

St. Peter's at the Light Episcopal Church
The historic church, circa 1890
7th & Central, PO Box 428
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006
609-494-2398
www.stpeterslbi.org

Plenty Good Room

Responding to God's Abundance

October 30, 2026

Dear St. Peter's Parish Family,

Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places" (John 14:2). This beautiful promise of abundance and absolute welcome lies at the heart of our stewardship theme this year: Plenty Good Room. Stewardship is our faithful reply to God's generosity. It is gratitude put into action, inviting us to claim our place in God's household, make room for others, and live into His grace.

We have so much to celebrate in our shared life. Our church cares deeply for one another and for those well beyond our walls. From weekly fellowship lunches and prayer chains to distributing food to those in need, offering water in our garden on hot summer days, and showing appreciation to our local lifeguards, St. Peter's continues to extend Christ's light.

Last year, in 2025, we reached a historic milestone by officially moving from a Mission to a full Parish in the Diocese of New Jersey. When our forebears planted St. Peter's 89 years ago as a simple summer chapel, they could hardly have imagined how we would thrive. Today, we stand on the shoulders of generations of faithful believers, and we are taking the next step in our transformation by committing to retain a full-time rector to lead us in the future. To ensure our year-round ministries remain vibrant and secure, we are launching our current campaign to fully fund and support our 2027 and forward mission.

A Snapshot of Our Financial Reality:

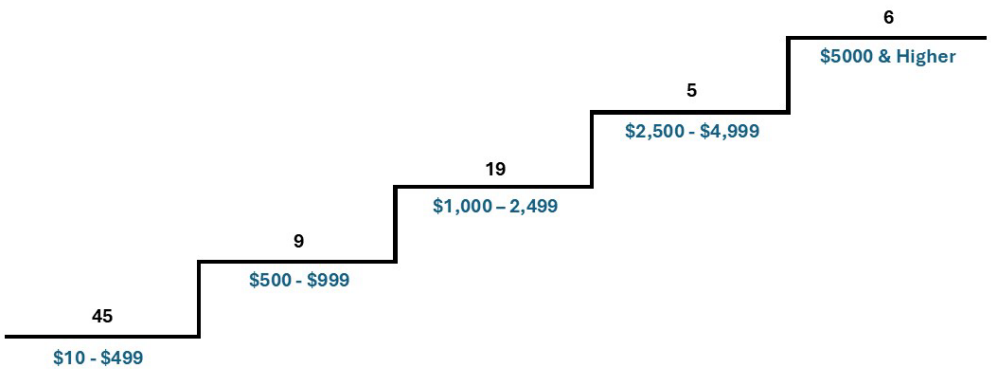
As our ministries expand, so do our operational responsibilities. St. Peter's has historically maintained a reliable financial foothold, occasionally utilizing the Diocesan Investment Trust Account to bridge gaps. However, a review of our recent finances shows that our collective expenses—including worship, music, pastoral care, outreach, building maintenance, and staff compensation—outpace our incoming contributions with a projected deficit for full year 2026.

Our search for a new priest and commitment to find a new full-time rector will allow us to grow our ministries and have greater impact on the community, however it also represents a meaningful financial commitment compared to a part-time retired priest. The total incremental cost is just over $100,000, with healthcare and pension representing the majority of the incremental costs ($67K).

Our direct giving data reveals that just 16 households provide 80% of our entire congregational contribution income. This remarkable commitment anchors our ministries. If you are able, please consider the next step up in your 2027 Estimate of Giving as we can transform what we can accomplish as a community.

The chart below reflects our 2026 year to date giving through Mid October 2026.

There have been 84 family units with recorded giving for a total of $156,323



To build a sustainable future for 2027, every single member of our parish has a vital role to play. Closing the gap between our current giving and what a full-time rector will require will take all of us: every household, at every level, prayerfully increasing its pledge. We can collectively close this gap through practical, intentional steps:

• If you already pledge, please consider how you can increase your pledge by a specific amount or percentage for the coming year. Even $10 or $20 more per week, multiplied across several households, makes a real difference.

• If you give but do not currently pledge, please consider turning your regular giving into a pledge. A pledge helps the vestry plan responsibly. Your contribution is a spiritual commitment, not a legal contract; it can be adjusted at any time if your circumstances change.

• If you have not been able to give regularly, please consider starting with a small, consistent amount. A first-time pledge is a meaningful step in belonging and a shared responsibility.

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...” (James 1:17). Please review the enclosed materials, reflect on your own blessings, and return your completed 2027 Estimate of Giving Card by November 22, 2026. Returning your card on time gives our leadership team the accurate information needed to finalize a balanced, honest, and mission-driven budget for the coming year.

Thank you for your deep love of St. Peter’s. May God’s infinite love and wisdom remain with us all as we make 'plenty good room' for the future of our parish.

With faith and gratitude,

Your 2026 Stewardship & Leadership Team
Len Van Orden, Susan Blauvelt, Eleonora Carr, Tom MacArthur, and Maria Schmidt

P.S. Please join us for Gratitude Sunday on November 22, when we will offer our Estimates of Giving together in worship. Lunch will follow after the service. Bring your card with you that morning, or return it beforehand. We hope to see everyone there!

Ways to Give to St. Peter's at the Light

Your 2027 pledge may be fulfilled in any of these ways.

1. **In the offering basket.** Place your offering in the basket during the offertory.

2. **By mail.** Please send your check to:
   St. Peter's at the Light Episcopal Church
   PO Box 428
   Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

3. **Online through Vanco.** Give once, or set up recurring gifts to spread your pledge across the year.
   secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2D4
   or scan the QR code at the right with your phone's camera.

4. **Through your bank's bill pay.** Schedule automatic payments to St. Peter's using our mailing address above. This saves you mailing checks and saves Vanco processing fees.

5. **From your IRA (Qualified Charitable Distribution).** If you are 70½ or older, you can ask your IRA custodian to send a gift directly to St. Peter's. A QCD is not counted as taxable income, and once you reach Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) age (73 if you were born 1951–1959, or 75 if born in 1960 or later) it can satisfy part or all of your RMD. The check must go directly from your IRA to the church, so please let the Treasurer know when you request the gift so it is credited to your pledge. Your financial advisor can make sure your gift meets IRS rules.

6. **Gifts of stock or securities.** Giving appreciated stock you have held for more than a year generally lets you avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation and, if you itemize, deduct its full market value. Contact the Treasurer for brokerage transfer instructions.

7. **In your estate plan.** Remember St. Peter's in your will, or name the church as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy. Gifts of real estate or personal property are also welcome. Legacy gifts from faithful parishioners have long helped keep St. Peter's financially stable, and yours can sustain our ministry for generations to come.

Questions, tax ID and transfer instructions

Legal name: "The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. Peter's at the Light Episcopal Church in Barnegat Light, NJ."

Tax ID (EIN): **22-3181423**

Contact: Len Van Orden, Treasurer · 201-747-4442 · lhvanorden@gmail.com



St. Peter's-at-the-Light Episcopal Church
PO Box 428, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE_____ EMAIL_____

Giving to the worship and ministries of St. Peter's is a way of giving thanks for the many blessings we have received.

I/We plan to contribute $ _____ per: week month year
Circle one

My/Our total pledge for 2027 is therefore $ _____

Please consider the additional thoughts on the back of this card.

I would like to know more about how to :

- □ Set up payments from my checking account
- □ Online giving using Vanco
- □ Include St. Peter's at the Light in my estate planning
- □ Make a gift to St. Peter's of stocks or securities

You may now contribute to St. Peter's at the Light using our online Vanco portal at Secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2D4

____ I would like a box of envelopes *(You do not need to pledge to receive envelopes.)*

____ Please include me in "snail mail" mailings from St. Peter's at the Light.

____ Please include me in St. Peter's email listing. *(You can unsubscribe any time.)*