



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EST. 1868

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for the Parish

Page 817 of Book of Common Prayer

Table of Contents

Page Number

Administration

Clergy, Staff, Wardens, Vestry and Convention Delegates	1
2021 Annual Meeting Minutes	2-4
Parish Membership	5
Sacraments and Services	5
The Reports of the Clergy	
The Reverend David Hodges	6
The Reverend Kelly Carlson	7-8
The Report of the Senior Warden	9-10
The Report of the Nominating Committee	11
The Report of the Delegates to Convention.....	12
Financial Reports	13-15
Stewardship Campaign Report	16
Building and Grounds Commission Report.....	17
Columbarium Report	18

Worship

Altar Guild Report	18
The Report of the Organist and Director of Music	19-20

Parish Life

Parish Life Report	21
Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries Report.....	22
Communications Report	23
St. Peter's Cares Report	24
Playgroup Commission Report.....	25
Woman's Guild Report.....	26
Outreach Committee Report	27-28

Clergy

The Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson, Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
The Reverend David Hodges, Rector
The Reverend Kelly Carlson, Associate Rector

Parish Staff

Angela Mahan, Chief of Staff / Administrator
David Sinden, Organist and Director of Music
Janet Rouse, Director of Stewardship and Parish Life
Jacquelyn VanWeelden, Director of Communications
Darlene Horton, Financial Administrator
Annie Knapp, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
Theresa Barnicle, Administrative Assistant
Lisa Reynolds, Playgroup Director

Wardens and Vestry

DeWayne Trainer, Senior Warden	Louise Jones, Junior Warden
Drew Gulick, Treasurer (<i>ex officio</i>)	Ann Babington, Secretary
Lisa Acker	Michael Newport
Hal Burroughs	Claire O'Brien
Bob Craig	Julie Peters
Jeanie Davis	Lynn Stockwell
Jimmy Grimmett	Jerry Wille
Cheryl Meyer	

Convention Delegates

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

Annual Meeting Minutes – Sunday, January 24, 2021

67 Participants on Zoom

Clergy: Rob, Joseph, Shug, and Kelly

Rob announces we have a quorum and thanks everyone for joining our meeting. Rob leads the opening prayer.

Officials of Meeting

Annie Knapp will lead polls and elections

Liza Weiss is the Secretary

DeWayne Trainer Presents Nominating Committee Report

- Nominating Committee – retiring vestry members, junior and senior warden, and senior priest
- Met several times and canvassed the parish
- Seeking to meet current needs of St. Peter's
- Qualifications to serve on vestry: Actively participate in worship and life of the parish and contribute financially
- Five qualified individuals were asked and agreed to serve if elected: Ann Babington, Bob Craig, Jimmy Grimmatt, Claire O'Brien, and Lynn Stockwell.
- All Vestry terms expire in 2024.
- Rob: Any nominations from the floor? None. No delegates' terms are ending, so we will not elect delegates, just Vestry.

Motion to suspend rules and vote by acclamation – Jeanie Davis moved, seconded by DeWayne Trainer
Vote: By reaction on Zoom.

Rob asks for objections to say no. No “no's.” Vestry slate voted in by acclamation.

Approve the Amendments to the Bylaws

- Rob: Emailed the church with rationale for proposed amendments marked in the bylaws; opened the floor for conversation or questions. Congregations do this every 7-10 years to bring bylaws up to date with current practice, diocesan policies, and best practices.
- Google poll was opened for 30 minutes to vote anonymously. Rob asked for questions from the parish. No questions were raised. Poll closed at 10:00 a.m.

Approve the Minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting

- Minutes were posted on the website and are now published in the chat—no questions about the minutes.
- DeWayne Trainer moved to adopt minutes; Julie Peters seconded. No “no's,” lots of yes reactions.
- Minutes Approved

Recognize the Retiring Vestry Members

- Thank you from the Parish
- Bob Butler, Drew Gulick, Michael Lauer, Mary Stillman, Liza Weiss
- Jeanie will remain on Vestry but stepping down from Senior Warden
- DeWayne Trainer will be the next Senior Warden; Louise Jones will be the next Junior Warden

Annual Reports

- On website
- Rob says thank you to the people of St. Peter's

Jeanie Davis – Report – Senior Warden

- Unexpected year at St. Peter's: Luke left, Rob came, and Covid forced us into "shut down" mode two weeks later. A dedicated clergy led us through a challenging year and were supported by talented staff and engaged Vestry.
- St. Peter's has never been closed.
- Many different offerings
- Search Committee
- Annual Stewardship Campaign supported the parish
- Outreach donated to 5 charities in February
- Rob and Joseph moving on to new churches
- St. Peter's is in excellent hands with Kelly and Shug

Drew Gulick – Treasurer's Report

- 2020 unprecedented financially
- Endowment doing well
- Maintained a draw in the 3-5% range to support the annual budget
- Expenses were higher than income
- PPP loan helped us
- Applied for forgiveness, Expect forgiveness in full
- Balanced budget
- Benefited from decreased expenses on the staff side
- Focus on 2022 to keep income and expenses commensurate
- Reach out to Drew if there are questions

Rob: Episcopal policy provides for presenting the budget and then seeking vestry approval on behalf of parish.

Motion to affirm the direction of budget committee and the budget:

- First and Second – Linda McKay moved, and Tom Hedrick seconded.
- Direction of Budget Committee and Budget Approved.

New Staff Member:

- Shug Goodlow – Welcome to Shug and her wife, Doris! Shug is a deacon in the church.
- Shug says she feels divinely favored to be at St. Peter's. She feels at home here and welcome. She thanks the parish for its warm and gracious welcome.

New Business?

- No one raised any new business
- Polls need to stay open for another 10 minutes
- At 10:15 children will join the meeting to say farewell to Rob and Joseph
- Annie says we have a quorum of votes. Heavily in favor, but polls will remain open until 10 a.m.
- Church presentation for departing clergy, Joseph and Rob. Bad audio and no video.

-
- Rob thanks the congregation for being flexible and accepting all changes during this time. Inaudible and hearing some people talking or have TV on and no mute.
 - Gifts and speeches recognizing Jeanie. Gifts and speeches recognizing Joseph. Gifts and speeches recognizing Rob. Gifts and speeches recognizing DeWayne.
 - Annie presents results of poll: Bylaw revisions have been approved by a majority.

Chris Knight – Work of the Search Committee

- A year ago, the search committee first met.
- Parish profile published in November.
- Official start of search.
- Published application.
- Few applications before Jan 15 so we are extending deadline for a month.
- New deadline Feb 15, 2021.
- Next will be the discernment phase. Interviews, questions, better sense of who the candidates are. Feb 17 discernment begins.
- Unsure about timeline, but it will be a finite amount of time.
- Chair ably assisted by consultant Anne Schmidt and Susie Skinner (chaplain).
- Please notify anyone you think may be a good fit. Please send them a link to the application.
- Thank you to the entire search committee! A lot of time and effort!
- Look forward to welcoming rector in 2021.

Rob: Drive through goodbye to Joseph and Rob today from 11 a.m. to Noon. Say goodbye or get a blessing.

Children's Chapel at 10:15

Conclude with Rob's final blessing at 10:10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Parish Membership in 2021

Increases (all members added by Baptism, Confirmation, reception, or transfer): 23

Decreases (all members lost by death, transferred, or removed): 26

Total Members at end of year	1198
Adults 16 years and older	1045
Children under 16	153
Number of Households	485

Sacraments and Services 2021

Average Sunday Attendance: 125*

*In non-pandemic years, Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) is a parish's total Sunday attendance divided by the number of Sundays in the calendar year.

For 2020, parishes counted only the first nine Sundays of the year (before Covid set in) to determine their ASA; St. Peter's was 270.

For 2021, the Episcopal Church is directing parishes to determine ASA based only on in-person attendance, divided by the number of Sundays such worship was offered. Returning to in-person worship on February 28, 2021, St. Peter's offered in-person worship for 44 Sundays during the calendar year; 5502 people attended.

	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Total Sunday & Saturday Evening Eucharists	98	8
Total Weekday Eucharists	9	0
Total Private Eucharists	26	0
Daily Offices held on Sunday or Saturday Evening	6	1
Daily Offices held on Weekdays	3	33
Marriages	9	0
Burials	20	0
Baptisms	5	All were under 16 years of age
Confirmations	6	All were under 16 years of age

The Report of the Reverend David Hodges, Rector

The culture is changing, the world is changing rapidly. And churches are facing change on an unprecedented scale. But the church is also at an exciting crossroads. We are entering a new day, new terrain, new adventure. The Spirit of God goes before us.
-Tod Bolsinger

It is a joy and privilege to be your rector. Thank you again for the warm welcome you have given to my wife, Lisa, and me and for the various events that were put together to help us get to know you. I am grateful to have the chance to participate with you in the life of our church. I am deeply indebted for the faithful work done by the Rector Search Committee and the Vestry who represented St. Peter's so well throughout the search process. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with our excellent, dedicated lay staff who give of themselves to our church in many ways and who have worked closely with me during the transition. I am deeply grateful for the chance to share in ministry with Kelly Carlson and for her steady and caring presence during the past year and her commitment to St Peter's.

In the few months that I have been with you, I have been encouraged by your spirit and by your commitment to our work and ministry. Though I was only with you for a short part of it, I know that last year was another one in which St. Peter's had to deal with things that have impacted all our lives and how we have been able to be together in church. What I have seen and experienced so far reveals a strong, healthy church that has handled and managed the challenges of living through another difficult year. As we continue to go through this different time when a lot has changed, we have also begun a new chapter in the life of St. Peter's. It is a chapter that I am excited about, and it is filled with opportunity and possibility.

Tod Bolsinger is the author of a book titled, *Canoeing the Mountains*, which talks about how the world in front of us is nothing like the world behind us. The church, he says, is heading into uncharted territory where the future is nothing like the past. Bolsinger used the example of how when Lewis and Clark were on their expedition to the Pacific Ocean, after months of paddling in canoes, they reached the Continental Divide expecting to find a river that would allow them to paddle the ocean. Instead, what they saw were the Rocky Mountains. Bolsinger's point is that when they realized that no water route would carry them to the sea, Lewis and Clark didn't give up, but they adapted and found another way to navigate the mountains.

The culture is changing, the world is changing rapidly, Bolsinger writes. And churches are facing change on an unprecedented scale. But the church is also at an exciting crossroads. We are entering a new day, new terrain, new adventure. The Spirit of God goes before us.

We all know how much things have changed because of the Covid pandemic, but as we move into a new year, there is much to build on and be thankful for. There is much to celebrate, and much to look forward to! My hope and prayer for us at St. Peter's is that we will be able to move into a new day, a new terrain, and a new adventure trusting that God is already ahead of us and asking ourselves, how might God want to shape us in this time and in this place?

Faithfully yours,
David+

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

On the first Sunday of the new year – the second Sunday after Christmas according to the Church’s calendar – a small contingent of the people of St. Peter’s gathered to sing Christmas carols, hear Matthew’s telling of the magi following a star to find the child born a king, and celebrate the Eucharist with thanks and praise. As I was greeting people on the porch following the 10:30 service, one of our youngest members, three-year-old Carter Gulick, lifted her hand to offer me a piece of paper, about 8” x 6”, on which was drawn a squiggly blue line circling around from the middle of the page, with metallic star stickers of blues, greens, and purple dancing throughout. As I thanked Carter for the beautiful gift, she looked at me with all solemnity and announced that it was from the baby Jesus. There could not have been a better way for me to enter 2022 than with the gift of the wonderful insight of a child.

Looking back at 2021, one lesson I want to carry with me from the year recently ended is epitomized by Carter’s gift – remember how much your perspective can bring to bear on how you encounter your life. I keep the artwork she gave me on my desk. When I look at it, I don’t see a piece of paper adorned with crayon and a smattering of stickers as much as I see Carter’s look of accomplishment in sharing the gospel, letting me know that the baby Jesus is here with us as this new year begins, just as our Lord was with us throughout 2021.

2021 was a year filled with wonderful things at the corner of Warson and Ladue. First and foremost, we returned to our corner with indoor, in-person worship. Our first “service” was ashes-to-go, offered in the nave on the morning and evening of Ash Wednesday, followed a few weeks later by celebration of the Holy Eucharist twice every Sunday (five times for Easter and four for Christmas)! Slowly, members of the choir joined us, until the rafters swelled with the beautiful sounds of sacred music once again. With updated technology, and only very occasional hiccups, we were able to invite anyone at home, anywhere in the world, to join us via livestream.

In-person children’s programming returned in 2021, with an Easter egg hunt, summer movie nights on the lawn (made complete by the visit of the ice cream truck), both Sunday School and Nursery Care reopening in the fall, a rain-delayed Sunday morning Halloween party, and the beloved Christmas pageant, complete with fidgety angels and adorable sheep.

The Church Office reopened, making it so much easier for parishioners to engage and work with members of the parish staff. The staff’s return also made it possible for Tuesday morning Woman’s Guild meetings, Thursday morning yoga, Friday morning AA, and the Friday afternoon Prayer Group to come back to campus; with thanks to The Rev. Susie Skinner, we added Bible Study in the Elliot Room throughout the fall.

The reopening of our campus also meant the revival of our Aldi food card program to feed the hungry, just as return to in-person worship brought the return of bringing groceries on the first Sunday of every month to stock the shelves of the food pantry at Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West End. With meticulous planning by Jenn Gillis, members of the parish staff, and the Red Cross, St. Peter’s was able once again to host the Charlie Gillis memorial blood drive. The Woman’s Guild brought Christmas joy to children at Froebel Literacy Elementary School in the form of homemade book bags filled with gifts and supported St. Peter’s youth program with a Christmas Pop-up Boutique.

And don’t forget the celebrations that happened at St. Peter’s in 2021! The pancake-enrobed sausages-on-a-stick were the stars of the drive-thru pancake supper and will go down in Shrove Tuesday culinary

history. The Easter afternoon worship service, complete with a resurrection story from a bunny-eared deacon named Rev. Shug, ended in a joyful Easter egg hunt on the front lawn. Babies were baptized, youth were confirmed, and eight uber-patient and adventurous couples celebrated the sacrament of marriage among masked family and friends. A sunny and bright St. Peter's Day, complete with parish picnic, provided the perfect occasion to welcome David as our new Rector (did I mention that an incredibly resilient and hard-working Search Committee and Vestry brought a new rector to St. Peter's in 2021?!). And David got to experience his first Kirkin' of the Tartan in the fall, complete with drum and bagpipes.

It's true that 2021 was tough, for just about everyone on the planet; and the pandemic isn't over yet. But, looking at just St. Peter's little corner of God's world, it's easy to see the truth that the last year also brought wonderful gifts for which to be grateful. Paraphrasing what Bishop Curry recently said in relation to the state of American democracy, if we focus on the storms that surround us, instead of on the people God is calling us to be, those storms will consume us, because they will consume our perception of our world. If we focus on the storms, eventually we'll believe that that's all there is – lightning, thunder, and roiling waters.

There is no doubt that 2021 was a stormy year, but I hope you can recall much more than lightning, thunder, and roiling waters. Remembering how much our perspective can determine how we encounter our life, I invite you to look back at the year just ended, and forward to this new year, with eyes focused on Jesus, whom little Carter Gulick reminded me is with us, always. God's call to us is to follow Jesus, to find him in the midst of any storm, and to keep our eyes on him. Seeing just my partial list, look at all we accomplished together, following Jesus, in 2021!

I offer heartfelt thanks to the faithful, patient, gracious, generous, committed, hard-working, and good-humored people of St. Peter's - wonderful parishioners, amazing colleagues, and a terrific new boss alike – for letting me journey with you through 2021. Looking at the crayon and sticker artwork on my desk, I am excited to see where faith in God's Son will lead St. Peter's in 2022.

Yours in Christ,
Kelly+

The Report of the Senior Warden

“Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.”
From the Third Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 60:1-2)

As I sat in the pew on January 5, 2022, at our Epiphany Eve service, listening to the lessons, I was particularly moved by these words of Isaiah. I’ve heard them and sung them hundreds, if not thousands of times in my life. They were especially poignant as I thought back over the past year. Even with the current setback with the surge of the Omicron variant of Covid, I felt we had begun to emerge from a time of darkness and isolation and were moving into a time of joy and light, and a return to some semblance of normalcy.

2021 was a long year of continued isolation, social distancing, closings, and mask mandates, but it was also a time of hope with the increasing availability of vaccinations and a growing understanding of the virus. It was a year of heartfelt goodbyes. Goodbye to Rob, our Interim Rector for nearly a year, as he moved to his next interim call at Trinity Church, Menlo Park, California. Goodbye to our dear Fr. Joseph, Associate Rector, as he moved on to become the rector of the historic Church of St. Luke and The Epiphany in downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Goodbye to our beloved Shug (and Doris), our Deacon, as she was ordained a priest and called to serve as Assistant Rector at St. Martin’s in Ellisville, Missouri.

It was also a year of glorious hellos. Hellos to each other as we were finally able to gather for worship again in our beautiful church. Hello to our long-missed choir. Hellos to friends, family, colleagues, and classmates. Hellos to vacations (instead of staycations), long-missed shops, and restaurants. And, thrillingly, to our new rector, The Rev. David Hodges; his wife Lisa; their children, Burton and his wife Nicole, Mary Catherine, and Philip; and two Labs, Lily and Lexi. Their first Sunday with us on September 12 felt like the first “normal” Sunday in 17 months. What a joy to meet them and then reconnect with each other during the parish picnic.

St. Peter’s, our spiritual home and rock, held firm through it all. We worshipped virtually. We learned we were a hearty bunch and worshipped outside, dodging dropping acorns, holding down the elements (and our leaflets) in gale-force winds, enduring electronic keyboard, cold (or stifling heat and humidity) and the occasional loudly-passing truck. We finally returned to worshipping indoors. David played, cantors sang, Kelly preached, the altar guild set the altar, and ushers greeted and herded us through ever-changing congregational choreography and masking requirements. Kelly ministered to the sick, married couples and led funerals. The vestry conducted its business. The search committee reviewed resumes, listened to sermons, interviewed priests (and their references), finally finding and recommending a candidate to the vestry, who then called a new rector. The Re-entry Committee met weekly to review the latest Covid stats, county and diocesan mandates, and then guided us bravely through the best and safest ways for us to gather and worship. The Woman’s Guild collected money for those in need and prepared bookbags for under-served school children returning to the classroom. The parish collected five carloads of housewares and supplies for newly-arriving Afghan refugees. Our annual Giving Tree brought in hundreds of gifts and needed items for the wider community. We provided a bridge loan for nearly \$140,000 to Tabernacle Community Development Corporation to allow for the completion and opening of The Hub - before

schedule - so they could begin their ministry. The Antiracism Committee continued their work among us and the wider community. The Johnsons and Gillises led our Welcome Committee and coordinated small gatherings to introduce nearly two-hundred parish families to the Hodges.

These are just a few examples of the work of 2021. We could not have accomplished any of these things without our clergy, amazing staff, and YOU. I'd like to offer my sincerest thanks to everyone who helped us achieve so much during such unprecedented and challenging times.

My immense thanks goes to Kelly, once again stepping up to lead us during the eight long months between Rob's departure and David's arrival. Thanks to the members of the Vestry for their leadership and commitment to our parish. Especially to Louise Jones, Junior Warden; Drew Gulick, Treasurer, Ann Babington, Secretary; and to the retiring members: Hal Burroughs, Jeanie Davis, Cheryl Meyer, and Jerry Wille, who also led our Buildings & Grounds Committee. Finally, I offer my deepest gratitude to our Rector Search Committee: Chris Knight, Chair; The Rev. Susie Skinner, Chaplain; Laurie Haffenreffer, Communications; Mokie Carmichael; Sarah Fouke, Amy Hilmer, Allan Ivie, Hedy Lee; Sally Lemkemeier, and Danny Orthwein. What a privilege it has been to work among you doing this important and sacred work.

I am honored to have served you and this very special and distinguished parish as Senior Warden. Thank you for your love, kindness, patience, and support. I had no clue what the future would bring when I accepted the call to serve on the Vestry three years ago. What a ride it has been! I am so excited to see what the future holds for us with David's leadership. I encourage YOU to give faithfully and generously of you time, talents, and treasures so that we may move boldly into the next chapter of our parish's history and mission. To be all that God is calling us to be, and to do the work Christ is calling us to do. Arise, shine!

Faithfully,
DeWayne Trainer
Senior Warden

The Report of the Nominating Committee

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

- **Keith Boris** for a term to expire 2025
- **Laura Frank** for a term to expire 2025
- **Jane Gilbert** for a term to expire 2025
- **Allan Ivie** for a term to expire 2025
- **Josh Schafer** for a term to expire 2025

We also present the following nominees to serve as delegates and alternate alternates to the Diocesan Convention, for terms ending as specified below:

- **Doug Adderton**, Delegate for a term to expire in 2023
- **Jimmy Grimmett**, Delegate for a term to expire in 2024
- **Mark Pye**, Delegate for a term to expire 2025
- **John Schoenecker**, Delegate for a term to expire 2025
- **Rob Heuermann**, Alternate Delegate for a term to expire in 2024
-

Respectfully submitted,
DeWayne Trainer, Senior Warden
Jeanie Davis, Former Senior Warden
Hall Burroughs
Cheryl Meyer
Jerry Wille

Our Delegates at Work

The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri held its 182nd Convention virtually from Christ Church Cathedral in the city of St. Louis on November 18-20, 2021. St. Peter's Episcopal Church was most ably represented by delegates Penny George, Jimmy Grimmett, Page Melton Ivie, Ann Randazzo, and Kelly Sullivan, along with clergy David Hodges and Kelly Carlson. Parishioner Hal Burroughs was also in attendance, very ably serving as Diocesan Chancellor.

The business of Convention included:

1. Adoption of five resolutions:

A-182 Clergy Compensation.

B-182 Commemoration of the Right Rev. Barbara Harris.

C-182 Resolution to Repair Racial Injustice (as amended).

D-182 Resolution of the Committee on Constitution and Canons to effect certain amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri.

E-182 Resolution regarding Deaconess Anne Houmness Representation at Diocesan Convention.

Note: Amendments to the Diocesan Constitution must be voted on in two consecutive diocesan conventions (relevant to resolutions D-182 and E-182).

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

Diocesan Council: Angela Breeher (St. Paul's, Carondelet); Liz Yount (St. Peter's) Woo hoo!

Standing Committee: The Rev. Sally Weaver (ret.); Scott Ferguson (Holy Communion); Pat O'Brien (Grace, Kirkwood).

Disciplinary Board: The Rev. Bill Nesbit (Grace, Jefferson City).

Cathedral Chapter: The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer (Emmanuel); Janet Thompson (Calvary).

3. Adoption of the 2022 operating budget for the Diocese, as submitted.

4. The Convention Address given by our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson.

5. The Keynote Address given by The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta.

6. Reviving a diocesan tradition, during the Convention Eucharist Bishop Johnson presented Bishop's Medals to members of the Diocese in recognition of their outstanding service to our church and community. St. Peter's parishioner Tom Hedrick received a Medal in appreciation for his 11 years of service as Diocesan Treasurer. Congratulations Tom!

The 183rd Diocesan Convention will be held on November 18-19, 2022, in Chesterfield.

Look for details of the 182nd Convention to be published on the Diocesan website:
<http://www.diocesemo.org/2021-convention>.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Carlson+

Budget Committee Summary Report for 2021

Fellow Parishioners,

The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on the financial position of our church. While St. Peter's has been challenged in many ways over the past two years, we have much to be enthusiastic about heading into '22.

Total income including endowment transfers in '21 was \$1.64M, about \$225k above '20. However, it is important to note that '21 income includes \$325,000 of non-recurring pandemic relief:

- PPP loan of \$215,175 – we received this loan in '20 and recognized as income when the loan was forgiven in early '21, thereby offsetting a '20 operating loss of \$202,000
- Employee Retention Credits of \$109,000 – payroll tax credits associated with employee retention during the first half of '21

Because the church will not benefit from the aforementioned pandemic relief programs in '22 we plan to rely on increases in both the endowment draw and parishioner giving to maintain overall income of \$1.63M.

Giving by parishioners, which includes annual pledges, foundation gifts, plate and other giving, was \$1.03M in 2021, a drop of \$85k from '20. Some of this is likely related to parishioners deferring their annual giving from late '21 to early '22 in line with the updated annual giving cycle; prepaid pledges in '21 were \$170k below '20. However, to meet expenses, total parishioner giving needs to increase by \$325k in the coming year.

Our overall endowment grew substantially in 2021, increasing by 14.79%. This is great news, but one must remember that these funds are not available to the church outside of limited, scheduled draws. These assets will help support the church in the long run but have historically covered only 10-15% of annual operating expenses. St. Peter's strives to limit its draw on the main endowment to just 3% of the 3-year rolling balance. Increasing the draw above this level for an extended period is generally considered unsustainable. However, to offset rising expenses and maintain a balanced budget the Vestry approved increasing the draw to 5% for '22 with the expectation that giving by parishioners will continue to increase in subsequent years, allowing us to return to a 3% draw.

Moving from income to expenses, St. Peter's is directing investment to the areas that provide the greatest benefit to our parish. In 2021, the church began exercising cost discipline to offset both an anticipated drop in giving and the cost of the rector search process. '21 expenses were \$1.35M, a decrease of \$261k or 16% compared to '20. Expenses in the coming year are projected to rise to \$1.63M, driven largely by increases in payroll and the music program.

St. Peter's, like many of us, faced significant challenges these past two years. We have much to look forward to in 2022 as we put the pandemic behind us and David+ settles into the Rector role. Our hope that the Church continues to provide support and strength to the households in our parish and that we all, in turn, can increase the financial support we provide to the Church.

Sincerely,
The 2022 Budget Committee

The 2022 Budget Committee Members:

Drew Gulick *Treasurer*
 David Hodges+ *Rector*
 Angela Mahan *Chief of Staff*
 Tom Hedrick
 Rob Heuermann
 Ned Lemkemeier
 Julie Peters
 Kelly Sullivan
 Jeff Yount

Endowment Investment Funds January 1 to December 31, 2021							
	Commerce	Schwab					Total Investments
	Main	Aitken	Columbarium	Leschen	Wetzel	Zacher	
Opening Balance	3,884,257	265,522	301,794	215,618	537,282	160,002	5,364,474
Realized Gains (Losses)	191,871	0	0	0	0	0	191,871
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	256,208	29,515	33,070	23,627	142,406	17,523	502,348
Investment Income	62,326	12,848	14,325	10,235	8,303	7,532	115,567
Contributions	143,693	16,585	0	0	1,000	0	161,278
Transfer <i>from</i> Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	654,098	58,948	47,395	33,861	151,708	25,054	971,064
Investment Fees	6,552	0	0	0	0	0	6,552
Transfer <i>to</i> Operations	150,000	10,765	0	0	8,098	2,000	170,863
Total Expense	156,552	10,765	0	0	8,098	2,000	177,415
Net Change in Value	497,545	48,183	47,395	33,861	143,610	23,054	793,636
Closing Balance at Month End	4,381,802	313,705	349,188	249,479	680,892	183,057	6,158,123

<p>\$ 803,234 Net Investment Gain 14.79% Overall Increase</p>
--

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Operating Fund Income/Expenses and Cash Flow
For The Year Ended December 31, 2021

	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Projected	Budget
OPERATING INCOME				
Annual Pledge Campaign (& prior yr)	1,191,044	1,064,515	943,114	1,251,814
Foundation Gifts	32,000	7,000	9,000	7,000
Plate and Other Giving	109,356	80,129	77,583	96,200
Subtotal Giving by Parishioners	1,332,399	1,151,643	1,029,697	1,355,014
Other Income**	46,083	33,192	378,522	31,740
Designated Gifts	19,809	11,275	25,870	6,300
Outreach	22,721	10,984	10,239	6,515
RDF Income	13,750	5,800	10,090	6,000
Main Endowment Transfer	141,135	171,293	150,000	191,014
Columbarium Endowment Trfr.-5% rolling avg.	7,745	9,440	11,541	13,973
Music Endowment Transfer-5% rolling avg.	7,700	9,854	10,765	12,298
Other Endowment Transfers (Wetzell/Zacher)	15,000	8,493	10,098	8,300
TOTAL INCOME	1,606,342	1,411,973	1,636,822	1,631,154
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Support for Diocese	170,724	162,480	171,790	144,356
Clergy	425,969	481,909	287,685	432,586
Administrative Staff	304,888	280,621	241,322	266,470
Facilities Staff (includes janitorial svcs)	111,429	88,191	49,320	99,325
Program Staff	168,405	246,231	258,853	278,151
Subtotal Payroll Expense	1,010,692	1,096,952	837,180	1,076,531
Administrative Expenses	116,571	110,378	135,308	123,679
Facility Expenses	130,072	88,128	94,487	100,000
Music	94,214	59,591	57,776	113,063
Youth Ministries	9,004	664	1,919	7,300
Young Adults	1,805	193	197	1,000
Christian Education	3,951	2,520	1,148	4,150
Family Ministries	1,672	497	943	2,000
Adult Education	1,010	3,336	2,596	2,500
Parish Program	17,419	31,434	6,561	16,550
Pastoral Care	1,321	404	718	2,375
Worship	18,437	9,563	14,090	16,150
Subtotal Program Expenses	148,834	108,201	85,948	165,088
Designated Gifts	8,932	1,501	6,606	6,300
Outreach	23,985	35,035	11,997	9,200
RDF Expense	11,872	10,837	11,354	6,000
Accounting Transfers	(30,518)	0	-1,984	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,591,164	1,613,512	1,352,685	1,631,154
NET CASH FLOW OPERATIONS	15,179	(201,539)	284,137	(0)
OTHER CASH INFOR/(OUTFLOW)				
Capitalized Expenses	0	0	0	0
PPP Loan	-	215,176	0	0
Subtotal Other Inflow(Outflow)	0	215,176	0	0
CASH FLOW BEFORE TRANSFERS	15,179	13,637	284,137	(0)

Stewardship Campaign Report

2021 Annual Giving Campaign

The formal part of the 2021 Annual Giving Campaign kicked off on October 18, 2020 and culminated with Commitment Sunday on November 22, 2020. The theme, *Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope* reflected the belief that our faith was central to our finding hope in uncertain times. Most of our worship and communication in 2020 and into 2021 was virtual, which created a challenge. We held a few small group gatherings to talk about the church and stewardship. Parishioners were asked to speak during the outdoor services on behalf of the campaign. We recorded those speakers and posted the videos on our website. Committee members wrote personal notes and made numerous calls to connect with parishioners personally. The 2020 October issue of *The Cornerstone*, our digital magazine, was an avenue to highlight the 2021 campaign and share our faith-filled response to our community this year.

2021 Annual Giving Campaign:

Total Number of Pledges	303
Pledge Dollars	\$1,052,009
Pledge Dollars Collected	\$1,058,121
New Pledges	30
Pledges Increased	90
Average Pledge	\$3,472
Median Pledge	\$2,000
Pledge Campaign Goal	\$1,400,000

THANK YOU to the 2021 Stewardship committee members:

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

2022 Annual Giving Campaign

Due to various factors, we decided to change the timing of the 2022 Annual Giving Campaign. The kickoff for the 2022 campaign was changed to begin in January 2022. The change in date allowed us to introduce our new rector, The Rev. David Hodges, to parishioners. During the Fall, we held welcome gatherings to provide the opportunity for both the rector and parishioners to get to know each other. The change in timing also gave us the opportunity to include David in the planning and implementation of the campaign. We look forward to a successful campaign as we enter into a new year and new chapter at St. Peter's Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Rouse
Director of Stewardship and Parish Life

Buildings and Grounds Commission Report

It has been an interesting, challenging, and rewarding three years as Vestry Buildings and Grounds Chair, considering the changes in personnel and two years of Covid. The staff has been extremely helpful and great to work with through all of this! We have a smooth transition in place for the new Vestry Buildings and Grounds Chair, who I am confident will do commendable work.

In 2021, a small group of dedicated helpers accomplished grounds clean-up in the spring, cleaning and organizing storage areas, painting, and other general repairs and improvements. The office hallway and entrance area were painted and appear much cleaner and brighter. David Hodges's office has new refreshing paint with Sherwin Williams' color-of-the-year, Evergreen Fog. Electric for both the front lawn sign and steeple lights were repaired, so now work.

Ameren has completed installing the new poles in the easement along Warson Road, but old poles still need to be removed, and the stumps of the trees they removed need to be ground out.

Because there were no major repairs and we received generous contributions for property from two parishioners, we were able to address safety and security concerns for the church. The parking lot lights and exterior building lights were replaced with LED fixtures that are much brighter and light a larger area. Also, a contract has been signed to provide an up-to-date security system for access to entrance doors and surveillance cameras for the exterior grounds. This work should be completed during the first quarter of 2022.

Following the resignation of our full-time sexton, City Wide Facility Solutions was contracted in September to perform interior cleaning until a new sexton can be hired.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Wille
Vestry Buildings and Grounds

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 80 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 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, Nancy Grimes, Connie Lohr, Amy and Mike Maranto, Claudia McMillin, Pixie Messey, Wendy Olk, Susan Schettler, DeWayne Trainer, and Caren Vredenburgh. We look forward to serving at more in-person services this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Schettler
Chair

The Report of the Organist and Director of Music

The English minister, composer, and musicologist Erik Routley referred to the practice of church music as “our duty and delight.” In the first year spent fully within the ongoing Covid pandemic, the duties of the musicians at St. Peter’s were, at times, difficult to discern, and genuine delight was often in short supply. The evolving circumstances in which music-making was possible—in the midst of a leadership transition—demanded continual adaptation on the part of the organist and the St. Peter’s Choir in providing for the liturgical and musical life of this parish. The story of 2021 was one of a crescendo of our ability to make music together safely: from the last vestiges of so-called “virtual” music-making to the full congregation singing once again.

The Music for Meditation series concluded after 25 weekly programs on Sunday, January 10. These weekly 25-minute programs of music from the organ were the only in-person events held in the church for several months. Following this, the music at live-streamed services initially included a single cantor from the Choir. To accommodate singers who wanted to provide music for services but were not yet comfortable returning in person, I devised a “virtual cantor” scheme.

During Lent, members of the Choir met via Zoom and offered a sung Compline service every Sunday in Lent. We streamed these services live to Facebook.

In light of Covid restrictions, St. Peter’s added two new services to the schedule to provide more opportunities for the parish to attend Easter services. First, parishioners worshipped at the Great Vigil of Easter for the first time in my tenure; the Senior Warden expertly sang this demanding service. Then, on Easter Day, an afternoon service was held using the Order of Worship for the Evening (BCP p. 109).

On Ascension Day, the St. Peter’s Choir gathered for worship and refreshments at Rhodes Park. After this, a series of choral reading sessions were held to give Choir members a chance to sing through various pieces of music. Beginning July 11, members of the Choir returned to lead 10:30 a.m. worship services (full vaccination is mandatory for every person singing in the Choir). The Choir began rehearsals in preparation for a full choral year at the end of August. On Sunday, September 12, the full Choir led worship for the first time in nearly 18 months. On November 21, I presented Linda Morotz with the Choirmaster’s Award in recognition of 50 years of continuous service to the St. Peter’s Choir.

Later in the fall, we again offered rehearsals for the St. Peter’s Choristers, a choir for young people affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music. Like the Parish Choir, the stipulation for singing in this ensemble is that each child is fully vaccinated. One chorister returned on a regular basis. We expect vaccinations for children will help more parents and children feel comfortable enough to return to this ministry or join it for the first time over the next year. The process of rebuilding this ensemble, especially after the pandemic finally ends, will require the active support of the parish. We must continue to include young people in our music-making so that we inspire, encourage, and train up the next generation of musicians in the Episcopal Church.

The St. Peter’s Singers, a sixteen-voice professional choir that sings for most evening services, was re-constituted in October as our monthly Choral Evensong series was re-started. It was the first time this choir had rehearsed and sung together since singing a celebratory Choral Evensong marking the 30th anniversary of regular Evensong services at St. Peter’s.

The Parish Choir sang the annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent in December for a full congregation. In the first three evening choral services of 2021/22, I was gratified that more members of

the parish and the community seem to be availing themselves of this part of our unique liturgical heritage, and I hope this trend continues.

Amid the return of these choral evening liturgies, our audiovisual company made substantial improvements to the audio quality of our webcasts (the previous setup was not capable of transmitting audio clear enough to hear musical detail). These feeds now include audio that is much more “true to life,” and represents more faithfully the sound of the music in the church. We are now streaming choral liturgies (such as Evensong) live. Previously, video recordings of these services were combined with our high-fidelity recordings and uploaded later. This new situation is a vast improvement and saves the Music and Communication offices a great deal of time and effort in publishing something that satisfactorily represents the music.

Beyond webcasting, the Communications office has also helped us to make more use of video in general. For example, with the help of the Director of Communications, we have instituted a new weekly video series called Music Monday that aims to share some music or a look behind the scenes at the musical life of St. Peter’s on a weekly basis.

Former Assistant Organist Jennifer Spohr ended her furlough when she declined to return to her position in the spring. We are grateful to her for her service here, and we were glad that she could return to assist at a few services in the fall. I am also grateful to Clark Davis (Cantor Bass) and my predecessor, S. William Aitken (Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus), for leading services in my absence. We have also benefited from the assistance of Nicholas Bideler and Robert Lehman as organ accompanists for choral services while the Assistant Organist position remains vacant. The support of newly appointed Choir Librarian Christina Kruger (Decani Alto) has been invaluable.

The Mander Organ in the church was installed twenty years ago. I began a series of Organ Vespers services in September to celebrate the organ’s anniversary and explore the organ’s historic and evolving role in Christian liturgical worship. Meanwhile, Patrick J. Fischer Pipe Organ Services, LLC continues to maintain the organ. The company tuned each of the 2,979 pipes in the organ (the first time complete tuning since the organ’s installation in 2001) in November and December. Much of this work was made possible by a gift given by Bryan Miller during her lifetime. As a result, I think I can safely say that the organ is now, overall, in as good a shape as it has ever been.

The Mander Chamber Organ housed in Grace Chapel also serves St. Peter’s well. The wheels of the organ were replaced this year, and the small “pancake” blower contained in this organ will need to be replaced within the next few years.

The Choir was honored to receive the bequest of a stereo system owned by Bryan Miller from her estate. With some new audio cable, the stereo system is now working in the Choir Room and will enable the St. Peter’s Choir to listen to audio recordings there, including their own.

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.

In closing, I feel compelled to note what a fortunate position St. Peter’s is in regarding music. Many churches like ours have seen a substantial decrease in the strength of their choirs during the pandemic. Yet, participation in the St. Peter’s Choir remained strong throughout 2021, and I continue to hear about interest in membership. Thanks be to God for the strong commitment our musicians make to the worship of this church.

Respectfully submitted,
David Sinden

Parish Life Report

Though our campus remained closed in early 2021, we looked for ways for parishioners to connect and engage with the church. The year began with virtual worship and virtual coffee hours continued through May. A virtual Town Hall was held with Bishop Deon Johnson and it was a great conversation.

In February, “All Things Lent” began with our drive-through Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. A dedicated group of bakers and servers prepared a delicious pancake-inspired dinner for parishioners to order, pick-up, and enjoy at home. Virtual coffee hours were held on Sundays via Zoom, and topics rotated during the month (creatively!): Bible Brew, There’s A Latte Going on, Brew Ha Ha, and Grounds for Discussion (Sacred Conversation Sundays). Other Lenten programs included 40 Words, a daily reflection, and 40 Cans, a collection of food each day to be donated to Trinity Food Pantry. Over 300 food items were collected! Walking the Stations of the Cross gave parishioners a view of the new walking path through the woods in the lower parking lot area of our campus.

The Building and Grounds Committee, along with other parishioners, graciously spent time sprucing up the campus for the first in-person worship services in April. As the weather improved, we began to have coffee hours outdoors and continued that practice until the weather did not cooperate.

Our third annual blood drive, #givelikecharlie #livelikecharlie, was held in May. Over 100 units of blood were donated in honor of Charlie Gillis, exceeding the goal and including 33 first-time donors.

The Summer brought Family Movie Nights complete with popcorn and an ice cream truck. And – the **St. Peter’s Holy Hitters** softball team was recruited and entered their first Episcopal Church softball tournament in June. Eighteen parishioners and five Deaconess Anne House interns joined the team. We hit it “out of the park” with fun!

The Woman’s Guild continued to meet weekly and offered many opportunities to gather in-person. They welcomed the new program year with an opening luncheon, and continued their charitable work with projects to support the community and our Youth group at church. The Men’s Breakfast group continued to meet monthly via Zoom and in the summer, in the garden at church. The **First Responders’ Breakfast** was held again in September. Breakfast was delivered to the area police and fire stations to show appreciation for the police and fire departments’ hard work and dedication to our community.

In September, **St. Peter’s Day** was celebrated with worship and an outdoor picnic celebration. It was also the first Sunday celebration with our new rector, The Rev. David Hodges. Many of our parishioners came to welcome David and his family to St. Louis. Thank you to the parishioners that volunteered their time and cooking talents that made this event deliciously fun, and the youth that helped with the games!

In the Fall, there were a number of Welcome Gatherings for parishioners to meet The Rev. David Hodges. These were great opportunities for fellowship. Coffees in the Garden were held as well at church. It was great to see so many parishioners return to the campus and enjoy each other’s company.

Our annual Halloween party 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Rouse
Director of Stewardship and Parish Life

Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries Report

St. Peter's children were invited back into the building after a long time apart. While the first half of the year continued mostly virtually, outdoor events allowed for a safe transition back into the community. Virtual Children's Chapel concluded for the program year in June and will return in-person when Covid numbers allow. The Easter Egg hunt was moved to St. Peter's front lawn following a family Easter service. The Easter Eggs were stuffed and hidden by the Confirmation class. This was an exciting time for them as well, as it was the first bonding event they were able to do in person.

In June, six confirmands participated in our Confirmation program and were later confirmed surrounded by their friends and family. Once the weather allowed, all classes were held in person. A change to warmer weather allowed for other outdoor events. The first family outdoor movie night consisted of an ice cream truck and a showing of *The Secret Life of Pets*. A second movie night was held in September with the showing of *Zootopia*. Movie Nights have proven to be a hit and will continue to be held in the future.

The Youth were also able to participate in a Mission Stay that centered around helping local green spaces such as the garden at the Jewish Community Center and the nature preserve at Forest Park. Vacation Bible School was offered as a completely outdoor program, but due to the pandemic, interest was low, and the decision was made to cancel.

To kick off the program year, the Youth held a Fall Fundraiser in September to raise money for the 2022 Mission Trip, which was announced during the event. They raised \$338 dollars during this fundraiser. In November, the Youth volunteered at The Haven of Grace, helping them organize a large donation they received earlier in the year.

December was an exciting time for all generations at St. Peter's. The Youth partnered with the Woman's Guild to hold a Christmas Boutique Sale, with profits going toward the Mission Trip. While the sale was going on, the Youth supervised younger children while they decorated Christmas cookies. This allowed parents to spend time enjoying coffee and shopping the boutique. The sale brought in \$2,000 dollars! Thank you to the Woman's Guild for this partnership – we really enjoyed our time.

After assessing the needs of our youth and community, the confirmation curriculum was altered for this program year. Confirmands are now meeting in person every other week. The goal of the altered curriculum is to welcome youth back into our walls and help them feel comfortable while growing in their faith. The Confirmands also raised money through a Bake Sale to purchase gifts for a family at The Haven of Grace. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, the confirmands went to lunch together and then to Target. They purchased every gift on the family Christmas list and had extra funds for a gift card. Thank you again to Andrea Osman for all her help and her commitment to building disciples in our community.

The confirmands also played a large role in bringing the Christmas Pageant back in person. Each confirmand oversaw a group of children, helping them with their costumes and their entrance timing. Twenty-nine children participated in the pageant, and it was wonderful to see everyone back together.

The Young Adults group began their monthly social gatherings again in August. The focus of the Young Adults group is to rebuild comradery that was hindered due to the pandemic. We welcomed Father David and his wife, Lisa, to Friendsgiving, which our most successful event of the year. The Young Adults group is looking forward to more in-person gatherings as the pandemic allows.

Annie Knapp Migdal,
Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Communications Report

As the St. Peter's staff began a new year still very much affected by the pandemic, we took the beginning of 2021 to tweak our audio/visual capabilities in the Sanctuary. We began to live-stream Sunday services, first with a minimal group of participants and then slowly growing to our regular Sunday attendance. This new technology did not come without its challenges and growing pains, of course! From volume control to internet outages, we faced each new obstacle and learned as we went. Thank you to all the watching parishioners who were (and continue to be) patient and supportive during those times. Along with the Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. service, we have also been able to stream evening worship services and choral evensongs, as well as weddings or funerals on occasion. Streaming these events brings St. Peter's worship to those who would otherwise not be able to participate and is one of the numerous ways we are now able to reach those outside our physical walls, bringing comfort and joy to many, no matter the distance.

The pandemic has shown us that reaching parishioners virtually is here to stay. For most individuals, 2022 brings with it the hope of getting back to "normal" in-person worship and fellowship. But for parishioners who cannot be with us in person, whether due to travel or health concerns, our new hybrid way of being together gives them the opportunity to remain active, participating members of St. Peter's. The ability to reach out beyond our building is a truly great gift and an aspect of our communications that we will continue to fine-tune and perfect.

Do your part to stay connected with St. Peter's! Here's how:

- 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 email me at jacquelyn@specstl.org with your name and preferred email requesting to sign up!
- Read your bulletin announcements! This is especially true if you are not a fan of computers. Those last few pages of your bulletin have everything you need to know about upcoming events and news.
- 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.
- **Communicate WITH us!** Sign up for events, invite a friend along, share or comment on Facebook posts, or write in the chats of zoom or livestream events! Participating in these small ways has a great ripple effect and enriches the experience for everyone involved!

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 Report

In times of uncertainty – say, in the midst of an unrelenting pandemic – we crave dependability. We look for something, someone, on whom we can count to be there when we need them. For so many at St. Peter's in the past year, that someone has been the Shepherds and Ministry Teams of St. Peter's Cares.

In the role of Shepherd, Frances Gay and Nancy Grimes received and coordinated parishioner requests for prayers, meals, and transportation on *every* one of the 365 days of 2021. Then our Ministry Teams responded to every request. The Prayer Ministry Team, led by Charlie Claggett, prayed daily in response to over 300 requests received last year. The Meal Ministry Team, led by Sandy Knight, prepared and delivered close to 150 delicious meals to parishioners and their families. (Thanks to the nature of the pandemic, our Transportation Ministry Team has been largely sidelined since early 2020. We hope to revive its efforts in 2022.)

When a parishioner calls, St. Peter's Cares has been here to help since its ministry launch in the fall of 2015. Many members of St. Peter's Cares, including our two Shepherds, have been faithfully serving since the beginning, a fact which leads me to conclude this year's report with a request. . . . Please consider joining this wonderful ministry of caring. If you like to cook, or to drive, or have been seeking the impetus for beginning a practice of daily prayer, St. Peter's Cares needs you. You would be a wonderful addition to the ministry of our parish that is dedicated to serving one another in times of need.

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

And to all who give of their time, talent, and treasure as members of St. Peter's Cares . . . THANK YOU for your loving service!

Yours in Christ,
Kelly+

Playgroup Commision Report

After much research, work, and thought, a strategic plan was developed for operating the Playgroup that was in accordance with the C.D.C., St. Louis County, Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church guidelines. The Playgroup may look a little different, but we never lost sight of our mission to provide a stimulating, safe, and nurturing environment where children will have experiences that promote their emotional, social, intellectual, and physical development - never disregarding our most important goal: PLAY.

I felt like a kid in a candy shop (or a kid at the Playgroup...) on opening day last fall. It was delightful to welcome ten children and their families to the program. There is only the one class, and it meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We were hopeful to open a second class on Tuesdays and Thursdays in January but were unable to realize this.

Although we met our very important goal of getting the Playgroup doors open, we will not finish the year strong financially. I am very hopeful about the future of the program, and we will continue to be flexible and able to pivot to meet the changing environment.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Reynolds
Director

Woman's Guild Report

The goal of the St. Peter's Woman's Guild is to be an active part of the church, providing fun, fellowship, support, friendship, faith, and spiritual growth while serving the church, its members, and the community. Despite dealing with Covid, the Woman's Guild has managed to meet year-round by practicing precautionary measures in small groups, outside, or by Zoom. This makes it possible to provide support to St. Peter's programs as well as support to each other.

The Woman's Guild is greatly involved with helping those who are less fortunate while providing for the Greater Good. The Episcopal City Mission in conjunction with the St. Louis County Detention Center looks for organizations which will sponsor a Birthday celebration for the Youth. We saw this as a challenge and a very worthwhile project to take on. Seeing the joy in the youths' eyes as we arrive each October bearing gifts lets us know this is a necessary and worthwhile cause which we are happy to do.

This year in October 2021 the St. Peter's Woman's Guild held their annual Opening Luncheon at Neiman Marcus. The Reverend David Hodges led us in prayer. Guild members and guests enjoyed a tasty lunch, beautifully lit Fall centerpieces, and a spectacular presentation of the latest accessories of 2021 to update one's outfits. Three women won a free lunch and makeover given by Neiman Marcus.

In early Fall, a project was brought to us by one of our members and we took it on with great gusto. We made colorful bags for all children attending Froebel Elementary School. Our task was to complete over 250 bags which would be filled with donated new socks, hats, activity books, games, candy, and other assorted novelties for Christmas. We completed our mission by mid-November. Both children and parents were appreciative and ecstatic upon receiving them.

Our next project was to raise money to support our Youth Ministries for their upcoming Mission Trip this Spring to Kentucky. The Guild did this with the utmost enthusiasm by having a Pop-Up Boutique & Greenery and Wreath Sale in early December in conjunction with the annual Advent Wreath Workshop and Cookie Decorating Party. Our enthusiastic effort was a great success, and we cleared \$2,000, which we donated in its entirety to Annie & the Youth for their Mission Trip this Summer!

December is always a special time to help others so the Woman's Guild also donated \$1,000 to the Salvation Army. This was used to provide underprivileged children and their families food, clothing, and basic necessities. The Salvation Army will be coming to the Guild in our Speaker Series to provide us with more information on how and what else we can do to help local families in need.

We finished 2021 with our annual Christmas party which was held this year at the MAC West thanks to Margie and Don Franz. It was a wonderful party with delicious food, festive decorations, and lively ragtime music provided by Don Franz and his two musician friends. The Woman's Guild looks forward to resuming their Speaker Series in the next few months and closing out the program year with our Annual Plant Sale for Mother's Day.

Cheryl A. Meyer
St. Peter's Woman's Guild

Outreach Committee Report

Though the pandemic limited our ability to serve others together, St. Peter's still managed to have a successful year of impact in the community. Below is a summary of activities and details on the number of people reached.

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.

In April 2021, St. Peter's resumed our monthly "1st Sunday" food drive to support the Food Pantry at Trinity. In just over nine months, we collected 430 bags of groceries despite a relatively low church attendance. Our Lent activity, "40 cans for 40 days," brought in an additional 300 food items delivered to Trinity Church at Easter.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Since 2019, a Red Cross blood drive has been held at St. Peter's in memory of parishioner Charlie Gillis. This year's event took place on May 3rd and garnered 33 first-time donors and 106 units of blood, exceeding their goal.

Working to benefit the Froebel Literacy Elementary School, the Woman's Guild cut, sewed, and filled more than 200 totes with toys and gifts for the children. The totes were delivered at Christmas and were a huge hit with students!

During the month of September, St. Peter's partnered with the St. Louis International Institute parishioners, collecting household items and personal care necessities for the incoming Afghan refugees into the St. Louis area. Over five carloads of items were brought to the Institute's distribution center.

St. Peter's vestry approved a bridge loan to Tabernacle Community Development Corporation. This fund supported the expansion of services into North St. Louis through rehabbing a former elementary school in the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood. A community resource center called "The Hub" opened this past December.

DONATED FUNDS

The Easter Offering supported two ministries focused on the welfare of children. In St. Louis, through the work of our Anti-Racism Committee, St. Peter's teamed with Pastor Andre Alexander and his church, The Tabernacle, to provide laptops to Bridge of Hope Ministries. These laptops were used in tutoring school children in the most under-resourced communities in North St. Louis City. A total of \$1,800 was raised to purchase this much-needed technology.

In Haiti, as a member parish of Outreach Haiti, we supported Pere Banna in his work to educate, feed, and shelter the children of Petit Harpon. A gift of \$2,300 was given to the Church of the Good Shepherd in Haiti.

The Christmas Offering provided funds for St. Peter's Food Assistance Program this year. This program includes the Food Ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church, the Peach Meal at St. John's Episcopal Church, and grocery gift cards for those who come to this parish seeking assistance.

Finally, similar to previous years, \$1,000 in theological education gifts were given to the Seminary of the Southwest and Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

In total, in 2021, St. Peters donated \$15,516.

Outreach Committee Funds Distribution 2021

2021 Outreach Grants from Christmas Offering

Episcopal City Mission	\$1,150
Haven of Grace	\$1,150

2021 Outreach Grants from Easter Offering

Church of the Good Shepherd (Haiti)	\$2,300
The Tabernacle	\$1,800

Other Gifts

Good Friday Offering	\$207
Food Cards for the Hungry	\$3,600
Giving Tree	\$790
Christmas Offering	\$3,519*

Theological Education Gifts

Seminary of the Southwest	\$500
Church Divinity School of the Pacific	\$500

Total \$15,516

*(Because the three organizations received these gifts in early 2022, they will be counted in next year's report total).

Read the latest parish news and updates at www.specstl.org.

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter, *News from the Rock*. From the front page of the parish website, scroll down to “Get Weekly News” to sign-up.



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EST. 1868

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