

# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

*Rooted in love, growing through God's grace, reaching out to all.*



## St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Glenside 2025 Annual Report of the Parish

Annual Meeting  
January 26, 2025

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## 2025 Nominations

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*Bylaws Article 3, Section 2: The nominating committee shall nominate not more than eight (8) nor fewer than three (3) candidates for the office of member of the Vestry. The nominating committee shall also nominate at least three (3) candidates for the office of lay deputy and at least two (2) candidates for the office of alternate deputy to represent the parish in the Diocesan Convention and shall nominate candidates for the office of lay representative to the Deanery in conformance with deanery requirements. The names of those nominated shall be published at least two (2) weeks before the election. Additional nominations may be made by members entitled to vote if filed with the Accounting Warden at least one week before the election.*



2024 Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following members for election to the offices of leadership and representation in the following areas:

### Vestry

*Parish Bylaws, Article 4, Section 1. Those qualified to serve on the Vestry shall be baptized lay persons of at least the age of eighteen (18) years, and members of the Corporation, a majority of whom shall be residents of Pennsylvania, and who shall have been nominated in writing to the Secretary before the time fixed for election as provided in Section 2 of Article 3.*

*Article 4, Section 2. There shall be no fewer than three (3) and no more than four (4) members of the Vestry elected annually for a three (3) year term, and they shall be ineligible for re-election for one (1) year after their term has expired.*

### Vestry Nominees (Vote for 5)

Beth Carlin (3-year term); Sam Hogg (3-year term); Terita Reeve (3-year term); Chris Teleha (3-year term); John Olson (1-year term).

The following members will continue to serve on the vestry in 2025: Debbie DeKalb, Mark Evans, Audrey Kipphut, Dave Mosteller, Amy Neske, Douglas Pneuma, and Matt Torpey.

## **Accounting Warden**

*Section 3. There shall be an Accounting Warden elected triennially from the Congregation who shall serve as a member of the Vestry in addition to those elected in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.*

## **Accounting Warden Nominee (Vote for 1)**

Ernest Dixon

## **Youth Delegate**

*Article 4 Section 4. There may be a Youth Representative to the Vestry elected annually for a one-year term who will be eligible for re-election for an additional one-year term. The Representative shall be a baptized lay person of at least thirteen (13) years who shall have been nominated in writing to the Secretary before the time fixed for election, as provided in Section 2 of Article 3. The Youth Representative shall have a seat and voice on the Vestry.*

## **Youth Delegate Nominee (Vote for 1)**

No candidate for 2025

## **Lay Deputies to Diocesan Convention**

*Lay deputies represent St. Peter's as voting members at the Diocesan Annual Convention.*

### **Nominees (Vote for 3)**

Charlie Hannum, Jenna Linke, Laurel Mosteller

## **Convention Alternates**

*Alternates fill in for and assume the voting privileges of elected lay deputies who cannot attend the Diocesan Annual Convention.*

### **Nominees (Vote for 2)**

Wendy Hartung, Maureen Schaeffer

## **Delegates to Montgomery Deanery**

*Delegates to the Montgomery Deanery attend the Deanery's annual meeting as voting members, and can attend monthly Deanery meetings.*

### **Nominees (Vote for 2)**

Charlie Hannum, Laura Mosteller

## **Alternate Delegate to Montgomery Deanery**

*Alternates fill in for and assume the voting privileges of elected delegates to the Montgomery Deanery who cannot attend the annual Deanery meeting.*

### **Nominees (Vote for 1)**

Jenna Linke

*Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Jeanné Hannum, Amy Michener-Wall, John Olson, Karen Sayer (outgoing Vestry members) and Wendy Hartung (non-Vestry member).*

## **Vestry Nominees' Biographies**

### **Beth Carlin - Worshiped at St. Peter's since 2024 (Three-year term)**



I was introduced to St. Peter's by the Teleha family, specifically Liz. I am one of the godparents of Liz's daughter, Charlotte (Charlie). So far at St. Peter's, I have not participated in any committees. I have mostly just stayed a short while for fellowship. I have donated clothing for the garage sale, as well as contributed financial donations to purchase soups, baked goods, and fellowship snacks. Most recently, I contributed to the Angel Piano gifts. I briefly attended Trinity Episcopal Church in Ambler. From 1st to 8th grade, I attended Catholic School at Roman Catholic Church, St. John of the Cross, in Roslyn. At Catholic school, I regularly assisted my mother in running the Box Tops for Education / Campbell's Soup Label collection and tracking.

There, I also participated in choir and continued to attend mass after St. John of the Cross was combined with Queen of Peace Church in Glenside. At some point, I stopped attending.

I currently work remotely as an Enterprise Account Manager for Procure Solutions, a daycare management software company. Prior to my current position, I was the Enterprise Support Manager. This has provided me with experience in hearing and voicing concerns or appreciation from groups of individuals and knowing the appropriate audience to bring those thoughts to. I have successfully prioritized when to push toward a resolution or when to explain why a change cannot be made at this time.

For hobbies, I crochet, knit, and dabble in music. I also enjoy playing video games. For a few years, I ran registration and points for a charity gaming event called RGB LAN, where we brought people together to play games and raise money for three local charities. I still participate in RGB LAN, but now as an attendee. I also previously participated in the Extra Life Guild of Philadelphia, which plays games to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Coming to St. Peter's has been what I miss getting out of church. While I only have close relations with a select few people, St. Peter's is clearly a community of people who care for each other and its surrounding community. Each mass, Reverend Barb makes it clear that all are welcome, which I have not heard as a part of a mass for a long time. All of the baking, food making, and overall activity options St. Peter's provides truly show that the members of the church see themselves as a force for good, and I am honored to be a part of such a caring community.

My immediate family is just myself, my husband Chris, and our dog Maggie. My husband, Chris, and I both work remote jobs while living in Ambler. I work as an Enterprise Account Manager for daycare management software, and my husband works as a Development Services Manager for Independence Mission Schools. Our dog Maggie is a 50+ pound Irish Terrier mix who enjoys walks, especially along the Wissahickon trail.

### **Sam Hogg - Worshiped at St. Peter's since 1975 (Three-year term)**

My wife Joanna and I were drawn to St. Peter's for its opportunities to study and learn more about ultimate questions. We participated in study groups throughout our time here, many of which were led by Rick Pearce.



In addition to leading some workshops on relationships as a family (relational) therapist I helped lead an anti-racism program entitled Sacred Ground, meeting every other week for five months. I served for several years on the Community Partnership Committee as well as at Rummage Sale.

While teaching mathematics in inner-city Philadelphia for 23 years, I earned two master's degrees and then changed careers to become a family (relational) therapist. As a family (relational) therapist, I found where my deep joy and the world's deep hunger

meet (in Frederick Buechner's words). In that capacity, I worked in outpatient clinics, behavioral health hospitals, and a long-term facility for youths. I have been called a "heart-lifter" in that I can bring fun to individuals and groups. I believe I can contribute that to the vestry.

I welcome the opportunity to wade more deeply into becoming a better person. What has been equally precious to me about St. Peter's are its inclusiveness and mutual caring which are the *sine qua non* of God (Love). Social justice has been extremely important to me. I have been active in same since my late teens and am immersed in finding ways to achieve more of it in this country and worldwide. I am grateful that St. Peter's has been serious about social justice and that Rev. Barb is helping to create myriad opportunities for us now.

Joanna, my wife, and our two children, Rachel and David started attending St. Pete's in 1975 when they were six and three, respectively. Rachel participated in the youth group until she went off to college. She subsequently married and has one child, Jasmine, 25, our only granddaughter whose partner is a Maryland State Trooper. David is single. Rachel has a PhD. in English from Temple and teaches and has established a writing center at Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE. David is a paraprofessional in the Radnor School District working with students having learning and emotional problems.

Joanna succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease in 2017. Her ashes were interred in our courtyard after a heartfelt, deeply personal memorial service led by our dear Emily Richards.

### **Terita Reeve - Worshipped at St. Peter's since 2022 (Three-year term)**



I am a proud member of St. Peter's Folk Group. My husband, Mike, and I have performed at the annual Talent Show in 2023 and 2024. My former bluegrass band performed at the Night of Bluegrass fund raiser in September of 2023. I was honored to be a member of the Search Committee for our wonderful Director of Music, Carol Cei. I was previously a member of the choir at Resurrection Episcopal Church in Mayfair, Philadelphia, and the choir at Emmanuel Resurrection in the Holmesburg section of Philadelphia. When we first joined the Episcopal Church in 2005, the Rector at the time appointed Mike and me to kitchen duties, which I very much enjoyed. I'm happy to help at St. Peter's for fellowship and kitchen duties for other events.

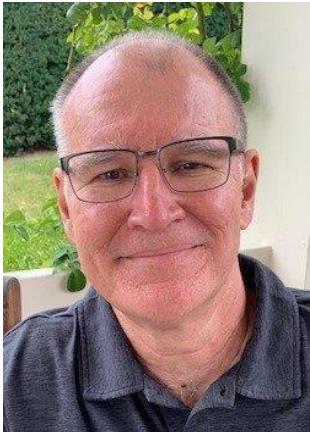
I am currently retired. I worked as a Legal Assistant for 46 years in law firms in Center City Philadelphia as well as Bucks County. I bring with me the ability to be organized and to listen to people's concerns and try to find ways to resolve issues. I also like to volunteer time helping people. I enjoy volunteering at OHAAT Beds for Kids with other members of the congregation. In the past, I volunteered helping animal organizations. I also really like to work in my home garden. In addition, I've always had an interest in playing music--playing

the piano (not so much anymore) and guitar. I like to tinker with other instruments as well—ukelele, banjo, dulcimer—and I want to learn how to play the harmonica. I play guitar and sing at the Holmesburg Bluegrass Jam (now in Jenkintown) every Thursday night, which I have for the last 17 years.

After the pandemic, Mike and I were missing the sense of community in being a part of a church congregation, and we needed to get back in touch with our spirituality. When we walked into St. Peter's in June of 2022, we were immediately greeted by numerous parishioners and felt an immediate sense of belonging. We are proud of the fact that we belong to such a strong group of happy, kind, caring, loving and welcoming people. In speaking with Reverend Barb, listening to her sermons and talking to other congregants, we were able to get back in touch with our spirituality. I value the music program at St. Peter's under the direction of both the Flahertys and Carol Cei, which has been incredibly beautiful and inspirational.

I am the youngest of 5 children. I have a very large extended family scattered across the country. I was raised Roman Catholic. I attended St. Martin of Tours grade school in Philadelphia and St. Basil Academy high school in Jenkintown. I have been married to my wonderful husband for 28 years! Our family has always consisted of the 4-legged kind! We currently have 2 dogs and 2 cats.

**Chris Teleha - Worshiped at St. Peter's since 2022  
(Three-year term)**



I am in the St. Peter's choir and Bell choir. I contribute my time supporting Fellowship clean-up after services. And I have supported special singing opportunities since 2023. I regularly attend services with my wife Suzanne and have supported the capital [financial] initiatives of St. Peter's (to the best of my ability).

In my 30 year career in R&D at big pharma companies, I had management experience where I dealt with a wide range of personalities, complicated personnel situations and often times, conflicting goals. My personality allowed me to navigate these complicated waters and find common ground to move the organization forward. I believe the skills I learned throughout my career can be useful in my participation in vestry.

I came to St. Peter's in 2022, following my wife's lead to join the congregation. I am a strong believer of 'contributing time, talent and treasure,' as gifts that we offer to God and my fellow worshipers. My desire to join the vestry is another step in 'upping the ante' to what I give.

My wife Suzanne and I brought two wonderful children into this world. Our son Peter was called to God in 2012. In a special way, it seems right for us to honor 'the rock of God's' memory by worship at his house in Glenside. While our lives were split in two by this tragedy, I, with Suzanne, am blessed that our daughter Liz and her husband Joe, live close to us and bring their children Charlotte and Teddy to church regularly. I am a beekeeper and like to golf whenever I get the chance.

**John Olson-Worshiped at St. Peter's since Fall 1992  
(One-year term)**



Known to many as JohnO, I have been a member of St. Peter's since Fall 1992, soon after moving from the Boston area to Glenside. I guess this means I am in the "old-timer" group here, strangely somewhat a surprise to me.

Ever since arriving, my wife Melissa, two sons AJ and Greg, and I all have felt at home at St. Peter's. We were immediately welcomed and quickly became involved in the parish community in a variety of ways. We have benefitted mightily from so many aspects of life here – from faith formation for both youth and adults to campaigns for a variety of social concerns to the enriching friendships we have formed.

I have served in several capacities at St. Peter's, including a three-year term on vestry during the Rev. Ruth years, on the Parish Profile and Search committees that eventually led to calling Rev. Emily, as a member of the Adult Education Committee (and helped lead some sessions), and as an usher. I have served on the current Vestry as a one-year replacement this past year, and I look

forward to the prospect of continuing for another year as I step in to finish the last year for another member who is stepping off early.

On a personal level, I am a professor in the Department of Biology at Villanova University. My academic specialty is physiology, and my courses include *Human Anatomy and Physiology* and *Biology and Politics*. I served as Assistant Chair for the department from 2001 to 2015 and then as Chair from 2015 to 2021. I thus have experience in administration as well as academics. As Chair, I faced several challenges including two of “biblical” significance – recovering from a large flood that destroyed several teaching labs and faculty offices and navigating the many challenges of running a science department during a pandemic. I enjoy problem-solving, and I value the compassionate and effective approach our community here evidenced during the merger of St. Peter’s and St. Philip-in-the-Fields, changes in personnel, and addressing and then making improvements to the property and facilities.

**M. Ernest Dixon- Worshiped at St. Peter’s since 2024**  
**Accounting Warden**  
**(Three-year term)**



My wife, Robin, and I joined St. Peter’s in early fall 2024. Prior to that, we were members of Trinity Episcopal Church in Ambler, PA for approximately 23 years. As a member of Trinity vestry, I served for one term as Accounting Warden and fulfilled a remaining term as Property Committee Chair. I also participated in several ministries including Discernment Committee for candidates for Ordained Ministry, search committees for new priest and new assistant priest, committee lead for developing the parish profile, usher, chalice bearer, and various church plays.

From approximately 1994 to 2000, my wife and I were members of Trinity Church, Lansdale. During our membership there, I served on vestry and completed one term as Accounting Warden. I also sang in the choir.

In June 2023, I joined the DIOPA Anti-Racism Commission (ARC). I’m currently serving as Treasurer of the ARC.

I recently retired as an engineering project manager. As a project manager, I was responsible for understanding all financial aspects of project execution. More importantly, the role of project manager requires an understanding of the value that a diverse team brings to the project. I will bring these understandings to St Peter’s vestry so that I can make a positive contribution to our church.

My hobbies include cycling, woodworking, travel, and piano.

I learned about St. Peter’s through my work on the ARC. I was impressed with the leadership

that Rev. Barb brought to ARC and I believe in and share the values of ARC. Although I have been a member of St Peter's for a relatively short time, my experience and interface with other members shows that we share similar values; peace, justice and loving relationships.

I grew up in West Chester, PA with my 5 sisters and brother. My parents emphasized and demonstrated the value of education. My mother was a primary school teacher and my father was an aerospace engineer.

My wife and I live in Montgomeryville, PA. We have been married for 41 years and have one daughter, Meredith. Meredith and her husband, Aaron, live in Phoenixville and are members of St Peter's episcopal church in Phoenixville.

## **From the Rector's Warden**

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As Rector's Warden, I work with Rev. Barb and the other wardens to plan the Monthly Vestry meetings and the Vestry Retreat. I meet regularly with Rev. Barb to listen to her ideas and plans for St. Peter's and to provide a sounding board for any issues. I chair the Vestry meeting in the event of the rector's absence. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity and to help lead the Vestry.

We are fortunate to have such a faithful and energetic rector and to be part of a thriving church community.

The important work of the Vestry includes the following:

- to stay informed and aware of parish ministries and parish activities
- to review and discuss recommendations submitted by the Property and the Finance chairs and to vote whether to approve significant expenditures
- to consider and vote on any other proposals requiring Vestry approval as stipulated by St. Peter's Bylaws

I continue to be impressed by this Vestry's concern for St. Peter's and their sense of responsibility for its financial wellbeing. I look forward to my second of two years in this role.

*Respectfully submitted, David N. Mosteller  
Rector's Warden*

## **From the People's Warden**

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It is my great pleasure to serve the people of St. Peter's Church as their advocate to the rector and to the Vestry. To me, the church is the people, and I care greatly for the people of St. Peter's.

It is wonderful to see a growing congregation. Each month we are formally welcoming new

members among us. They all have gifts to share with us, and we have gifts of welcome and joy we share with them.

Isn't it great to be in a place where everybody knows your name? It makes you feel like you belong. Please continue to wear your name badges so that everyone will know your name.

All our ministries are hoping for new participants. Think about your gifts and how you may use them to serve God, St. Peter's and fulfill yourself. Our newest parish directory has a listing of ministries and contacts.

As your People's Warden, let me know if I can assist you.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey Kipphut  
People's Warden*

## Financial Report

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As of this writing (our books are not closed for another few weeks), we ended the year with a surplus of \$59,268 (see charts below). A major contributor to this surplus was the income derived from the boiler campaign. If we discount the effects of the boiler project, we still operated a surplus of \$1,619! This is an accomplishment not seen in many years.

<b>Income</b>	
	2024 Preliminary
Annual Giving	\$215,619
Use of Building	\$107,208
Fundraisers	\$42,587
Special Offering + Program	\$17,071
Boiler Income	\$75,479
Investment Income	\$29,870
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,841
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>490,675</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
	2024 Preliminary
Personnel	\$191,932
Administration	\$47,428
Program	\$46,410
Property	\$104,081
Boiler Expense	\$17,830
Diocesan Sacred Ask	\$23,726

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>431,407</b>
<b>Total Income - Expenses</b>	<b>59,268</b>

The table below shows the asset picture for St. Peter's. Market conditions in 2024 were quite favorable and reflect a 9.6% gain in investment value. During its December meeting, Vestry authorized the transfer of \$20,000 from our money market bank account to Long Term Investments.

<b>Assets</b>		
	2023	2024
Bank Accounts	44,450	80,813
Long Term Investments	221,427	242,773
<b>Total</b>	<b>265,877</b>	<b>323,586</b>

For many years, St. Peter's has maintained self-directed investments with Vanguard. In 2024, the Finance Committee pursued the notion of partnering with a group that had fiduciary responsibilities to our benefit. On the recommendation of Finance, our Vestry passed a resolution directing the establishment of investment accounts with The Church Foundation.

The Church Foundation is a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation and is run by a Board of 16 made up of three clergy and 12 laity and chaired by the Bishop of the Diocese. As such The Church Foundation:

- Serves as trustee, custodian and investment adviser for assets owned by churches, chapels, missions and institutions in the Diocese.
- Administers Diocesan real estate matters as required. The Foundation holds title to more than 100 church and Diocesan properties.

The Foundation's primary activity is overseeing the Consolidated Fund (CF), a balanced fund of stocks and bonds providing a diversified investment medium for the Diocese of Pennsylvania, its parishes and other church-related institutions.

The boiler campaign came to a close in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024. Through a generous matching gift of an unnamed benefactor, we were able to raise the money equaling the cost of the boiler project. Based on the total contributions during the matching period, we will be receiving an additional \$17,000 which will be earmarked for future capital expenditures.

In closing, my thanks and admiration go to the members of the finance committee; Bill Hower, Anne Gibson, John Klarman, Mike Reeve, Jeanne Robson, and Kevin Sayer. I am always and forever grateful for their good counsel. In recent years, the finance committee has made the

decisions that have guided us to a healthier financial position...a position admired by many throughout the diocese.

*Respectfully Submitted, Bob Hartung  
Finance Chair*

## Property Committee

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### Property Report

We cannot thank enough everyone over the past two years for their support of the boiler replacement project. After 75 years we now have three state-of-the-art high-tech boilers that have replaced the oil and gas-guzzling furnaces that supported our church over all those years. While they did their job as designed, operating costs, age and conventional systems needed replacement. Through your contributions and the support of the Diocese, we have exceeded our goals, and I am pleased to report that in their first year of operation we have cut energy costs by 40% savings close to \$8,000.

The church steeple was hit by lightning, and we suffered some losses from the electrical arc that traveled through the church. Three of our air conditioning units were damaged, and the steeple itself was bent. The air conditioners were repaired, and we had to remove the steeple. Presently we are looking to see what we will replace the steeple with, and there are several possibilities that we will be sharing with the congregation. Meanwhile all costs so far for the repairs and work on the steeple have been covered (less our \$ 5,000.00 deductible) by our insurance carrier.

The daily upkeep of our facilities as well as renovations and improvements keep staff and volunteers busy. I want to thank the members of the Garden Committee, Debbie and Bob Panebianco, Amy Neske and Eileen Dooley for their dedication and work to keep our grounds looking lovely. Thanks to Kate Boyce for her talented use with a paint brush. Thanks to Joe Mitros, our cleaner, who is here every Thursday evening keeping our building interior clean and bright. Thanks to Mark Evans for taking on the task of the visioning for our building and grounds for their future uses. Enough cannot be said about Tim Valera our caretaker who does so much to make sure our building and grounds are kept in the best of shape, setting up and taking down furniture for our many programs and activities, as well as serving as our eyes and ears, living on our campus and keeping everything safe and secure. Many thanks to you, Tim.

*Respectfully submitted, David Kipphut,  
Property Chair*

### Operations Report

In 2024 the care of the properties at St Peter's Church required a great deal of dedication, time, and money to ensure that our facilities are well maintained. We completed the replacement of

our boilers and experienced a lightning strike that damaged our steeple and air conditioners. Thanks to the dedication of Rev. Barb, our church staff, and so many volunteers, we have made great strides to improve church operations including updates to our website, improved parish communications, and enhanced events calendars and message boards along our hallways.

### **Property Committee and Caretaker**

Thanks to the leadership and volunteer efforts of Property Committee Chair Dave Kipphut, and our Caretaker Tim Valera, our buildings and grounds team has been busy completing the installation of the boiler replacement project, managing the impact of the lightning strike, coordinating with various electrical, mechanical, general, and roofing contractors, renovating the small classroom, and planning for the replacement of aging building components including doors, windows, and the steeple. Through the hard work of this group, and the financial support of the parish for new energy efficient boilers, we have been reducing our annual energy costs by at least \$8,000 per year. See the Property Report for further detail on these projects, volunteers, and outcomes. In 2025, we would welcome additional volunteers to assist in this important work.

### **Church Operations and Communications**

Thanks to the strong communication skills of Charlese Freeman, Communications Administrator, and many volunteers, church communications and operations continue to improve. Charlese and Debbie Panebianco have both invested time throughout the year updating the website, refreshing photos of church events, publishing Rev. Barb's weekly blog, and preparing updates to the church brand and logo.

Throughout our hallways, entrances and weekly newsletter, Charlese regularly published and updated event calendars, event notices, new member announcements, and message boards highlighting our ministries and events. In addition, Charlese has been instrumental in managing the insurance claims related to the lightning strike and the unexpected costs associated with the steeple and air conditioning units. We believe that effective communications are strengthening our church community as well as contributing to the growth of our parish over the last three years.

### **Tenant Relations and Revenue**

Thanks to the leadership of Bob Hartung to coordinate the leasing and tenant relations efforts, the church is fortunate to have a number of tenants that support our mission and ministries and generate significant income that helps St Peter's balance our budget each year. However, this effort is ongoing and will require additional tenants, revenues, and physical improvements.

In addition, we have been reviewing municipal regulations to guide our plans to fully utilize the space within our church buildings. Mark Evans and George Luskus have been working on strategies to lease additional underutilized spaces throughout the church, and Charlese Freeman has been contributing to this effort by promoting rentals of the Parish Hall for events. In 2025, we invite all parishioners to get involved in attracting additional event rentals and tenants that align with our church mission and ministries.

## Space Use Forums

Mark Evans and Rev. Barb coordinated two Space Use Forums to engage the parish community in discussions about how we use our church and how we can create a plan to renew and refresh various areas of our buildings and grounds. The goal is to enhance our facilities to better support our current and future ministries and mission. The first forum in April looked at Glenside and the Easton Road Arrival Experience and the second forum in October looked at the Parish Hall & the Parking Lot Arrival Experience. In 2025, we will host additional forums with the goal of establishing a strategic plan for how and where to enhance our buildings and grounds.

With this plan, we will be better positioned to secure partnerships and grants that can help us fund future improvements. One example of this type of partnership is the initiative to offer a Community Fridge with fresh refrigerated foods in support of our existing Food Cupboard ministries. This Community Fridge initiative is scheduled to begin in the late Winter of 2025 and it will be supported by a partner organization and funded partially by a grant.

*Respectfully submitted, Mark Evans  
Vestry Member (Operations Liaison)*

## Worship

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Worship at St. Peter's in 2024 saw an increase in participants, a choir led by a new music director, additional liturgical ministers, and the addition of an option to receive communion wine through intinction, dipping the Eucharistic bread into a wine cup.

### Sacraments

In 2024 we had our first Confirmation class in several years, featuring seven youth and teens. Three adults were received into the church when the bishop visited on Pentecost. The year also saw four baptisms.

On Pentecost, May 19, The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez visited St. Peter's for the first time since before COVID, meeting with the Vestry and presiding over sacraments of initiation. More than 280 people attended the service, which included a baptism, and numerous Confirmations and Receptions from three church communities, including St Peter's.

In response to a request for a "first Communion" experience for children, we held a Bread Day retreat for young people and families to learn about the sacrament, and then invited children to dress up and experience an "Awesome Communion" on May 25, receiving the sacrament with intention and celebration.

### Liturgical ministers

Carol Cei joined the staff as part-time music director in January of 2024, bringing particular skills in choral direction, as well as in organ and piano.

Bob Smith, a postulant for holy orders to the diaconate, served his internship at St. Peter's, completing it on Pentecost. He will be ordained to the diaconate in February of 2025. Additionally, Rosalinda Ibañez Memba was accepted by the diocesan Commission on Ministry as a postulant for the priesthood. Postulancy is an initial time of preparation and testing for ordained ministry.

Additional acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic visitors were trained this year. We could always use more help in these areas, as well as ushers.

### **Liturgical practices**

This year we added the option of intinction (dipping communion bread into wine) back into the reception of Eucharist. The options of common cup, intinction and gluten-free reception are all offered in separate chalices, allowing for preferences without mixing containers.

### **Attendance**

Our average Sunday attendance continued to grow in 2024, averaging about 90 people on a Sunday, up from 80 last year. Attendance reached as high as 131 on Sundays, not counting holidays and Pentecost.

As always, my gratitude goes out to all who serve in liturgical ministry at St Peter's: Our Altar Guild, acolytes, lectors, choir and folk group, tech team, and ushers,. Special thanks to our verger, Bob Hartung, who helps coordinate liturgy on Sundays, as well as to the wonderful volunteers who ensure that our fellowship time is filled with good food to share.

*Faithfully submitted, The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

### **Choir & Music**

2024...It was a year of *FIRSTS*. Beginning the new year in a new place - St. Peter's Church in Glenside-set the stage for what would prove to be a year of learning, experimenting and loving.

January began in a somewhat different way as the Epiphany was celebrated the day before the first Sunday of the year. Being in a Church which closely followed a specific lectionary for the year was somewhat of a new endeavor after all of my years in Sacred Music. That first week reunited me with our St. Peter's Choir, some of whom I met at my interview and audition. I had programmed in time at each rehearsal to review all of the hymns, as many in the 1982 Hymnal were a bit unfamiliar to me but favorites at St. Peter's. Although there was much joy for me, it was also a time of sadness for St Peter's with the loss of Art Lorentz-Burnett. It was an honor for me to be able to provide the music for his Memorial Service. Before the month was over we received the news of Rev. Emily Richards' passing. I was glad to encourage our Choir Members to participate in the Liturgy for her Services.

February ushered in Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent as we put away all of the Alleluias. My first Pancake Supper was so much fun, and I was grateful for the opportunity to accompany Kristina Marchuk and Debbie DeKalb in the Talent Show. Observing the many other participants, and especially our MC - David Mosteller - gave me an inside look at just how talented the parishioners were in many different ways. During this Lenten period was my first Taizé experience. Holy Week was inspirational, and the Choir was quite enthusiastic regarding the preparations for Maundy Thursday and the Good Friday Tenebrae. Our choral

selections were well received. The Choir began to understand that singing in a choir is more than just music - it is an emotional presentation of the text to inspire the congregation and to be a form of prayer. *Go To Dark Gethsemane* really came alive as the choir musically illustrated Jesus' walk to his death. With the help of Tim Flaherty, we secured two Trumpeters from Temple University for a truly glorious Easter Morning. Members of the congregation came forward for our close with the Hallelujah Chorus, and the Sanctuary was bursting with joy!

There are no dull moments at St. Peter's, and with April came time for Confirmation and planning for the Bishop's arrival. Rev. Barb graciously welcomed the confirmands of St. James Church, Collegeville, and their guests along with a smaller group from a Philadelphia church. St. James Choir joined with St. Peter's, and we had two beautiful Anthems on that Sunday morning. One of the young confirmands also composed a hymn, and I was happy to meet with him earlier in the week to introduce him to our organ. Once again, a trumpeter was able to add a special touch as we performed some duets together.

Our Choir began to wind down in May, and we had a special Sunday of music in early June before taking a summer hiatus. It was delightful to celebrate the Choir with a 'Social' at my home for our last rehearsal. St. Peter's is blessed with so many willing souls as we were able to provide beautiful music each week of the Summer with our volunteer soloists - singers and instrumentalists alike. It was a joy for me to work on a more personal level with these wonderful people.

Labor Day arrived earlier than usual, so our first 'return' Sunday in September was graced by the Jazz Sanctuary group. They delighted the parishioners so much that they returned on all Saints/Souls Day in November. I love working with them as they become more familiar with our hymns and more engaging with our Liturgy. "Temporary" singers were welcomed to participate for the Advent-Christmas season. We were able to have three additional singers join us, and one or two may even stay on! (We will try this again for Holy Week and Easter). Advent was a bit new for me as no Christmas music was sung until Christmas Eve. Our Choir presented a beautiful program of Advent Lessons and Carols which was quite inspirational. Christmas Eve was more than I could have anticipated. It was fun to be a tiny part of the PaperBag Pageant...bringing smiles to everyone with their interpretation of the Christmas Story. The

Later Liturgy was introduced by a Congregational Carol Sing and stirring Anthems by the Choir. Roberta Goren was our guest Flutist and I was delighted to compose some extra music to add her in to each piece we were singing. The Liturgy was stirringly beautiful and it was like having that ‘choir of angels’ right in Glenside with us. A glitch with our organ seemed to erase a great deal of the ‘recorded’ music for Christmas Day. Fortunately, I discovered this well in advance and was able to recreate the Christmas morning program. Gratefully, Carol Lorentz-Burnett was my ‘assistant’ and was present to push the right buttons on Christmas morn.

It should be noted that Kathy Flaherty has continued as the Bell Choir Director. It is a pleasure to work with Kathy. I have been their accompanist and also had the joy of teaching them to ‘random ring’. It was beautiful to have them wander through the Church in Advent. Kathy has worked very hard with the ringers and is always ready to have them participate in the liturgy. She and Tim have made my first year at St. Peter’s quite a smooth one and I am grateful to have them as resources.

Carol Lorentz-Burnett has been wonderful as our Choir Librarian. It is a huge task but she is constantly trying to get us reorganized. David Mosteller is always ready with solo work when asked; ditto Meredith Flaherty. Debbie DeKalb and Kristina Marchuk also gave a great deal as singers/instrumentalists.

*Respectfully submitted, Carol Cei,  
Director of Music*

### **St. Peter’s Bell Choir**

St. Peter’s Bell Choir rang in the New Year of 2024 in collaboration with our new Music Director, Carol Cei, a strong supporter of musical collaboration. The membership has remained steady with an encouraging advancement in skill level and repertoire difficulty. Bravo bells!

The Bell Choir provides inspiration and meditation for Sundays and celebrations with a wide variety of musical offerings. The addition of trumpet, flute and keyboard enrich the tonal beauty of the handbells.

The Bell Choir continues to prepare and present seasonal music for Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas. The 2024 Lessons and Carols service was highlighted with the sparkle of unique bell ringing. Christmas Eve featured the beauty of flute and handbells to enhance the sacred night.

Many thanks to the members of St. Peter’s Bell Choir for their dedication and devotion to this wonderful musical ensemble..

*Respectfully submitted, Kathy Flaherty  
Bell Choir Director*

### **Folk Group**

The folk group is celebrating the twenty-first year of our music ministry at St. Peter’s.

Members of our group are Donna Kulp and Jenna Linke (vocals), Debbie DeKalb (vocals and flute): Kristina Marchuk (vocals and clarinet): Debbie Panebianco (recorder): Bob Filice (keyboard): Sherry Butterworth (guitar): Joani Harkinson (guitar and vocals): Terita Reeve (guitar and vocals): Mike Reeve (mandolin and vocals): Linda Toia (bass guitar). Mike Reeve graciously and expertly sets up and manages his sound equipment for the service.

The folk group offered the music for three Come Forth Sundays, the parish picnic, and Guatemala Sunday this year. We genuinely enjoy making joyful sounds together with the congregation and look forward to continuing to do this in the coming year.

*Respectfully submitted, Linda Toia  
Folk Group Leader*

## **Ministry Scheduler Report**

### **Scheduling Tool**

Our parish utilizes the app Ministry Scheduler Pro to efficiently manage and coordinate our liturgical worship minister schedule. This tool has been instrumental in organizing and supporting our volunteer ministries.

### **Liturgical Schedule**

An eight-week schedule is built within the app to cover the following ministries:

- **Acolytes**
- **Eucharistic Ministers**
- **Ushers**
- **Lectors**
- **Intercessors**
- **Counters**
- **Vestry Steward**

Approximately 60 volunteers actively serve within these ministries, contributing to the spiritual life and smooth functioning of our worship services.

### **Features and Functionality**

Ministry Scheduler Pro offers several features that enhance the scheduling process:

- **Schedule Changes:** The ability to make adjustments as needed.
- **Sub Requests:** Volunteers can request substitutes directly through the app, streamlining communication.
- **Email Communication:** The app supports sending group emails or individual notifications to volunteers.
- **Login Management:** Providing volunteers with login information to access their schedules and updates.

### **Volunteer Engagement**

This tool has allowed for greater flexibility and responsiveness, ensuring that our ministries are staffed effectively while supporting the volunteers who dedicate their time to these roles.

Thank you to all who contribute to the success of our worship services through these vital ministries!

*Respectfully submitted, Kristina Marchuk  
Ministry Scheduler*

## Tech Team



Tech team is in its 5th year!! Starting as a way to bring all those together who couldn't come to mass during covid and continuing as a regular part of our weekly worship. This year was mostly a year of stability. We upgraded a couple more of our microphones and continue to fine tune our services. This fall we added 2 new wireless mics to the choir loft that allows us much better control of the choir music and should hopefully allow folks to hear more of our incredible singers.

Over the summer we were lucky enough to have Sebastien Guillotin join us in the booth. He was a quick study and almost immediately started taking shifts solo which was a HUGE help over the summer until he left for college. He is even planning on coming back from college and helping a bit over the Christmas Holiday. We also added Oak Neske, another quick study who was able to pick up some shifts as well. They were invaluable to getting all our services available throughout the year.

For 2025, we have many of the same goals we had in 2024: upgrade ageing hardware, add a new camera, move some things around and clean up our messy booth. Our big need does remain the same, we need more tech team members. Sebastien and Oak were a big help, but their time is limited due to school. So having a person or two more to share the load would be excellent!

*Respectfully submitted, PJ Linke*

## Altar Guild

St. Peter's Altar Guild is responsible for the care and maintenance of the parish vestments, linens and vessels, as well as for the preparation of those items for the various services. Those services include all Sunday worship, weddings, baptisms, funerals and all extra services associated with the church calendar, including Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We also oversee the decoration of the church for holiday services. In addition, we had the privilege of hosting two other congregations for a shared Confirmation service on Pentecost – a very full house and a lovely service!

Although Altar Guild is something of a “housekeeping” type of ministry, we also find great meaning and beauty in taking care of our sacred tools which are a vital part of our Worship. There is a wonderful sense of connection to our past in continuing the traditions that began many years ago, as well as much joy and reverence in using gifts given by past members in memory of their loved ones.

Some of our linens and vessels are showing a bit of wear so we will be creating a “Wish List” of items for repair and/or replacement. We will also begin exploring ways of funding these special items.

The Altar Guild is made up of two groups, our Sunday morning team and our Special Teams. We are blessed to have some exceptional peripheral support, aka “Special Teams” for special functions and services, such as ironing, brass polishing, decorating and flower design. I give thanks for Connie Clinefelter, Janice Solla, Reba Zampirri, Sue Gordon, Debbie DeKalb, Rob DeKalb, Kate Boyce, Deborah Way, Amy Neske & Dave Kipphut for the many gifts that they bring to enhance our services.

Our Sunday morning group is very small but mighty! These members do the set-up and clean-up before and after the Sunday service. I am eternally grateful to Donna Kulp and Wendy Hartung for their above-and-beyond service and dedication to Altar Guild every Sunday! We also welcomed Delphine Spencer to the Sunday morning team in 2024. We really need more helping hands on Sunday mornings – we arrive at 9:15 a.m. and usually finish up by 11:30 a.m.. If you can set and clear a table and wash dishes, Altar Guild needs your help! Please stop by the Sacristy or speak with Karen Sayer to learn how you can help with this special ministry.

*Prayerfully submitted, Karen Sayer,  
Altar Guild Chair*

## Formation

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### **Children, Youth and Families**

#### ***Godly Play for Everyone***

Godly Play, led by Laurel Mosteller, is a nationally-recognized, Montessori-based program that uses storytelling and hands-on activities to teach lessons on Scripture and faith during the first part of the Sunday worship service. It is designed for children in preschool through about 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The children rejoin their families for Communion and the remainder of the service. Attendance varies from week to week. In December, as many as 14 children returned from one Sunday Godly Play session.

#### ***Youth and Teens***

In the fall of 2024, parishioners Kathleen and Nate Taylor joined the Youth Ministry Team, which includes Kristina Marchuk, Dave Kipphut and Rev. Barb. In 2024 our monthly gatherings included game nights, sandwich making for a local food ministry, helping with the annual Shrove Tuesday Talent show, campfires, a late-night retreat, a family bowling outing and a December visit to the Christmas Village in Center City. The group includes about seven youth and teens.

*Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Barb Ballenger*

### **Lectionary Bible Study**

During Advent 2024, Larry created a self-guided lectionary-based study with downloadable readings and reflection questions that were accessible to parishioners. There are tentative plans for another lectionary study during Eastertide, probably self-guided. Stay tuned!

*Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP, 236)*

*Respectfully Submitted, Larry Sibley*

### **Listening Circle: A Small Group Opportunity**

Based on the belief that we each have an inner teacher, what we might call our soul, the God within, or inner wisdom, a *Listening Circle* offers a place of safety and trust where participants are better able to connect with that place of wisdom and truth within.

Two *Listening Circles* have been meeting monthly (from September through May) to experience and practice deep listening. We are learning to ask open honest questions, rather than offering advice. We take time to share some of our personal stories with each other and use poems and stories to help guide our conversations as we explore some of the questions that arise about life.

While a Listening Circle is open to anyone interested in deepening relationships, its size is limited to provide more generous time for each person's participation. Due to the importance of building trust, participants are encouraged to attend as many of the sessions as possible.

We began meeting on Zoom during the pandemic and gratefully found that this worked well. One of the groups meets regularly on Zoom while the other group has been meeting on Zoom during the winter and in person during the fall and spring. We have enjoyed exploring these different formats this year. We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity. Please feel free to contact either Linda or Melissa.

*Respectfully submitted, Linda Toia and Melissa Olson  
Facilitators*

### **Daniel Memorial Library and The Archives**

As many of you enter the church from the parking lot every Sunday, the Library sits just waiting for you inside the entry on your Left. Light switches inside the doorway to the right illuminate a room full of interesting archival items, and many books of all shapes, sizes, and interests.

Books are arranged based on a classification Code used by churches. A copy of this classification is not only hanging on the outside of the first set of white shelves but also can be found in special label holders where a new classification starts in the shelves.

Besides the books, there is a section of shelving which shows some of our memorabilia from cookbooks of the area, wood blocks used in the old days for printing images on our newsletters and stationery, as well as gifts from our members. Other items of interest may be found around the room. There is an explanation in a clear plastic holder on the back of the double entry doors. Read it as your eyes travel around the room.

As the world changes, our minds may still look for the gentle stimulation of holding a book, turning the pages, and feeling connected to someone else in a unique way. Please come in, sit down, and enjoy. All books, other than reference books, bibles, and service books such as hymnals and prayer books, can be taken home. Use the clipboard to let us know if you have borrowed something. Just return it to the table or one of the open shelves when done.

Besides books, the Library has become the repository of our archives, the accumulation of our records dating back to 1873. Although much of our history was saved, it was not always accessible. Now it is. In the Library around the walls, you will find shelves with binders. The binders are labeled. The

History of St. Philip-in-the-Fields can be found on the low shelf at the back. On the picture wall are binders with some of our more recent Vestry Minutes. On your left as you enter are shelves with documents, pictures, etc. saved from our past. Also, there are binders with sermons from a few of our Rectors as well as the Minutes of the Annual Meetings. We have also compiled a small binder with full page pictures of the ministers of both churches in the order of their first year with their respective churches.

In addition, the pictures on the walls of the Library show our individual church beginnings and end with a picture of how we are today, one church.

Please help us retain our yesterdays. If anyone is interested in helping with the care of our Library and/or the archives, please contact the church office.

*Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Robson*

## **Parish Life**

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### **Pastoral Care**

In 2024 we installed Kristina Marchuk as our volunteer parish nurse, who provides nursing support during liturgies and parish events, and also offers health education in forums and newsletter articles. And we started a pastoral care team that meets monthly to coordinate our outreach for pastoral needs, including the card ministry, grief support, pastoral and Eucharistic visits and support for rides and doctor's visits. Our Eucharistic Visitors ministry was also reinvigorated this year, in which volunteers bring the Eucharist to those who cannot attend regular Sunday services because of illness or other limitations.

*Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

### **Fellowship Hour and Kitchen Affairs**

The kitchen at St. Peter's is a busy place. The co-coordinators, Suzanne Teleha and Deborah Way see to it that if there is a meeting or a celebration, there is food!

Weekly fellowship continues, with many hands contributing. On Come Forth Sunday, there is a more bounteous spread. As St. Peter's members' dietary needs and preferences continue to grow, so does the variety of food that appears on the table.

Also, on Come Forth Sunday, there is a selection of homemade soups for a free-will offering. If you have questions about helping with Sunday fellowship, or if you need help planning your event, contact Suzanne or Deborah!

*Respectfully submitted, Deborah Way*

### **The Lunch Club**

The Lunch Club meets every third Wednesday of the month to socialize with St. Peter's family and visitors over a light meal. Parishioners have extended invitations to family members and friends, some who even belong to other churches, so all are welcome, just make sure to RSVP a week in advance. If

you would like to join us, please reach out to Kate Boyce at [yellowkab1@gmail.com](mailto:yellowkab1@gmail.com) or Debbie DeKalb at [sojourner\\_44@yahoo.com](mailto:sojourner_44@yahoo.com) and we will be glad to give you information.

Special Thanks to Karen Sayer, for catering the meals; Suzanne Teleha and Deborah Way, for their help in the kitchen and providing tasty desserts. If you would like to join us, please reach out to me and I will be glad to give you information.

*Previously submitted by Sue Gordon  
Updated by St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

### **Card Ministry**

Each month cards are sent out to those who are home-bound, those with serious or ongoing health issues, birthdays, and anniversaries. Cards are also sent out during the year for sympathy, hospitalization, rehab stays, health issues, births, and congratulations. Velma Supperer is now helping me with the monthly cards. If you know of a parishioner or close family member that needs a card, please contact me by email or text at [gsgordon115@comcast.net](mailto:gsgordon115@comcast.net) or 215-840-7607. Please remember to update your birthdays and anniversaries with the church office at [stpeter654@gmail.com](mailto:stpeter654@gmail.com).

*Previously submitted by Sue Gordon  
Updated by St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

### **Christmas Card Exchange**

The Christmas Card Exchange box was brought from the former St. Philip's Church. It was a little late getting out this year, but we still had several hundred cards and received about \$50 in donations. I try to have the box out by the first of December through the Feast of the Epiphany. The Christmas Mailbox is set in the parish hall under one of the windows during those 5-6 weeks. All St. Peter's members who would like to give cards to their friends may leave their cards in the mailbox. These cards are placed in alphabetical order in the Christmas card tray for easy pick up. If people wish, they can leave a donation (for the partial unused postage these cards would have needed) to the Guatemala Education Scholarship Fund in the slot on the top of the box. If you have not done so yet, please pick up your Christmas cards from the parish hall.

*Previously submitted by Sue Gordon  
Updated by St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

### **Prayer Candle Stand**

The beautiful prayer candle stand beside our altar once stood in the St. Philip's Prayer Nook. I'm so happy to see how many parishioners are using it. There is a donation container on the bottom shelf of the candles to the left. These donations go to replace the votive candles that are used each week. Thank you for continuing to support this ministry.

*Previously submitted by Sue Gordon  
Updated by St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

### **The Welcome Team**

The Welcome Team is just what the name says. We try to find ways to make everyone welcome and to share the joy, the community and the worship experience that St. Peter's Church offers.

Currently we are a core group of six. We try to spot newcomers before, during or after the service and see that they have all the information that they need to feel comfortable among us. The newcomers will be given a contact information card, and a brochure. After the service they are invited to meet Rev.

Barb and invited to fellowship. There is a follow-up phone call or email for a personal touch. If they have a good experience, they are more likely to return.

Newcomers are officially welcomed into the St. Peter's family on Come 4th Sunday. On this day they receive a gift bag prepared by the Welcome Team and have their photo taken by Mike Levin for our photo board, which is managed by Debbie Panebianco for us.

Things that we have put into practice: name badges, a luncheon in the spring for all of the parish to connect with our newcomers, standing with Rev. Barb after the service to greet any visitors, assigning "buddies" to newcomers, and tracking their comfort in our family.

St. Peter's is a church where "all are welcome". We want to share that feeling and spread the joy that this church brings. Would you like to join us in that mission? We look forward to adding you to our team.

*Respectfully Submitted, Audrey Kipphut,  
Welcome Team Chair*

### **St. Peter's Purlers**

The Purlers meet every second Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. The group isn't limited to knitting. We also crochet, and make little quilt prayer squares. Recently we added a knitting machine to be able to produce hats that anyone (even non knitters) can make.

Over the year we produced 300+ quilted prayer pals, dozens of knitted and crocheted prayer squares, over 60 hats for the Seamen's ministry, a bag full of colorful hat and mitten sets for homeless women in Philadelphia, 6 prayer shawls, baby hats for rainbow babies at Abington hospital, and we're currently making children's hats and mittens for the mitten 'tree' (that is actually the blue box).

We are so fortunate to have a whole closet full of yarn available to us that has been generously donated from our congregation.

We welcome new members with or without knitting experience. If you want to knit with us, contact Janice Solla at [jsolla@earthlink.net](mailto:jsolla@earthlink.net).

*Respectfully Submitted, Janice Solla  
St. Peter's Purlers Chair*

### **Parish Nurse Report**

#### ***Official Commissioning***

The parish nurse was officially commissioned on September 29, 2024, marking the beginning of a dedicated ministry to support the health and wellness of our congregation. My role as the parish nurse is a volunteer staff position within the parish of St. Peter's and works under the direct supervision of Rev. Barb and held to the scope and standards of practice for Faith Community Nurses as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### ***Educational Forum***

On the same day as my commissioning, a forum addressing cold, flu, and COVID-19 was presented.

This event provided attendees with valuable information on prevention, symptoms, and treatment, equipping them to better navigate the upcoming winter season.

### ***Development of Pastoral Care Resources***

The following resources were created to enhance pastoral care within our parish:

- **Pastoral Care Records and Documentation:** A system for securely maintaining records to ensure consistency and confidentiality.
- **Pastoral Care Small Team Guidelines and Consents:** Clear guidelines and consent forms for team members involved in pastoral care activities.
- **Telephone and Brief Encounter Forms:** Tools for documenting and tracking interactions.
- **Youth and Teen Group Consent & Information Forms:** Dedicated forms to address the specific needs of younger members of the parish. This also gives permission to photograph the youth during program events.
- **Godly Play Information Forms:** This information form is important, especially for those new to St. Peter's.

### ***Health Education and Safety***

- **Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Guides:** Instructions on proper techniques to prevent the spread of illness. Hand sanitizer bottles were replaced throughout the sanctuary and common spaces.
- **Staff training for CPR:** Rhonda Sargo, RN came and trained the parish staff in adult and youth CPR at no cost to the church.
- **Tips from the Parish Nurse:** Articles and advice focusing on staying safe and healthy during the winter months.

### ***Emergency Response***

The parish nurse plays an active role in responding to medical emergencies within the parish, ensuring timely care and support during critical situations.

*Respectfully submitted, Kristina Marchuk  
Parish Nurse*

### ***Stewardship Team***

This year's stewardship team began meeting in August. The team members are Co-Chairs Robin Dixon and Rebecca Fellerman, Mike Reeve, and Reverend Barb. This year's theme was 'Walk in Love'. During our meetings we reviewed and customized the materials and templates provided by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (tens.org). Our goal was to use these materials as a basis for tailoring our Stewardship materials and outreach specifically to the needs of the St. Peter's community.

Pledge season started on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Each Sunday there were personal presentations from our members on 'Why We Give'. Reverend Barb wrote the lyrics for this year's wonderful pledge song, and we added a verse each Sunday leading up to Ingathering Sunday on November 17th. We celebrated Ingathering Sunday with reflections and a Labyrinth Walk in the parish hall. As of this writing, we have received 65 pledges, with a total of \$168,795 pledged.

While November will continue to be ‘pledge season’, the Stewardship team will work throughout the coming year to keep Stewardship as an ongoing focus, so as a community we can reflect on how our treasure, time and talent may be used to build up and expand our parish and the larger community that we serve.

*Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Fellerman and Robin Dixon  
Stewardship Chairs*

## Outreach

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### Community Partnership Team

The Community Partnership Team (CPT) coordinates social outreach activities for St. Peter's Church. It handles the distribution of monies from the Designated Outreach Fund, and half of the proceeds from the twice-a-year rummage sale and the on-line rummage. They meet the second Thursday evening at 7:00 PM via zoom. The following activities were observed during 2024.

- **January:** Mitten Tree (Box) Mittens, hats, scarves, and sweaters were collected from the congregation. Many were crocheted or knitted by St. Peter's congregation, as well as family members of the congregation. These were given to the Visiting Nurses of Abington, and the Food Bank of St Peters.
- **May:** Layette Sunday, was celebrated with the congregation making knitted and crocheted sweaters, hats, booties. Many baby items were also purchased. In Fellowship, parishioners made fleece tied receiving blankets. These items were blessed by Rev. Barb on May 12, Mother's Day and shared between Nurse Family Partnership and St Peter's Food Pantry. Special thanks to Janice Solla for furnishing the fleece and preparing the blankets for tying. May 12 was also Episcopal Christian Service Day (ECS). Rev Kyle Evans from ECS brought the Sermon and spoke at the adult forum during fellowship. A check of \$ 709 was given to ECS from the offering collected that day.
- **August:** Backpacks and School supplies were collected and were given to Corinth 13, the Out of School Program in Kensington. The items will be used by the children at Corinth 13, but also to see that the children have what is needed in the classroom of their local schools.
- **September:** We celebrated “GRATITUDE”. Members of the congregation wrote notes of things they were thankful for and put them on the gratitude board. The 29<sup>th</sup> of September was ingathering for the United Thank Offering, and a total of \$1,627.06 was given to UTO. This is the third year in a row that St. Peter's is number one in the diocese for UTO offering. WAY TO GO St. Peter's.
- **November:** We joined hands with the Seamen's Church Institute and collected hats, scarves, work gloves, work socks, shaving items, playing cards, gum, hard candy and other personal items. We cut scarves in Fellowship for the Seamen. Thanks to Janice Solla for furnishing the fleece and preparing the scarves for cutting.
- **December:** We again agreed to do the Piano Angels with the Free Church of St John and Christ Church of St Ambrose. Members of the congregation bought 2 gifts apiece for 77 children in the Kensington Area. These are children who attend one of the churches. The gifts will be given to the children in January in honor of the Three Kings Celebration, which the Spanish observe.

People from St. Peter's are invited to attend the celebration, which will consist of the Three Kings presenting the gifts to the children one at a time, the customary Spanish holiday meal and dancing with a Mariachi Band.

The gifts from last year were given by the Three Kings on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Rev Barb and Jess, Mary Rivera, and Rosalinda Ibanez Memba were present to watch. Mary Rivera was given a beautiful handmade plaque from Puerto Rico for all the work she had done with the Kensington children. All had a delicious Spanish meal and enjoyed the Mariachi band. Ask Rev. Barb how the dancing was.

➤ **Cash Donations:**

Sunday Love Project- - \$1,000

Philly House- - \$500

Woman's Center of Montgomery County- - \$750

Family Promise of Montgomery County- - \$750

St Peter's Food Cupboard- - \$500

Rector's Discretionary Fund- - \$750

Beds For Kids- - \$840

Rector's Discretionary Fund \$750

Corinth 13 Out of School Program- - \$500

➤ Members of the committee and from St. Peter's congregation go to the Bed For Kids warehouse and help make packs for the new beds.

➤ Members of the committee are Shirley Smith, Calvin Haas, Joani Harkinson, Rosalinda Ibanez Memba, Maureen Schaeffer, Velma Supperer, and Mary Rivera. If you are interested in joining this committee or if you know of an organization who needs help please contact one of the above members

*Respectfully Submitted, Mary Rivera  
Community Partnership Co-Chair*

### **Our Guatemala Connection**

Since 2003 St. Peter's Church has maintained a very special relationship with five small congregations in the Northeast area of Guatemala. St. Peter's members who have visited our beloved companions have found these pilgrimages to be inspiring and life-changing adventures.

In addition to visits and communication through Whatsapp, Zoom, and email, the companion relationship involves the following aspects:

- Scholarship Program in which children receive partial scholarships making it possible for their families to keep them in school. Some of our earlier scholarship recipients are now in post high school education programs!
- Medical Emergency Fund provided to the clergy in our companion parishes to use at their discretion to help parishioners who have no medical insurance and serious medical needs.
- Water Filtration Project to help provide safe drinking water to families
- Guatemalan Craft Sales are held periodically which provide income to the St. Peter's Companion Parish Committee for special needs.
- Regular prayer for one another. We also keep each other informed and commit to praying for each other during particularly difficult times.

### **Some highlights of 2024 were the following:**

- Rev. Juan Mejia is pastor of San Mateo, San Timoteo, and San Miguel Todos Los Ángeles. He also served on the committee to elect the new bishop of Guatemala.
- Seminarista Luis Carlos Linares serves San Miguel Arcángel and San Jose. He successfully completed the formation process and passed all his courses at Santo Tomas Apóstol Seminary to bring him closer to ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church.
- Rev. Ramon Ovalle was elected in July and Consecrated as Bishop of Guatemala on Nov. 24, 2024.
- Guatemala Sunday was celebrated on Dec. 8 with music by the folk group, special food for fellowship hour and a very successful Guatemala sale with crafts from UPAVIM, a women's cooperative in Guatemala City.
- In December we sent money for scholarships and medical emergencies to our companion churches.
- Our companion parishes are deeply grateful for the support of our St. Peter's community. *Thank you for your prayers and your generous donations.*

Our Guatemala Committee meets on Zoom periodically and would welcome interested members. We plan for the Guatemala Sale, have the opportunity to meet with the Diocesan Guatemala Committee, and communicate with our clergy in Guatemala.

Most importantly, our committee members and Guatemala companions:

Offer prayer for one another. We also keep each other informed and commit to praying for each other during particularly difficult times.

*Thank you to our Guatemala Committee Members: Bridget Burless, Joani Harkinson, Rosalinda Ibanez, Barbara McKinney, Mary Rivera, Maureen Schaeffer, Pat Sampson, Velma Supperer, and Linda Toia*

*Respectfully submitted, Linda Toia  
Guatemala Committee Chairperson*

### **Rummage's Annual Report**

A new benchmark was reached this year, with the sale raising a grand total of \$ 16,585.00 for the year. We also reached a new high in Random Online Rummage receipts, \$3,300, which is included in the above total. We held a Just Jewelry Sale in both April and October which was well attended and added to the great total above. In addition, we were able to accept donations from our Lutheran neighbor, St. Paul's, as they do not have a rummage sale in the Fall.

Leftovers from the April Sale went to Rev. Memba who used them to help his churches. The Fall Sale ended with Whosoever Gospel Mission and Vietnam Veterans of America coming to pick up what remained. The funds are divided between St. Peter's Church and The Community Partnership Committee.

Random Online Rummage started during the pandemic, and since it has done so well, we want to remind people that these sales go on all year long. For information about this option, simply email Kate Boyce with a picture, if possible, and a description, including any dimensions, brand name, etc. Kate then sends it out to our special email list. When the item is sold, Kate sends the information to the seller and the two parties connect to finalize the sale. However, she may not be able to handle online sales

during the months of the Rummage Sales. If you are not on the Email List, just contact Kate at [rummagesale@stpetersglenside.org](mailto:rummagesale@stpetersglenside.org) to add your name.

We could not continue without the help of so many people, many of whom are not even members of our congregation but who come because of an association with our former Thrift Shop or are friends of members. We thank everyone who donated and/or gave time to help. As we hope to continue this event, which started around 1971 when we also did Christmas Bazaar, we know we need a constant list of people who are willing to help. Please put a note in your calendar for April and October. If you are interested, there is a pamphlet in the church office about running the Rummage Sale.

### **How we do Rummage: The Process**

**Volunteers** – You are the most important part of the process. You are needed to sort things, to determine if they still work, to arrange, measure, cashier, pack, and clean-up. Sign-ups are required, whether paper or online.. New people are paired with experienced helpers.

**Sorters and Sorting Days** – This is the initial Sunday and the weekdays prior to the sales. There should not be any donations accepted the day of any sale. Donations from our congregation and the community arrive. Donations should not show up before Sunday because we rent out our space, so leaving items prior to the start date could cause problems. Helpers need to be aware of donations that are unacceptable if asked. See list on last page. Items are sorted (damaged goods put in trash) and then placed where designated. If you help sort for an hour, you can also shop. Any items selected for buying must be paid for and removed that day. No items may be placed in the kitchen or anywhere else for later.

**Point of Contact Person**- The POC person would be available during sorting to answer questions, explain things to people bringing in donations, and helping to encourage our volunteers. If a question or issue arises that the person does not feel they can handle, they can speak with Jeanne Robson.

There are specialized tasks that can be done any time prior to sales.

**Electric and Electronics Tester** – The job involves certifying that the items work and marking them as such, discarding any non-working items. We have equipment to help with this.

**Large Item Pricer** - Furniture and large items (pictures, large toys, etc.) not on our price list need to be priced.

**Toy Consolidator**- Some toys come with lots of pieces. Pieces need to be put in clear plastic bags and attached to the toy.

**Hanger Coordinator** – We try and use only clear plastic hangers if we have enough. Tubular hangers are collected and placed on the cashier's table for taping together and pricing. Wire hangers may be recycled or trashed. Wooden hangers, if not curved, are kept for our coat rack in the back. Curved ones can be sold. This sorting is also done at cleanup.

**Audio/Visual Checker** – All items that come in plastic cases must be opened to make sure the appropriate disc or tape is inside. If empty, please throw it out.

**Linen Organizer** – We need to label items as to what size they are: i.e.- bed linens - Twin, Double, etc. Similarly label towels per price list. Tablecloth sizes should be noted.

*Volunteers needed for Sale Days include the following:*

**Cashiers and Baggers** –Price lists are at each station, taped to the wall and displayed on tables.

**Saturday** Sales are bag sales and half price items. What can fit in a bag that we supply is charged \$5. Items that are too large for a bag are half priced. If people bring their own bags, then the cashier will make a judgment as to how many bags their bag could hold. Comparable size bags are charged \$5, larger bags should be charged more.

**Check out Control** - people who help direct those to open cashiers.

**Helpers** - assist taking purchases to cars,

**Bad Weather Sale Days** - directing people to shelter in inclement weather and then directing them to the sale when we open, and for **Security** - Checking to see that everyone has paid before leaving.

**Clean-up and Pack** – Normally all clothes and accessories go into large black trash bags. Non clothing items go into boxes. The tables and shoe shelves should be wiped before being put away. Windowsills need to be cleaned, and the floor swept so we are ready for Sunday Fellowship and our renters.

Items that are **not Acceptable for our Rummage Sale** include:

**Large items such as sofas, exercise equipment, etc.**

**Upholstered chairs that are dirty, stained, or torn**

**Worn sports bottles and plastic ware**

**Worn out pots, pans, or utensils**

**Mechanical or electrical items that do NOT work**

**Clothes or linens that are torn, dirty, smelly, or stained**

**Games, puzzles, or toys that are broken or missing parts**

**Computers or monitors**

**Tube Type Televisions**

**Textbooks**

**Broken or dirty tools**

What we need to sell should be clean, usable items.

Although some of the items listed above are unacceptable at our Rummage Sale, mostly due to size, you can **DONATE** them through the Random Online Rummage (RoR) sales organized by Kate Boyce. If you are interested and would be willing to handle the actual transaction from your home, send a picture, description, and dimensions to Kate at [rummagesale@stpetersglenside.org](mailto:rummagesale@stpetersglenside.org) she will get in touch with you. Since she handles the signups and advertising in April and October, it would be greatly appreciated if you contacted her the other ten months to sell these items.

If you have any questions, contact Jeanne Robson at [jcrobson@comcast.net](mailto:jcrobson@comcast.net). Thank you for whatever you can do to help us with these sales. They are the largest fundraisers that we do and the money we make helps the church and its ministries as well as the wider community.

*Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Robson*

**St. Peter's Food Cupboard**

St. Peter's food cupboard is available to anyone in need. It is located through the doors to the parish hall off the parking lot and is open from 7:00am to 7:30pm. The nonperishable food is offered as a "Take what you need, leave what you can" operation.

Through generous donations from parishioners, neighbors and friends, we are currently able to keep our shelves stocked. On occasion, when stocking the shelves, I am pleased to meet others who are using the food cupboard or are donating to it. They are very grateful and will often share their stories with me.

A "thank you" goes out to Matthew Schmidt and his Boy Scout Troop who collected boxes of food for us in the fall. It was a wonderful surprise!

"THANK YOU" to all who contribute both with food items and monetary donations. It is because of you that we can continue to feed our neighbors.

Rick DeKalb and I are partners in managing the shelves and the shopping. We are always looking for others that would like to help. Please contact us if this is a ministry you feel called to.

Our current stock is minimal, and we are in need of donations. Food items or financial help is appreciated.

Contribution suggestions:

- Peanut butter and jelly
- Pasta and tomato sauce
- Canned pasta (Spaghetti-O's)
- Mac and cheese
- Soup
- Cereal (hot or cold)
- Canned chicken, meats, stew and tuna
- Toiletries and hygiene items
- Toilet tissue and paper towels
- Cleaners and soaps

Please no chickpeas or other legumes (beans) or vegetables, as we are currently overstocked.

*Respectfully submitted, Audrey Kipphut*

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

As of this writing, I am preparing for our next blood drive which will take place on Saturday February 8th. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling blip this is the same day as the Peeps retreat, so I really need everybody that's not attending the retreat that day to consider donating blood. If you will be at retreat, please consider donating at another time. It takes about an hour to an hour and a half and you can give a life-saving gift to up to three patients in that short time. Many people believe they are excluded from donating who actually are not, due to recent changes in regulations or just plain misinformation. Please feel free to contact me at [blooddrive@stpetersglenside.org](mailto:blooddrive@stpetersglenside.org) if I can help you learn more.

Our 2024 blood drive had 68 donors scheduled of whom 60 were able to attend and 16 of them were first time blood donors! We were able to collect 56 pints of blood thus helping over 160 people. The THANK YOU PINTS for "THE GIVE A PINT, GET A PINT" drive were supplied by Giuliano's Deli,

the Glenside Pub and Sprinkles ice cream in Elkins Park. Be sure and patronize these generous local businesses.

Here is the link to sign up to make a life-saving donation:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=StPeterGlenside>

*Respectfully submitted, your resident vampire, Kate Boyce*

### **Vaccine Clinic**

A tiny initiative that started out as a way to protect our congregation is turning into a big service for our community. In the fall of 2023, I had a conversation with the pharmacist at Eric's Pharmacy in Maple Glen and mentioned to him that I would be seeing a bunch of seniors at our luncheon the next day. I was asking for information about Medicare coverage for the covid vaccine. When I told him how many people we would have there, he said that they would come to us. And thus, the first vaccine clinic was born. So, in the fall of 2023 and 24, Eric's offered vaccinations for covid and influenza for our Parish and it was also advertised to our neighbors. Because of this, I have become a member of the Montgomery County Immunization Coalition (MCIC) and now have contact with the county department of health. The director of the Department of Public Health came to speak to our lunch Club about all the vaccines that seniors should be getting.

This has now grown into an Outreach for the much larger community, as the county had lost its site for doing mass vaccination clinics in Eastern Montgomery County. So, starting in fall of 2025, St Peters will be the site for the County's vaccination clinic, which will provide a wonderful service for our extended neighborhood, including the under and uninsured. I am gratified to know that when I asked the group assembled for the annual calendar planning meeting if we should move forward with this idea that there was unequivocal support.

*Respectfully submitted, Kate Boyce*

### **Anti Gun Violence**

In June, a few members of St. Peter's met in the library to view a slide show Mary Rivera had prepared to provide information on gun violence facts. A few members from other churches joined the meeting. Some had attended the rally at the Capitol building in May. In September the Diocese, St Luke's parish of Germantown, CeaseFire PA, and the Philadelphia Police Department held a gun buyback at St. Lukes. It was a big success. PPD said it was the largest gun buyback in their history. Some of our members helped with this event.

Rev. Barb stated she was working on getting Soul Shots to come to St. Peters. They only go to 12 locations a year with each location lasting a month. The first week in December we had an organizational meeting for Soul Shots. They will set up January 2. Grant Maurer from CeaseFire PA attended the zoom meeting and said he would have material for a table.

Going into 2025, we want to organize with set dates for at least monthly meetings, more often if needed. We will work with CeaseFire PA and the Anti Gun Violence Committee of the Diocese.

If you would like to join us, please contact Mary Rivera at [19mrivera49@gmail.com](mailto:19mrivera49@gmail.com) or 267-625-0053.

*Respectfully submitted, Mary Rivera*

## **Church Communications**

This year Debbie Panebianco and Charlese Freeman had the pleasure of working with our friends from Bronx Community College's Design Studio for nearly 5 months on brand development and identity.

Our social media accounts have grown drastically. At the start of 2024 our Facebook followers were just over 550, now we have nearly 800. Instagram has grown from 63 followers to over 200. The goal is to continue to use these outlets as well as traditional communication methods to reach a wider community.

Debbie Panebianco continues to maintain and update the St. Peter's website with input from Charlese Freeman. Charlese updates the Home Page every Friday with the upcoming Sunday service information and link to the leaflet. Charlese also maintains the On This Rock blog page and the Giving pages. The Calendar page is directly linked to the parish master calendar which Charlese maintains. Debbie is responsible for maintaining and updating all the other pages, particularly the Events page. The Events page is updated at least once a week, consistent with the information that goes out in the weekly newsletter.

If you have suggestions on how we can improve church communications, please contact Charlese Freeman at [stpeter654@gmail.com](mailto:stpeter654@gmail.com)

*Respectfully submitted by Debbie Panebianco and Charlese Freeman*