fifteen families in attendance over the two-hour time span. Children were invited to dress up in costume, make s'mores around a campfire, and participate in arts and crafts. The Christmas Pageant was altered to be streamed over St. Peter's FM transmitter thanks to David Sinden's tremendous audio editing skills. The story was trimmed for time purposes but was still beautifully told with the help of four children who recorded their lines at home. David was also able to bring in St. Peter's Choristers by using recordings from pageants past. Overall, it was a great pandemic version of the Christmas Pageant that can be used in the years to come for those unable to join us on Christmas Eve.

The annual Youth Mission Trip did not run this summer and most youth activity was halted until October. In late September, an Instagram page was created (@SPECYouth) in order to increase youth engagement with the church. Due to Zoom burnout, it was essential to work with youth away from a computer screen while maintaining COVID-19 protocols. As a result, the St. Peter's Youth Group Flocking Fundraiser was created. In return for a small donation, members of the youth group would move a "flock" of yard flamingos to a friend's yard in hopes of bringing some joy to a difficult time. Fifteen youth participated in moving the flock and raised \$1,985 over the course of two and a half months. The polling feature on Instagram was used as a way for the youth to choose which local organization would receive the funds they raised.

Annie Knapp,
Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report

YOUTH

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to have a youth mission trip or mission stay. This gave us a perfect opportunity to begin to rethink what youth ministry could look like at St. Peter's. We discerned as leadership that it would be best to call a lay person to serve as a youth minister and Christian education director. It was so exciting to be able to welcome Annie Knapp! Despite the pandemic, she has been able to begin building relationships with her young people throughout the congregation.

In 2020, eight of our young people joined by one adult were confirmed on the steps of the church surrounded by their friends and family. Eight of our young people participated in our Confirmation program, exploring their faith, bonding with each other, and growing alongside their mentors. The confirmation class this year is a little smaller, but the group continues to meet monthly virtually and are using the curriculum *My Faith My Life*. The smaller group size has made for some great conversation and deep sharing on the part of our young people. Thank you again to Andrea Osman for all of her help and her commitment to building disciples in our community.

YOUNG ADULTS

Our young adult group at the outset of the pandemic worked very hard to meet regularly for Bible study and happy hours over zoom. As most of our young adults are young professionals, we found that a lot of them were just plain old zoomed out at the end of a long workday. Therefore, we decided to scale back our gatherings opting instead for smaller self-selecting networks with Fr. Joseph, checking in periodically to see how individuals are. No, the group may not have been meeting regularly, but members still remained engaged in the life and work of the congregation participating as lectors and readers, volunteering as a part of the Urban League mass giveaways, delivering poinsettias and meals as part of St. Peter's Cares, and serving as ushers on Sunday mornings.

With joy and gratitude,
Joseph+

Woman's Guild Report

January 2020 started out with a bang. At that time the Woman's Guild was still meeting for home-cooked lunches and intriguing presentations each week from renowned authors, speakers from philanthropic organizations, and cultural discussions on the St. Louis Ballet, Muny Opera, and the History Museum in Forest Park. Sprinkled in amongst our programs we always made time each month to have our "Gatherings" which enabled us to sit back, chat, get caught up with great fellowship, and just have fun. The Woman's Guild works hard but plays hard too.

By March, we were abruptly stopped to quarantine due to the emergence of the pandemic with COVID-19. Sadly, as the year progressed activities were halted - which meant Guild could not sell their beautiful plants for Mother's Day. As Spring rolled into Summer and Summer rolled into Fall we made the decision to take precautions by social distancing, wearing our masks, and meeting outdoors in the circulating air at a local park. Woman's Guild had to forego our usual Opening Luncheon but actively still met in the park for fellowship each week.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we could not host the Birthday Party for the St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center. But that did not stop us! We delivered the supplies so the Youth could still celebrate their birthdays. Woman's Guild made sure the youth had Domino's Pizza, Ted Drewes custard, soda, individual treat bags filled with goodies, birthday presents (new ear buds), decorations, paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic ware, tablecloths, and balloons. For December-January the Woman's Guild donated to three worthy causes. Our first donation was to Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls, next we donated to the Starkloff Disability Institute to their Dream training program to prepare young people so they are able to be placed in a job, and last but not least we donated winter coats, fleece gloves, thermal socks, and Mylar blankets to Trinity Food Pantry to help prepare for winter weather. We are keeping our fingers crossed and saying our prayers that this April we will once again be able to sell our beautiful plants for Mother's Day. We are still having fun and achieving our goals despite the pandemic. Hopefully, 2021 will be a much better year, COVID-free.

Yours truly,
Cheryl A. Meyer
St. Peter's Woman's Guild

Anti-Racism Committee Report

The past summer has been one of great sadness for all of us as we watched our nation struggle with systemic racism and its ripple effects felt throughout society. Long before George Floyd's death in May, generations of St. Louisans have worked diligently and faithfully to address these issues and build bridges across racial and socioeconomic lines; that work has intensified in 2020. In my time among you as one of your priests, I have asked myself, "What role can the community of St. Peters play in addressing the racism in St. Louis city, county, and in our larger American society?"

Our community must continue to build on the work we have done at St. Peters to develop a more profound knowledge and understanding of our nation's racial history and how that racism has impacted our city and county. Addressing racism needs to fundamentally focus on two distinct and interrelated areas: understanding, which will open the door for meaningful and deep reconciliation and justice, which will flow out of a heart made tender and longing for thy kingdom come. To this end, St. Peter's has formed an 11-member anti-racism core group, divided into two teams: inward-facing (understanding) and outward-facing (justice).

INWARD-FACING ANTI-RACISM WORK

The inward-facing team focuses primarily on helping parishioners understand structural racism in our community and how white privilege permeates the way we live in society. This small group of people has dedicated themselves to creating conversation groups and book studies that will help us open our minds and our hearts. A study of the book and movie Just Mercy was offered in September. The group has organized a new speaker series called: Sacred Conversations - Exploring Race and Community. The series will begin the last Sunday of January during the Rector's Forum. Dr. Terry Jones will be the first lecturer. Dr. Jones will present on Educational Opportunity and Racial Inequity: The St. Louis Story.

OUTWARD-FACING ANTI-RACISM WORK

The outward-facing team engages in ministry that will allow St. Peter's to offer our time, talent, treasure, and sweat equity toward building justice in our community. This group has engaged in a series monthly of courageous conversations with the people of Tabernacle Church. Members of our congregation has been able to hear the perspective of members of the African-American community.

In conjunction with the outreach committee, this team has begun conversations with the Tabernacle Community Development Corporation (TCDC), an organization created in 2010 in the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood. TCDC provides a variety of benevolent resources to the community, allowing the organization to build loyal and trusting relationships with neighborhood residents, local law enforcement, government officials, and neighboring non-profits.

St. Peter's has a rich history of reaching out. Now is the time to use our community's talents and resources to continue to build a legacy of supporting justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

Pax,
Fr. Joseph

Outreach Committee Report

PANDEMIC RELIEF

Recognizing the extreme need that the pandemic created in the lives of St. Louisans in 2020, St. Peter's sought new avenues to help those in need in our community. At the beginning of the pandemic, outreach funds and designated Easter Offerings were used to donate \$5,195 apiece to Great Circle, the St. Louis Area Foodbank, the St. Louis Community Foundation, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, and Trinity Food Bank. Under the leadership of Allan Ivie and the parish Anti-Racism Committee, parishioners served at two all-day Urban League food distribution Saturdays in the city in summer and late fall. Finally, parishioners responded with great generosity to our Advent and Christmas appeal to "Keep Jesus Warm," with boxes and boxes of cold weather clothes and accessories donated to the Trinity Food Bank to help keep the homeless men it serves warm this winter.

OUTREACH HAITI

St. John the Evangelist School in Haiti was not spared the challenges and losses of the pandemic, but the community is faithfully moving forward under the leadership of their rector, Pere Banna. The school was closed in the spring due to the pandemic; however, we continued to pay all salaries and fortunately they were able to open again in summer and successfully complete the 2019-2020 school year. Pere Banna used their reserved food, money from church collection plates, and vestry members to continue providing meals to the community. Working with the Red Cross, they were able to build improved private toilets for the school and install their first ever hand washing station. Our container filled with chicken houses is still in limbo as the person responsible for it died of COVID-19. A family member of the deceased reached out to us to let us know, and we now have a good friend hunting the container down with the hopes of securing it near the school and planning for a post-vaccination trip to start up the chicken growing project. All your prayers for this community have been most appreciated. For more information about this ministry visit Church of the Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee (<http://www.gslookout.com/outreach/>).

FOOD MINISTRY

Even in the face of the pandemic, teams of parishioners led by Bill and Jim Gilbert prepared and served quarterly meals as part of the Sunday "Hot Lunch" program at Trinity Episcopal Church, Central West End, for about 80 participants. They also prepared and served about 50 meals bi-monthly for the Saturday "Peace Meal" at St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove. Gifts made from the discretionary funds of our clergy were used to purchase the ingredients for the Hot Lunches (ingredients are provided for the Peace Meal). In 2020 prior to COVID-19, we collected over 210 bags of groceries in our monthly "1st Sunday" food drive to support the Food Pantry at Trinity.

DONATED FUNDS

In addition to the pandemic efforts noted above, funds also were donated to programs St. Peters supports. These included \$1,225 to the Bishop's COVID-19 Food Ministries, \$345 to the Good Friday Offering, \$2,640 for Food Cards for the Hungry, \$330 to the Sandwich Makers Program, \$1,985 to Best Buddies (raised by the "flocking efforts" of St. Peter's Youth Group!), \$800 to Outreach Haiti, and \$300 to Fathers and Families. The Christmas Offering, totaling a little over \$2,300 was shared with longtime St. Peter's partners Episcopal City Mission and The Haven of Grace. Finally, similar to previous years, \$1,000 theological education gifts were given to both to the General Theological Seminary and Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

In total, in 2020, St. Peters donated \$35,035.

Outreach Committee Funds Distribution 2020

2020 Outreach Grants from Easter Offering

Great Circle	\$5,195
St. Louis Area Foodbank	\$5,195
St Louis Community Foundation	\$5,195
Urban League of Metropolitan St Louis	\$5,195
Trinity Food Bank	\$5,195

Other Gifts

Bishop's COVID-19 Food Ministries	\$1,225
Good Friday Offering	\$ 345
Food Cards for the Hungry	\$2,640
Sandwich Makers	\$ 330
Best Buddies	\$1,985
Fathers & Families	\$ 300
Other	\$ 155
Outreach Haiti	\$ 800*
Christmas Offering	\$2,300*
(shared equally with Episcopal City Mission and The Haven of Grace)	

Theological Education Gifts

General Theological Seminary	\$1,000
Church Divinity School of the Pacific	\$1,000

Total \$35,035

*(because these gifts were received by the three organizations in early 2021, they will be counted in next year's report total)

2020 Food Pantry and Meal Contributions

- 210 bags of food collected for Trinity Food Pantry
- 80 hot lunch meals served quarterly at Trinity
- 50 meals served bi-monthly at St. John's Peace Meal

Respectfully submitted,
Liza Weiss, Chair
Joseph+

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ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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110 N. Warson Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63124
314.993.2306
stpetersepiscopal.org