



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

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## **Transitions (Parish Register Additions)**

(January 2022 – December 2022)

### **Baptisms**

Victoria Ellen Emr

Sarah Catherine Dean

Sidney Johnston

Julia Arya Troiano

Logan William Verrengia

Olivia Jane Martinez

Evelyn Elyse Newsom

Ella Ilona Zajos

### **Marriages**

Jason Alexander Brun and Dana Theresa Schorer

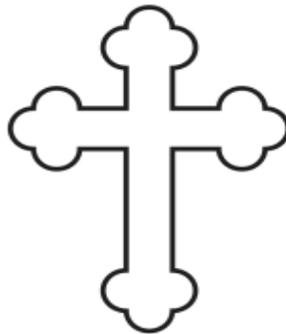
Douglas Warren Yeaw and Kaitlin Nicole Schulz

### **Interments, Memorials**

Howard Storer

Robert Rigger

Roberta Rigger



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**St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mountain Lakes, NJ**  
**Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**January 22, 2023**

**I) Opening Prayer** – Rev. Michael Muller

**II) Elections**

A. Junior Warden

a. Deborah Osborne

B. Vestry

1. Lisa Sonn (3-year term)

2. Mary Del Ojo (3-year term)

3. Kevin Edwards (1-year term)

C.. Delegates to Diocesan Convention

1. E.V. Janopaul

2. Don MacGowan

3. Marguerite Smith

4. Deacon Nancy Hansen

D. Recognition of outgoing Junior Warden and Vestry Members

Anthony Floreno (Jr. Warden)

Bethany Russo

Marguerite Smith

Bradley White

**III) Committee Reports**

A. Presentation of Stewardship Results for 2023 – Bradley White

B. Financial Review of 2022 & Presentation of Budget for 2023 – Steve Emr

C. Discussion Endowment Fund Balance and Activities – Jim Ferguson

**IV) Senior Warden's Report** – Betsy Myatt

**V) Open Discussion**

**VI) Kickoff of the Active Phase of our Centennial Renewal – Extending God's Embrace**

**VII) Closing Prayer**

*Vestry for 2023* Lisa Sonn, Mary Del Ojo, Kevin Edwards Janet Wilson, E.V. Janopaul, Randy Immitt, Renee Caruthers, Traci Rutt, Jeff Roth

*Wardens for 2023:* Betsy Myatt, Senior Warden; Deborah Osborne, Junior Warden

## 2022 Rector's Report

Benedict XVI, of blessed memory, wrote in his first encyclical, that the Church's deepest nature is expressed in her 3-fold responsibility: to worship God; to spread the Good News; and to serve the poor. These three counsels serve well to frame all that God has done with us this past year and clarifies our commitments as we embark on our next 100 years of ministry.

2022 was marked for many of us by a return to in-person **worship**. While the year began with the resurgence of the Omicron variant, herd-immunity, widespread vaccinations and common sense care of each other allowed us to begin to gather again in-person. There is no greater balm for the soul than our communal worship of God. "How good it is", says the psalmist, "when sisters and brothers are together." There the Lord, the psalmist continues, "gives his blessing – life evermore"- a little pre-taste of heaven. (Ps 134)

As the year continued, we have been joined by many new parishioners and our attendance began to match pre-pandemic levels. This was capped by a beautiful Advent season where average Sunday attendance surpassed 100 and 250 people attended Christmas services. I want to encourage continued Sunday attendance as worshipping God is not only the mission of the Church it is the ultimate end of our very existence.



Our hearts are lifted up in worship also through a wonderful music ministry. It was a joy to see the ranks of our choir grow in 2022 and add so much to our weekly celebrations. Our worship extends to those who cannot be with us at church through the service of our new group of camera operators. This ministry extends our worship beyond our doors and opens them to prospective newcomers to St. Peter's.

We are called also to **spread the Good News**. The whole Church always needs to constantly be re-grounded in this mission mindedness. St. Francis would often tell his friars, "Spread the Good News, sometimes use words." We principally spread the Good News by our lives and actions. By loving God with all your heart, mind and strength and by loving your neighbor as yourself. How do we spread the Good News? First, by believing in it ourselves. By daily, faithful following of the Christ into simple trusting union with God.

We cannot do this without nurturing our relationship with God. This goes for us and for our children. Ongoing Christian formation is the house founded on rock that will not fall when the rain comes, the flood waters swell, and the winds blow. I invite all to take advantage of the formation our parish offers. Godly Play and Rite 13 and youth group for our children. The regional faith community for adults and through daily prayer. Together, may we nurture an environment of growth in faith and prayer that we might be drawn into ever deepening relationship with Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.



Finally, the church is called to **serve the poor**. St. Peter's has this impulse in its DNA and 2022 continued to be a year that we reached out to many in need. Two of our longstanding food ministries, Faith Kitchen in Dover and St. John's Luncheon in Boonton also returned to in-person service. The organizations that St. Peter's made direct contributions to in 2022 are listed in the Outreach report. These included food pantries in our diocese, support to Ukraine via Episcopal Relief and Development, and support for Church World Service's ministry of refugee resettlement. There was again a rapid outpouring of support for our Christmas outreach to Lake Drive School and Boonton Social Services and our youth group participated in the "Souper" Bowl Day of Caring to raise funds for the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains.

We also had the joy of giving to the discretionary account of the new priest-in-charge of Trinity and St. Philip Cathedral in Newark. That is because on June 6, 2022, St. Peter's parishioner and our brother in Christ, the Rev. George E. Dredde III was ordained to the Holy Order of Priesthood. It was a delight to share in this celebration with George and we already look forward to collaborating with him in a youth mission trip this summer.

The highlight of our outreach ministry in 2022 was the resettlement of a second Afghan family in the historic Wilson House. We have on numerous occasions referred to this whole story as a "string of miracles" and it was nothing less than that. A building that was quite literally in the process of being abandoned was transformed into habitable space for a young refugee family with 7 children. We already know the great good that came from a decision some 10 years ago to help send 3 Mozambican students to college. Who knows yet the wonderful possibilities that will come from helping 16 people start a new life with the hope of safety and security that they had lost. We must not tire of giving our thanks to Don MacGowan and Diane Grabowski who have taken on the Ibrahimi's as nothing less than a vocation. Without Don's faithfulness none of this would have begun in the first place. Much thanks too is owed to John Garrison and Doug Sonn who took on the job of volunteer project managers and were able to keep the miracles happening. I recommend a reading of John's account of all that happened at the Wilson House, it is still a marvel that in the midst of historic labor shortages and supply chain delays that a full house remodel of a dilapidated Victorian era home was managed by a bunch of church volunteers between April and the end of July.

There were many volunteers and donors who helped make all that possible. Among them were 22 youth from St. Peter's, St. Mary's in Staten Island and Community Church here in Mountain Lakes. The youth painted the entire interior of the house, and you would have thought it was done by professionals. We have wonderful young people in our parish, and it is a joy to see them mature each year.



I must thank so many of you who work tirelessly behind the scenes for the mission and ministry of St. Peter's. To our faithful property group of John Garrison, Doug Sonn, Clive Knowles, Tom George, Charley Eaton and Brian and Sue Marshall who always are tinkering on the next repair and upgrade or beautifying our grounds. To our treasurer, Steve Emr and the Finance Committee who lovingly steward our parish's fiscal life. To the Altar Guild, headed by Wendy Mitchell and Jane Kio. As was mentioned in our diocesan listening session, we are blessed with a really great Altar Guild of which we should all be proud. I want to thank especially the Vestry members who are ending their service to Vestry at this annual meeting: Junior Warden, Anthony Floreno, and Vestry people Bethany Russo, Marguerite Smith and Brad White. Their wisdom and strength will be missed on Vestry, but we are not letting any of them go far. Anthony has committed to helping guide our fundraising efforts and we could not let him go as co-chair of the Action Auction after hosting one of the most successful Auctions in recent memory. Bethany has once again taken on the mantle of skillfully leading a major capital improvement and we will hear from her as our Centennial Renewal unfolds. Brad is often helping behind the scenes and will continue as our Stewardship chair. And we are just super thankful that Marguerite continues to do all she does in worship, finance and outreach and more all the while being part of George's ministry at the Cathedral. I thank you all for your faithful service and friendship.

I cannot conclude without offering, on behalf of us all, a deep hearted thanks for the ministry of Rev. Deacon Nancy Hansen. Weekly, Nancy makes sure that those who are not able to come to church feel the embrace of God's presence in their lives. Her service at the altar, pastoral care and active participation in the regional faith community has been a wonderful gift to our parish community.

May God bless the next century of ministry at St. Peter's and may we grow more deeply in our worship of God, our spreading of the Gospel and our service to the poor.

Peace,  
Fr. Michael

## 2022 Senior Warden's Report

2022 continued to be a year of many challenges in our world but was also one of hope and renewal for people of faith. We are excited to move forward into 2023 when we will celebrate the first 100 years of St. Peter's, and we look forward to celebrating together and reaching outward for the next 100 years beyond our walls.

At St. Peter's we have felt God's love in 2022 with the addition of 60 new members to our Parish family and a record number of baptisms. In addition, we have made a lasting impact on our community.

### Worship

First and foremost, we are blessed with an extraordinary Rector whose homilies bring the scriptures and Gospel to light and give us inspiration to be the best people we can be – as God has intended - as we go out into the world each week. We continue to benefit from the service of Rev. Deacon Nancy Hansen, who brings love and hope to many from our Parish who are not able to be with us in person.

Our worship has returned to a new normal – with full in-person services and eucharist. Our ushers and eucharistic ministers, and our Verger, Tim O'Donnell have resumed normal duties, and we are thankful for their service. We will continue to offer a virtual opportunity going forward which is a blessing to those who are not able to attend in person. We have a team of dedicated volunteers who operate the camera each week to make that possible: Anthony Floreno, Clive Knowles, E.V. Janopaul, Marguerite Smith, Charlotte Kalb, Brad White and Tom George.

Another blessing of 2022 is the return of the full choir. Visitors to St. Peter's often tell me how impressed and delighted they are by the music of our outstanding choir, organ and soloists under the direction and creativity of our music director Sal Lagattuta.

St. Peter's is a beautiful church, and its beauty is enhanced every week by the Altar Guild. Under the leadership of Wendy Mitchell and Jane Kio, the Altar Guild faithfully prepares for every service.

In 2022, we celebrated together as our parishioner George Dredde was ordained as a Priest and became Priest-in-Charge at Trinity & St. Phillip's Cathedral in Newark.

When we look back over 2022, we have much to be thankful for in our worship beyond our boundaries.

### Christian Education

Our children have continued to benefit from Sunday School and Godly Play, and we have added Rite 13 this year for older children. The leadership and love of Liz Muller and our wonderful teachers, listed in the Sunday School report, is abundant and apparent.

Alyson Pearl now serves in a new ministry as she guides and prepares our children for Family Sunday services where the children contribute in every way. We are delighted to see the numbers of children and their engagement growing. As our children learn about the love of God, they are also becoming friends and members of our church family.



The Youth Group continues to thrive, and their mission trip this year was in our back yard. They were able to work and contribute greatly to the rehabilitation of the Wilson House for refugee resettlement.



### **Administration and Fiduciary Care**

John Garrison and the property committee have provided oversight for many improvements throughout the year while Brian and Sue Marshall continue to beautify and tend to our grounds. This year, their efforts were joined by Charley Eaton who has generously donated the lawn services of his new landscaping company.

We are extremely fortunate to have talented and dedicated volunteers watching over our finances: the Finance Committee, the Trustees of the Endowment, our Audit Committee, our Vestry, and our Parish Coordinator. Our Treasurer, Steve Emr, continues to work diligently throughout the year on all the details of our finances and is aided by E.V. Janopaul and Marguerite Smith who take care of our income, Bob Emer who keeps track of our pledges, and Hope White, Heidi O'Donnell and E.V. Janopaul who work on our audit. We have Jim Ferguson and our Endowment trustees to thank for making certain that our endowment is invested and spent wisely.

Last, but most certainly not least, we are fortunate to have Sue Marshall. Sue is involved in every aspect of St. Peter's, not only through expert work and office management but also keeping all of us informed and on track.

It has been a great pleasure to finally work with our wonderful Vestry in person after two years of virtual meetings. Thank you to our Junior Warden, Anthony Floreno and the rest of the Vestry: Renee Caruthers, Randy Immitt, E.V. Janopaul, Jeff Roth, Bethany Russo, Traci Rutt, Marguerite Smith, Brad White, and Janet Wilson for their commitment and service to St. Peter's. Our Vestry provides oversight of everything important to St. Peter's and carries our mission forward. The work of the Vestry is God's work. Special thanks to Renee Caruthers and Traci Rutt for their excellent work as clerk, providing detailed minutes for each Vestry meeting.

A very special thank you to Anthony Floreno, our Jr. Warden, Bethany Russo, Marguerite Smith, and Brad White who depart from the Vestry this year. They will all remain actively involved in different missions of our church – we are not letting them get away.

### **Outreach**

When we speak of St. Peter's "beyond our walls," we think of the work we do in the community to help people in need. We can trust Don McGowan and the outreach committee to respond and made wise recommendations for the direction of our charitable funds in the community.

Our parishioners, Don and Diane Grabowski have been guardian angels for the Ibrahimi family, refugees from Afghanistan who settled in our beautifully rebuilt St. John's rectory. They have personally delivered God's love to the Ibrahimi family through their care and concern ever since the family arrived. Our refugee resettlement work continued in 2022 through the amazing rehabilitation of the Wilson House in Boonton and the arrival of the Mohabat family.



St. Peter's is in the community again through our volunteer work - another post-COVID blessing. We are now able to again serve our community through volunteerism at the St. John's Luncheon and Faith Kitchen. Helen Pulitano and Steve Emr serve as team captains for the St. John's Luncheon ministry.

St. Peter's outreach and love is truly changing hundreds of lives.

## Parishioner Support

We had our most successful fundraising event of all time this year with our Action Auction, headed up by Anthony Floreno and Kevin Edwards. Everyone enjoyed being together again.



Adding to our fundraising success was the fish fry and jewelry event, headed up by Tracy Rutt, and a popcorn sale led by Marguerite Smith.



Bethany Russo and John Garrison have led the Centennial Renewal Committee with a goal of establishing a project that will celebrate the first 100 years of St. Peter's and will represent the renewal of St. Peter's for the next 100 years. A great deal of work and planning has been accomplished to make sure the project will move forward effectively and beautifully.

Janet Wilson contributes in many ways, but one of her tireless endeavors is her card ministry, checking in on those in our Parish who are on the prayer list and thanking others.

In addition to serving on the Vestry, Centennial Renewal and Finance Committees, Brad White was our Stewardship chair, heading up a successful campaign so we can continue all of our necessary ministry in 2023.

There are many other contributors to our beautiful and caring Parish, but it is obvious from those that I've mentioned, that we are blessed with unparalleled volunteers.

We celebrate the love of God that we have experienced when we look back on 2022, and now we are looking forward to the next 100 years of St. Peter's.

Isaiah 43:18-19 "No need to remember the events of the past, no need to think what was before. Look, I am doing something new, now it emerges; can you see it?"

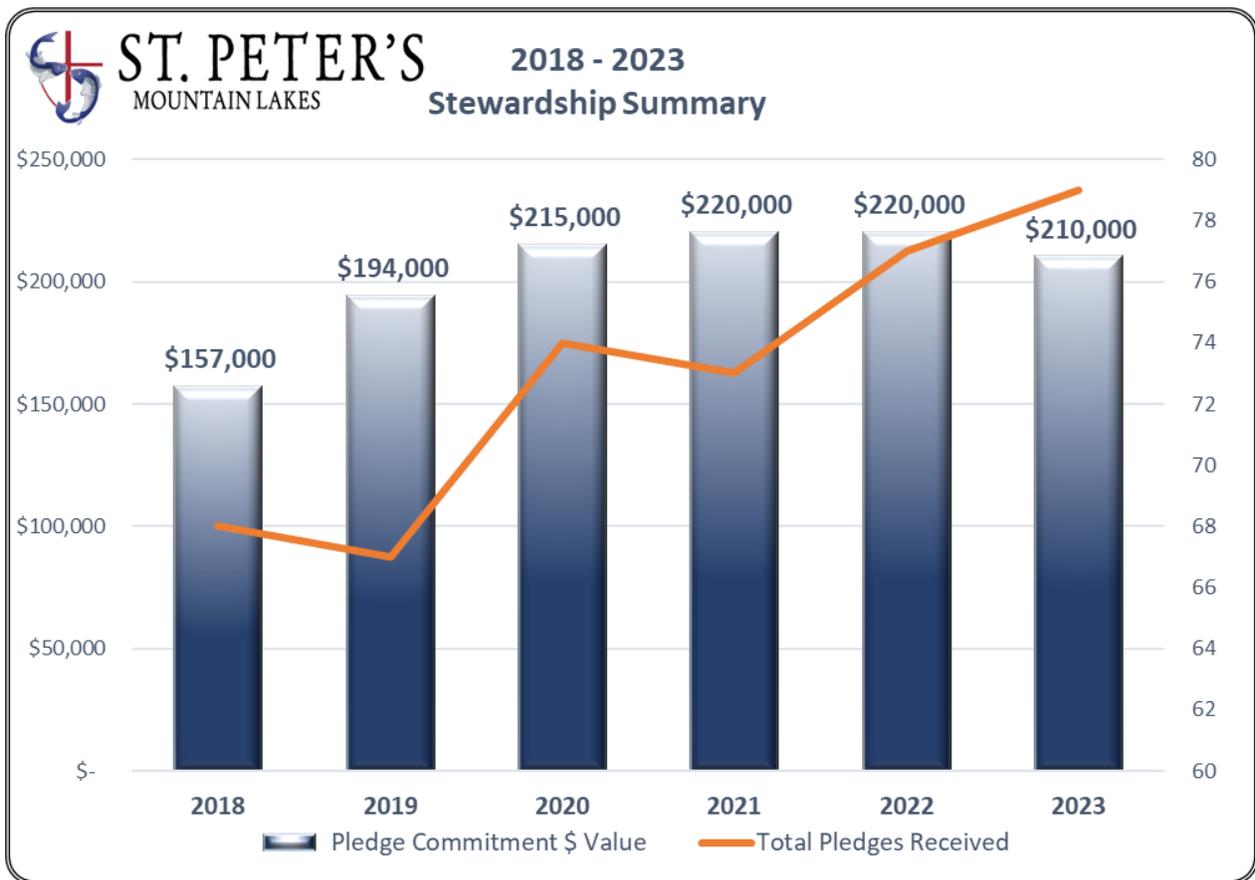
Betsy Myatt,  
Senior Warden

## 2022 Stewardship Report

As we start a new year, we close out our stewardship campaign from last fall. Overall, we are pleased to report that we made significant progress during our campaign this year.

This has been a great campaign, which started with Betsy Myatt, our Senior Warden, writing a wonderful letter to capture the theme for this year's stewardship campaign from Isaiah 43:18 –19 "No need to remember the events of the past, no need to think what was before. Look, I am doing something new, now it emerges; can you see it?" It continued with reflections about the campaign and pledging at St. Peter's from Brad, Jeff Roth and Betsy Myatt always supported by Janet Wilson, Marguerite Smith, and Fr. Michael.

We are proud to communicate that our stewardship activity has continued to grow over the past five years. The total number of new pledges has grown and outpaced those who have relocated away from the Church. We have a strong base of pledging individuals/families, which we are very grateful for, and we remain very thankful for our existing Parishioners who continue to support the operations of the church.



At the conclusion of our campaign year, we received 79 pledges totaling \$210,000.

Thank you to everyone who pledged this year. Your pledges will help us continue to grow and will help many others in need through our outreach programs. We are grateful for all contributions and commitments received and are blessed to be prepared for the year ahead.

- *St. Peter's Stewardship Committee*

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
**2022 Income-Expense Report/2023 Budget**

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>					
<i>Contributions</i>					
Pledges	\$209,514	\$226,585	\$220,000	\$213,950	\$210,000
All Other Donations	\$21,159	\$18,290	\$17,950	\$16,311	\$18,100
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$230,673</b>	<b>\$244,875</b>	<b>\$237,950</b>	<b>\$230,262</b>	<b>\$228,100</b>
<i>Fund Raising</i>					
Action Auction	\$20,569	\$25,070	\$26,000	\$47,258	\$25,000
Other Fund Raisers	\$1,292	\$5,331	\$5,000	\$4,289	\$5,500
<b>Total Fund Raising</b>	<b>\$21,861</b>	<b>\$30,401</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$51,547</b>	<b>\$30,500</b>
<i>Misc. Income</i>					
Rental Income	\$20,455	\$19,530	\$20,800	\$25,890	\$31,300
Investment Income	\$12,253	\$8,279	\$9,000	\$7,877	\$12,500
Other Misc Income	\$4,372	\$2,775	\$2,500	\$3,236	\$1,600
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$289,614</b>	<b>\$305,860</b>	<b>\$301,250</b>	<b>\$318,811</b>	<b>\$304,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Clergy and Staff	\$116,948	\$115,427	\$126,518	\$125,547	\$131,200
Diocesan Pledge (\$)	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
<i>Diocesan Pledge (%)</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>10%</i>
Insurance	\$23,387	\$25,135	\$24,424	\$24,713	\$26,018
Music	\$28,556	\$31,046	\$35,452	\$35,426	\$36,361
Office Expense	\$11,399	\$11,769	\$9,700	\$12,884	\$11,590
Outreach	\$20,293	\$9,600	\$10,000	\$11,596	\$12,500
Capital Improvements:					
Parish Hall Roof		\$25,525	\$0	-\$12,750	\$0
Gutter Guards		\$6,024	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property Survey for Capital Campaign		\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Repair Stain Glass Window					\$18,760
Other Property	\$35,548	\$51,179	\$48,440	\$35,084	\$36,440
Utilities	\$20,822	\$20,398	\$22,500	\$23,790	\$24,200
Rel Ed/Youth/Fellowship/Misc	\$7,984	\$6,929	\$15,594	\$10,371	\$7,545
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$284,936</b>	<b>\$339,032</b>	<b>\$322,628</b>	<b>\$296,661</b>	<b>\$334,614</b>
<b>Net Income - Expense</b>	<b>\$4,678</b>	<b>-\$33,172</b>	<b>-\$21,378</b>	<b>\$22,151</b>	<b>-\$30,614</b>

**St Peter's Episcopal Church**  
2022 Statement of Financial Position

	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Assets</b>				
<i>Checking / Saving</i>				
Connectone Bank	58,670	70,972	32,836	-447
Peapack Gladstone Bank	0	0	17,165	76,998
PG Bank- 100th Anniver. Capital Campaign	0	0	100	213,428
Fidelity Cash Account	1,365	1,370	1,370	1,384
Checking / Saving Totals:	60,149	72,342	51,471	291,363
<i>Vestry Restricted Funds</i>				
Note Receivable	17,046	13,354	10,815	8,211
Mutual Funds (Diocese)	13,287	14,900	17,858	14,570
Episcopal Church Foundation/State Street	440,277	487,845	549,691	457,349
Vestry Restricted Funds Totals:	470,610	516,100	578,364	480,130
<i>Donor Restricted Funds</i>				
DR Grocery Cards and Other Script	4,883	4,911	5,291	4,297
<b>Total Assets</b>	535,642	593,353	635,126	775,790
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<i>Vestry Restricted Funds</i>				
Note Payable	17,046	13,354	10,815	8,211
Total Liabilities:	17,046	13,354	10,815	8,211
<b>Net Assets</b>				
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>				
General Fund	-11,849	6,848	11,527	-21,118
<i>Vestry Restricted Funds</i>				
VS Mutual Fund (Diocese)	13,287	14,900	17,858	14,570
VS - Endowment	440,277	487,845	549,691	457,349
VS-Other	27,108	26,845	26,845	26,845
Outreach - Vestry Managed	4,023	508	508	508
Vestry Restricted Funds Totals:	484,695	530,098	594,902	594,902
<i>Dedicated Accounts</i>				
Without Donor Restrictions	1,475	2,024	5,084	13,940
With Donor Restrictions	25,578	36,351	45,442	253,334
Dedicated Accounts Totals:	27,053	38,374	50,527	267,274
Total Net Assets:	518,596	579,999	624,311	767,578
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets:</b>	535,642	593,353	635,126	775,790

## **2022 Treasurer's Report**

### **Income-Expense Report Year 2022**

**INCOME:** Total Income for the Year 2022 of 318,811 was \$17,561 over Budget despite Total Contributions being under budget \$7,688 and Investment distributions under budget \$1,123. Our shortfall in Total Contributions was primarily a result of Pledge Payments being under budget by \$6,050 however this was offset by our very successful Annual Auction which produced net income of \$47,258 and resulted in our Fund Raising income for the year being over budget of \$20,547.

**EXPENSES:** Total Expenses for the year of \$296,661 were \$25,967 under budget due primarily to the under budget for Clergy Allowances, Property, and Music. We also received \$12,750 from the Diocese as 50% reimbursement for our Parish Hall Roof replacement which was expensed in 2022.

**NET INCOME (Income less Expenses):** As a result of higher income and lower expenses plus the reimbursement for last year's Parish Hall roof, our Net Income for 2022 was a positive \$22,151 versus our planned budget of negative \$21,378.

### **Budget 2023:**

The Budget for 2023 was approved by the Vestry at the January 2023 meeting. The 2023 Budget is based on receiving pledge payments (our primary source of revenue) of \$210,000 for the year which is down from the \$213,950 received in 2022. It also anticipates that the congregation will support three events in 2023 that will contribute \$30,500 to our income. Income for 2023 is Budgeted to be \$304,000, a \$16,800 decrease over actual 2022 income primarily due to lower Pledge contributions and lower income from our Action Auction.

Expenses for 2023 have been budgeted at \$334,614 which is an increase of \$12,000 over last year's budget due primarily to the estimated cost to repair the Stain Glass window at the rear of the church. The net result of lower income and higher expenses will generate a Net Loss for 2023 of \$30,614. Fortunately, we have accumulated operating cash of \$77,935 to offset our 2023 deficit.

### **Statement of Financial Position as of Dec. 31, 2022**

Our operating cash position in our 2 bank accounts (ConnectOne and Peapack Gladstone) at year end was \$77,935. We also have begun accepting donations for our 2023 Centennial Renewal initiative and those funds are in a Donor Restricted, Dedicated Fund and total \$213,428 at year end.

Our major asset remains our Endowment Fund which is held by the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) and managed by State Street Global Advisors. Including the note payable to the Endowment from the church of \$8,211 the total Endowment value at year end was \$465,560. The note was reduced in \$2,604 in 2022. The note which originated Jan. 2016 was \$25,000 at a rate of 2.5% and was used by the church to pay off a loan from Union Center Bank to complete renovations to the Rectory and repair of the large Stained Glass window at the rear of the nave. It will be paid in full at year end 2025.

Steve Emr,  
Treasurer

## 2022 Endowment Report

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund is a \$465,560 investment asset owned by the parish and invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and a loan. Investment income, that is, interest and dividends earned by the investments, is distributed to the Treasurer periodically. Substantial payments of Endowment principal can be, and have been, distributed to St. Peter's for unusual, non-recurring expenditures, when requested by the Vestry and congregation, under specific rules. The Endowment Fund was created and established by the Vestry Resolution of December 21, 1999 and is operated for the benefit of the Parish under the Trust Agreement dated May 30, 2000 between the Rector, Warden and Vestry, and three Trustees. The Trust Agreement stipulates how the Trustees are to invest and disburse assets of the Fund. The Fund is a part of and the property of the Parish. Trustees serve five-year terms, extendible for one additional five-year term. The trustees select successor Trustees, who are then submitted for approval by the Vestry and Rector. Only one person may serve concurrently as a Trustee and Vestry member.

### TRUSTEES

The current Trustees of the Endowment are:

Jim Ferguson (Chair) – His second five-year term expires 01/2024

Hope White – Her second five-year term expires 01/2025

E.V. Janopaul – Her second five-year term expires 01/2027

### INVESTMENTS

The Endowment Fund is in two parts: at 12/31/22, \$457,348 in investment securities, and \$8,212 in a loan to St. Peter's Church, which matures December 1, 2025. St. Peter's uses the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) as advisor for investment assets, which in turn uses State Street Global Advisors (SSGA), which invests the funds in proprietary ECF Growth and ECF Income Funds. The ECF Funds are in turn invested in mutual funds and ETFs. The loan to St. Peter's is managed by the Trustees and the Treasurer. The initial loan by the Endowment was made in 2011 for \$41,977 at 4%, to repay a 7% loan from Union Center Bank, now ConnectOne Bank. That loan was paid down to \$25,141 in December 2015, and was refinanced by the Endowment at 2.5%, maturing in December 2025, with monthly payments of principal and interest of \$237. The interest rate on the loan is in line with the income earned on fixed income investment assets in the ECF Income Fund. The total investment portfolio is allocated 70% equities (ECF Growth Fund) and 30% fixed income (ECF Income Fund, plus the fixed rate loan due from St. Peter's Church).

### DISBURSEMENTS

During 2022, the Endowment Fund distributed \$7,847 of investment income, that is, dividends and interest, to fund the mission and ministry of St. Peter's. Total investment income for 2022 was \$9,574, but it was decided that additional income be kept invested as St. Peter's did not need the cash.

For the past four years, St. Peter's had no funding needs for principal from the Endowment.

### RECEIPTS

During 2022 the Endowment Fund received investment income and loan repayments. No donations to Endowment were received.

Respectfully submitted by the Endowment Trustees,

Jim Ferguson, Chair

Hope White

E.V. Janopaul

**ST. PETER'S ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT, 2022 1/22/23 p. 2 of 2**

1/17/23

St. Peter's Church Endowment Fund - Annual Activity	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Beginning Value:</b>					
Episcopal Church Fdtn (State Street Global Adv.)	549,691.46	487,845.30	440,276.91	367,582.62	418,196.87
Loan due to Endowment from St. Peter's	<u>10,814.98</u>	<u>13,354.21</u>	<u>17,046.09</u>	<u>18,246.31</u>	<u>20,602.25</u>
<b>Total Endowment at Beginning</b>	<b>560,506.44</b>	<b>501,199.51</b>	<b>457,323.00</b>	<b>385,828.93</b>	<b>438,799.12</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>					
Investment Income Paid to St. Peter's	7,487.03	8,074.04	12,071.60	9,048.57	11,475.00
Rectory Repairs					22,400.00
Organ Protection during Slate Roof Replacement					
<b>Total Disbursements to St. Peter's</b>	<b>7,487.03</b>	<b>8,074.04</b>	<b>12,071.60</b>	<b>9,048.57</b>	<b>33,875.00</b>
<b>Management Fees</b>	<b>2,503.27</b>	<b>2,317.77</b>	<b>2,173.99</b>	<b>2,093.68</b>	<b>2,194.74</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>					
Appreciation/(Depreciation) in ECF/SSGA portfolio	(95,534.41)	56,254.11	49,024.96	63,044.40	(36,322.53)
Investment Income Earned	9,332.92	8,074.04	9,107.39	11,138.82	9,433.90
Contributions: Reimbursements by W. Herbert Fund				7,757.24	8,500.00
Gifts to the Endowment Fund		5,000.00			1,000.00
<b>Loan Payments Rec'd from St. Peter's:</b>					
Principal Repayments	2,603.43	2,539.23	3,691.88	2,415.52	2,355.94
Interest Payments	<u>240.69</u>	<u>304.89</u>	<u>574.30</u>	<u>428.60</u>	<u>488.18</u>
<b>Total Loan Payments</b>	<b>2,844.12</b>	<b>2,844.12</b>	<b>4,266.18</b>	<b>2,844.12</b>	<b>2,844.12</b>
<b>Decrease in Loan Principal</b>	<b>2,603.43</b>	<b>2,539.23</b>	<b>3,691.88</b>	<b>1,200.22</b>	<b>2,355.94</b>
<b>Ending Value:</b>					
Episcopal Church Fdtn (State Street Global Adv.)	457,348.64	549,691.46	487,845.30	440,276.91	367,582.62
Loan due to Endowment from St. Peter's	<u>8,211.55</u>	<u>10,814.98</u>	<u>13,354.21</u>	<u>17,046.09</u>	<u>18,246.31</u>
<b>Total Endowment at End</b>	<b>465,560.19</b>	<b>560,506.44</b>	<b>501,199.51</b>	<b>457,323.00</b>	<b>385,828.93</b>

## 2022 Sunday School Report



We have much to be grateful for this year. In the spring of 2022, we were able to hold our Easter Egg Hunt around the grounds of the rectory. The children were thoroughly delighted in hunting for over 300 eggs, and especially for the three golden eggs hidden around the shrubs. Who wouldn't delight in a milk chocolate Easter bunny?

During the summer, some of our volunteers were still at work. Four of them, Alyson Pearl, Rev. Deacon Nancy Hansen, Katie Danbury and Traci Rutt participated in a local training at St. Peter's, Morristown, to become certified Godly Play Story Tellers. This included a day and a half of in-person training as well as 4 weekly zoom sessions. Their willingness to do this is

a gift to our parish and strengthens this essential ministry to our children. Not only were we gifted with new certified teachers, but we also had new volunteers join our ministry: Beka Immitt, Lisa Sonn, Hadley White, Brendan Ehlers, and Jeffrey Roth. And we couldn't have served our beautiful children without the assistance of our faithful returning volunteers, Evelyn Watkins, Carolyn Harris, Jessica Yarnall, Don MacGowan, and Charlotte O'Donnell.

The first Sunday of Advent fell on Thanksgiving weekend. And although it was a holiday weekend, we had 10 families gather to assemble Advent wreaths using natural greens. Many thanks to Sue Marshall for taking care of ordering the oases, candles, and candle holders. And thanks to Sue and many others for providing fresh greens from their gardens, and trimmings to decorate the wreaths.

This fall we started a middle school class using a curriculum from the Episcopal Church called Rite 13. We try to prepare the lessons to highlight the relevance of faith with their lives in a safe and non-threatening way for our middle schoolers.

Thanks to all of these volunteers, we can provide a meaningful Sunday School experience within the limited time that we have. Because what is this all about? But to pass on our faith to our children. To give them not only a language and a foundation in faith, but a place that offers them comfort, support, community and the big picture of God's love for them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Muller

## 2022 Youth Group Report

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month our youth meet to share time in prayer, discussion, games and food. It is a relaxing time to be together and just be ourselves. This past year was especially important as our eight 8<sup>th</sup> graders were Confirmed on April 18. In February, \$700 was raised for the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains through our chili sales on the "Souper Bowl" Day of Caring. Our youth raises money for our summer mission trip at the Pancake Supper and helped with serving at the parish Fish Fry. In June, we joined youth from Community Church in Mountain Lakes and St. Mary's in Staten Island to help refurbish the Wilson House for refugee resettlement. We can be proud of our youth who are always ready to serve and are thoughtful in their discussion of what it means to be a Christian in our world today. They are always very respectful of each other, and it is fun to be together.



## 2022 Outreach Report

In 2022 St. Peter's Outreach Committee changed its focus somewhat. In the worst of the Covid years (2020 and 2021) we donated significantly to food pantries run by churches in our diocese. In 2022 we still gave to food pantries, although in lesser amounts, and we responded to refugee needs and world events in ways we haven't before.

St. Peter's congregation and Vestry continued to support Outreach very nicely with \$10,000 allocated in the 2022 budget. **We donated a total of \$11,615** in 2022 as follows. (Donations exceeded budget because a donation approved in 2021 wasn't distributed until early '22).

### Food Pantries

Boonton Presbyterian Church, which the Ibrahimi family visits regularly -- \$500  
Epiphany & Christ Episcopal Church, (Orange) -- \$500  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (West Orange) -- \$500

### Refugee Assistance

Episcopal Relief & Development, supporting needs due to the situation in the Ukraine -- \$2,500  
Church World Service, recognizing their extensive refugee resettlement work -- \$1,000

### Ibrahimi Family Related

Contribution to the six-church fund supporting St. John's rectory -- \$1,300  
Gifts to the Ibrahimi family for Eid observances in April and July -- \$1,500

### Other

Bishop's Alleluia Fund, in support of Outreach at the diocesan level -- \$500  
Trinity & St. Phillip's Cathedral, to help restart the rector's discretionary fund -- \$1,000  
Trinity & St. Phillip's to help support a YWCA volunteer luncheon -- \$200  
St. Peter's Willing & Eager Hands (aka, Knitting Ministry) -- \$500  
Mountain Lakes Fire Department -- \$200  
Mountain Lakes Police Department -- \$200

### Lunch Programs

Funds for Faith Kitchen -- \$635  
Funds for St. John's Luncheons -- \$580

### Notes on 2022 Outreach Donations

Six Episcopal churches help to support the refugee resettlement effort at St. John's rectory. A fund was established to cover expenses that arise in the rectory itself, as well as to assist the Ibrahimi family, who have been living there since December 2021, with unusual expenses. As one of the six churches, St. Peter's contributes to this fund.

Eid (pronounced "eed") is an important occasion in the life of Islam families around the world. There is "Little Eid" at the end of Ramadan in April, and "Big Eid" in July. Like our Christmas and Easter, they are festive times of prayer, celebration, renewal, and gift-giving. Because the Ibrahimi family had very little money at the times of Eid in 2022, the Outreach committee chose to give to them money to help them celebrate the most important times in their calendar.

Our own Rev. George Dredde was ordained and installed in June as priest-in-charge at Trinity & St. Phillip's Cathedral in Newark. During the installation service Bishop Hughes pointed out that because the cathedral didn't have a rector for several years, the rector's discretionary fund was nonexistent. A discretionary fund is critical for the rector of any church as he/she ministers to those with special needs, so the Outreach committee chose to donate \$1,000 to help replenish the fund, which other churches in the diocese did also.

A small number of St. Peter’s women enjoy knitting and crocheting items ranging from prayer shawls, to hats and booties for babies (given through North Porch), to hats and scarves for maritime workers (given through the Seaman’s Church Institute in Port Newark). They have worked for years with on-hand materials, and this year requested an Outreach donation to help fund their efforts.

During the Covid years (2020-2021) St. Peter’s participation in the St. John’s (Boonton) luncheon program and Faith Kitchen (Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover) had to be curtailed. St. John’s luncheons weren’t held at all, and Faith Kitchen transitioned to brown-bag lunches prepared by the 30-odd churches that participate in the program. Happily, both programs resumed in mid-2022, so we could again cook and serve in-person lunches at St. John’s once each quarter, and prepare and serve lunches to about 80 clients at Faith Kitchen whenever there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in a month (usually four times each year). The expenses for both programs are charged against St. Peter’s Outreach budget.

It is a long-standing St. Peter’s tradition to give Christmas gifts to children at **Lake Drive School** and **Boonton Social Services**, which we did again in 2022 with some 41 beautifully wrapped gifts for infants, children, and families.

Our work continues with the Ibrahim family, refugees from Afghanistan who are living in St. John’s rectory in Boonton. The family is making good progress, with Wahid (dad) working at Walmart and three of their five children in the Boonton schools (2<sup>nd</sup> grade, kindergarten, and preschool). But they have a long way to go, particularly learning English (spoken, reading, and writing). Assistance from some of our always-willing parishioners will help them immeasurably. More about the Ibrahim family’s progress is elsewhere in this Annual Report.

There are organizations that St. Peter’s Outreach has donated to in past years – the Community Food Bank, Faith Kitchen, Family Promise, the Mental Health Association, North Porch, and nourish.NJ – that we did not donate to in 2022. This doesn’t mean we think any less of them. It was simply a matter of having to stretch our dollars in ways we feel are most needed at this time. We will surely donate to some of them in future years.

+ + + + + + + +

St. Peter’s Outreach Committee is guided by the words in Matthew 25:40, “*Inasmuch as you have done unto the least of these my brethren, so you have done unto me*”. With the help of many in our church, we live these words every day.

The Outreach Committee is a dedicated group that develops St. Peter’s Outreach strategy and direction each year. Its challenge is to recognize needs, evaluate possible ways to address them, and support organizations and causes that we feel can make a difference through their resources and capabilities. We look for the best ways to invest our time, talents and treasures so as to achieve the best results.

The Outreach Committee is open to ideas as to how best to direct St. Peter’s mission. New members are welcome to help further the discussion. Contact any of us to let us know of your interest.

For the Outreach Committee,

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Don MacGowan, Chair | Rev. Michael Muller |
| Jeff Anderson       | Annie Peters        |
| Mary Anderson       | Dana Schorer        |
| Laura Lee Carrico   | Marguerite Smith    |
| Anna Floreno        | Evelyn Watkins      |
| E. V. Janopaul      | Jerry Watkins       |
| Liz Muller          |                     |

## Ibrahimi Family Update 2022

The Ibrahimi family arrived in Boonton from Ft. Dix on Dec. 4, 2021, with help and support from Church World Service. Six Episcopal churches, including St. Peter's, helped make it possible for the family to live in St. John's rectory. Wahid and Nadia Ibrahimi and their children are grateful for the kindness and support they are receiving in their new lives. The year has been challenging for them, but they are making progress and adjusting to life in the U.S.

The biggest event, shortly after their arrival, was the Jan. 30, 2022 birth of their fifth child, a daughter named Helia (pronounced Hee-la), which means "hope" in their Pashto language. Ten months later she is a happy and healthy baby girl who will soon be walking on her own.

We signed up for support services in Morris County that assist people in need – TANF (financial support), SNAP (food stamps), WIC (food support for women, infants, and children), food pantries, and more. These are invaluable for people coming into the country who need help getting started. And we helped establish identities for the Ibrahimis – SSNs, driver's license, bank accounts, and more – to make it possible for them to live their lives and conduct routine business in the community.

Learning English was, and still is, a big issue. The Ibrahimi's language is Pashto, one of several in Afghanistan. Wahid spoke a little English when they arrived, but not nearly enough to get along on his own, and he couldn't (and still can't) read or write much in English. Nadia and the children didn't know English at all. We enrolled Wahid in online ESL programs and a beginner-level course at CCM, and after a year of everyday conversation his spoken English is much improved.

A high priority was to get the kids into school. We enrolled Asmah, the oldest child, in first grade in the Boonton public school in March. In September she moved up to second grade, and her younger brothers Omer and Osman went into kindergarten and preschool. The Boonton school system is good with refugee children, with a lot of emphasis on English language learning and other necessary skills. As a result, all three are beginning to speak English. When we visit with them, the kids like to get out their books to read to them, and they like to point to pictures and identify them in English. It is great to see their enthusiasm.

A car became available to Wahid in June, and, with an affordable state-sponsored auto insurance policy, his world opened up and it became possible for the family to do their food shopping and other things on their own. With his car and the ability to get around, Wahid found a job at Walmart in Cedar Knolls, a 9-6, 40 hour a week job as a fulfillment specialist. It keeps him busy; he enjoys his co-workers and vice-versa, and he gets a lot of practice with his English.

Because of their family size and income level, the Ibrahimis qualify for Medicaid, yet another essential benefit for them, which provides both medical and dental benefits. Everyone in the family is generally healthy, but Wahid and Nadia both need extensive dental work after lifetimes of no dental care. With guidance from Heidi O'Donnell they are having work done at UMDNJ in Newark.

Immigration, which is very complicated, is being handled with the help of Church World Service immigration attorneys. The Ibrahimi family will pursue SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) status and should be able to apply for a Green Card early in 2023. With a Green Card the family can live and work permanently in the U.S. and apply for citizenship after a five-year waiting period.

In spite of all the Ibrahimi family has been through, they are genuinely good and happy people. Their lives are hectic, and they face new challenges every day, but they know they are in a good and safe place surrounded by people who care about their well-being. They know their children can attend school and grow up in a country where they will have every opportunity. And Wahid looks forward to learning new skills and qualifying for jobs beyond Walmart. Nadia is learning a little English and will be pulled along by the children as they grow and flourish in the schools, make new friends, and fit into the American lifestyle. She and Wahid

are deeply rooted in their Afghan traditions, but we see them finding middle ground that includes the best of the culture they grew up in and the ways of living they are learning in the U.S.

Two qualities of the Afghan way of life -- their hospitality, and their family and community ties -- are inspiring. Their hospitality calls for a cup of tea, or some fruit, or a full-out meal as a way to slow things down and enjoy time with others. And being with family and friends, particularly at important times in their religious calendar, is very important. The Ibrahimis desperately miss not having their families and friends from Afghanistan here with them in the U.S.

With so much that was new to them (and all of us), 2022 was an event-filled year for the Ibrahimi family. 2023 will be less dramatic, but equally important as they settle down and adjust to the routines of going to work, going to school, caring for the family, and beginning to take more responsibility for their day-to-day lives.

It is a privilege and a joy to work closely with the Ibrahimi family, and we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that 2023 will bring.

Don MacGowan & Diane Grabowski



with the  
surely

The Ibrahimi Family on Christmas Day  
Nadia, Omer (6), Osman (nearly 4), Wahid,  
(2), Helia (11 months), Asmah (nearly 8)

2022  
Hasnat

## Refugee Resettlement – The Wilson House Story

Most in St. Peter's are familiar with the refugee resettlement that took place in late 2021 when the Ibrahimi family moved into St. John's rectory in Boonton, two houses down from the St. John's church. It was relatively easy to get the house ready for use because it was recently occupied by St. John's former rector. All it needed was interior cleaning, painting, and yardwork, all done by volunteers of local churches, quarterbacked by St. Peter's.

Knowing there was still need for refugee housing due to the continuing exodus from Afghanistan, Rev. Michael Muller and Don MacGowan, Outreach Chair, thought about St. John's "Wilson House", which is next to the church, and which was the original rectory. Built in 1880, it is a house with rich history. Rev. Henry B. Wilson, rector at St. John's circa 1900 founded the Wilson School, which met on the third floor of the rectory in the early 1900s. The school was moved to other houses in the area, and finally to Mountain Lakes in the mid-1920s. Because of growth in Boonton and in St. John's church during this time, Rev. Wilson founded and chartered St. Peter's in Mountain Lakes in 1923.

The Wilson House served as St John's rectory until the church purchased the "Octagon House" next door to the Wilson House in 1959. It became St John's rectory, and the Wilson House became office space, additional classroom space and, until recent years, a pre- and after-school program for children in Boonton. It was an expensive building to maintain, however, and as a result of deferred maintenance it became largely unusable and uninhabitable.

Given the success in resettling the Ibrahimi family in St. John's rectory we advised Church World Service of the possibility of housing another Afghan family in the Wilson House. To no one's surprise, they jumped at the chance.

In February 2022 a group from St. Peter's inspected the Wilson House to see if it could be brought back into shape. With help from Steven Shaw (St. Peter's parishioner, a builder, and County Commissioner) we estimated that the cost would be at least \$100,000.

Then the miracles began. A parishioner from another Episcopal church in St. Peter's ministry network agreed to donate \$100,000 to help the project along. A team of John Garrison, Doug Sonn, Fran Maenza (from St. John's, who is a Dover town official and an interior designer who seemed to know every code official in the county) took on the project manager role with the goal of bringing the Wilson house back to life.

As cost estimates came in, the price tag for the job rose to \$140,000. In response, St. John's committed \$20,000, and the diocese gave a \$20,000 grant. Work began in earnest in April, with the goal of having the house ready in September. As it turned out, things went very smoothly, and we welcomed an Afghan family to their new home in the first week of August.

We had to engage professional help to do all the necessary work – construction, plumbing, electrical, insulation, windows, roofing, and more. Selecting contractors turned out to be easier than we expected. Doug Sonn recommended Jeff Luisi, who he has known since they were young, and we engaged him (Genesis Building) to serve as general contractor. Jeff took to the task like a "mission from God" and found creative and cost effective solutions to problems, allowing us to stretch every dollar.

When we hired Jim Burke, an electrician referred by Fran Maenza, he spoke sparingly, but said over and over, "I'll take care of it, I'll take care of it." He took care of it all right. He basically rewired the house, removing old "knob & tube" wiring from a three-story building and installing a new electrical service, all for under \$10,000. Steve Shaw referred an excellent roofer and plumber. We needed architectural drawings for the new kitchen and bath, and Gary Musciano, a St. Peter's parishioner, did them *pro bono*.

Understanding that this renovation was to house a refugee family, the town of Boonton waived \$2,400 in building permits. We got 37 replacement windows at cost, and had special installation pricing from St. Peter's own Bob Gibbons. Finally, as we factored in the costs of interior paint, to be done as part of the Youth Mission Trip in June, we realized we were creeping beyond the \$140,000 budget. But we were reminded that Jackie Vitiello, a St. Peter's parishioner, works for Benjamin Moore and they might help us. Through Sacks Paint & Wallpaper in Dover, Benjamin Moore donated over \$4,000 worth of paint.

Miracles do indeed happen!

In summary, during the course of late spring into mid-summer we accomplished a lot:

- Installed new mansard roof and gutter and re-coated and repaired a flat roof.
- Installed 37 replacement windows and 2 basement hoppers
- Installed a new kitchen (where one did not exist), plumbing and electric, cabinets and appliances.
- Installed a new full bath on the first floor (where one did not exist), and a new bedroom closet.
- Installed a new laundry room with washer/dryer (where one did not exist), and new mudroom flooring and closet.



- Reframed the laundry room walls and ceiling after severe water and structural damage, and installed a new side entry door.
- Installed new drywall in two other rooms that suffered water damage.
- Removed damaged plaster and lathe from all outer walls in the large third floor attic and replaced with fiberglass insulation throughout.
- Installed new electricity in the kitchen and bath and replaced all "knob & tube" wiring.
- Installed new plumbing to the kitchen, bath and laundry room and replaced the waste line to city sewers.
- Installed a new hot water heater and serviced and repaired the entire steam heat system.
- As part of their mission trip, St. Peter's youth painted interior ceilings, doors, trim, and walls throughout the house.
- Refinished hardwood floors throughout.

As the project team took shape, the ability to share ideas, work together, and overcome obstacles kept the project on schedule – which doesn't happen often given supply chain issues and labor shortages. Everyone was truly excited about the project and went above and beyond to make it happen.

One of the best outcomes for the team was forging new friendships as we got our hands dirty to keep things on track and save money. At the conclusion, we had a celebratory on site barbeque attended by volunteers from St. Peter's and St. Johns and most of the contractors. All who saw the house before we began were amazed at the transformation. God's work is truly done through our hands.

Church World Service, who assisted us in placing the Ibrahimi family in St John's rectory, identified another Afghan family that was crammed into a small apartment in Jersey City and that needed a home with more space. Supported by West Side Presbyterian church in Ridgewood, the Mohabat family (dad, mom, and seven children) arrived in early August. They were delighted and overwhelmed by the residence – with much more space, a yard to play in, and a family next door who could help introduce them to Boonton.

Everyone in this story is a winner: the project team's lives were enriched by new friendships and the satisfaction of accomplishing a major project on budget and ahead of schedule. St. John's benefits from a major improvement to one of its buildings. And of course, the Mohabats find safe refuge and a wonderful environment in which to continue their resettlement in the US.

Respectfully submitted,  
 John Garrison  
 Project Team member, The Wilson House Project

## **2022 Property Report**

2022 was an active year and full of accomplishments both inside our buildings and for our grounds.

### **Buildings**

-The furnace over the stage had a leak in the condensation collector which stained the ceiling of the Godly Play room and had to be shut down. Clive Knowles and Doug Sonn took on the task of repairing the leak. Clive constructed a creative solution to safely capture the condensation. This furnace is now operational which enhances the comfort of the parish hall. We will no longer be solely dependent on one furnace for this large space.

-We had to engage professional plumbing services to open up a portion of a wall in the rectory first floor half bath to repair a broken cast iron waste line. Parishioner painting contractor John Giordano completed the job with attractive paper and paint.

-Doug Sonn and John Garrison installed a permanent heavy duty sump pump in the rear “tunnel exit” of the parish hall. The sump pump was generously donated by Jane Kio. Previously we had tried a surface sump pump which wasn’t always reliable. This installation involved digging a pit to capture all the water and pump it out; a more traditional approach which has proven to be reliable.

-Tom George took on the task of finding replacement dishwasher racks for the kitchen dishwashers. After a thorough scouring of the internet and visiting several commercial appliance dealers he decided to engage a local trade school to construct new ones from scratch. These dishwashers are over 50 years old so finding parts is not always easy. Tom took the existing racks to the school. Plans were drawn up and materials purchased. The finished racks will be ready by Spring. A creative solution to gain even more years of faithful service from these very durable machines. New ones are \$10,000 apiece and will not fit in our counter spaces.

-A couple of years ago we had John Giordano do some exterior painting and he discovered some rotting wood at the base of the Boulevard stained glass window. This year we had the window evaluated by two firms: Imhoff restorations and Femenella Assoc. We decided to engage -Femenella to repair the rotted sill this Spring and examine the entire window to ensure that it is structurally sound.

-We had two firms give us estimates to repair the deteriorating front steps to the sanctuary. Since we will be doing a lot of construction this year for the Centennial Renewal project we hope to incorporate this work into that project.

### **Outdoor Grounds**

-Parishioner, Charley Eaton, started a landscaping business this year. He volunteered to donate his services and cut the lawn for the church and rectory. Our sincere thanks go to Charley as this permits us to stretch the Property Budget further. Bednar continues to do our Spring and Fall cleanup.

-Brian and Sue Marshall continue to maintain and enhance the planted areas bordering the sanctuary and parish hall. Additionally, this year they re-worked several garden beds at the rectory. This fall they replenished the “mulch rings” around many of the large oaks facing the Blvd. This will help keep the roots healthy and improve the landscaping appearance in these areas.

-Clive Knowles continues to maintain the hedge along the rectory driveway that borders the neighboring property. Unchecked, invasive vines take over the area. He also keeps vines in check on the fence enclosing the children’s play area in the rectory backyard.

### **Future Projects**

-complete window replacement project for Parish Hall. About 50% of the windows are original and need to be replaced. Some are in advanced state of decay. This project is eligible for a Ward Herbert grant from the Diocese which would cover 50% of the cost.

-stain worn areas in sanctuary

-remove weeds and brush on west side of Parish Hall bordering neighbor’s property

-stay on top of the multitude of issues that always come up!

The Property Committee is always looking for additional people willing to share their time and talents to help maintain and improve the church’s buildings and grounds. For more information contact John Garrison. We also appreciate your response to the periodic calls for volunteer help on specific initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

John Garrison

Property Chair

## 2022 Altar Guild Report

In 2022, as the impact of the Covid pandemic was behind us, the Altar Guild was able to perform their duties on a more normal basis. We were able to work in our teams to prepare the altar for all the weekly services. We also prepared the church for 8 baptisms, 1 wedding and for 2 funeral/memorial services.

In addition to working in teams, all the Altar Guild members came together as a whole to decorate the church for the Easter services and Christmas services. These were times of good fellowship and dedicated work. We also got together for our Annual Breakfast Meeting in October.



We are fortunate to have 2 new members join our Guild this year, Dana Dean and Katie Danbury. Dana is on the Narain/Watkins team and Katie is on the Rutt team. We are very pleased to have them with us. We now have a total of 26 Altar Guild members.

A special thank you is due to Traci Rutt, our Treasurer, for her continued work billing and collecting the flower donations. and to Jane Kio, our Assistant Director, for her invaluable and dedicated work this year.

I would like to thank all the members of the Altar Guild for the work they do. Their continuous dedication and commitment to prepare the church and enhance the beauty of the services at St. Peter's is greatly appreciated. It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to serve with them on the Altar Guild.

I look forward to our continuing to work together in 2023. As well as preparing for all of the church services, we plan to refurbish some of our silver Holy Hardware and brass Sanctuary Appointments to celebrate St. Peter's Centennial this year,

As always, I appreciate the leadership and guidance provided by Father Michael.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Mitchell  
Altar Guild Director

## 2022 Music Director Report

This past year saw our music program return to pre-pandemic activities along with the rest of the church's activities. I want to thank our Parish Choir for their continued service to St. Peter's. They are the backbone of our music program, presenting over sixty anthems throughout the year. Holy Week alone saw members of the choir singing in five services in eight days! The choir meets every Sunday for an hour to rehearse before the 10:15 service. (That is about 40 hours a year, on average, JUST IN REHEARSAL TIME!).

This past year has seen a growth in the additional people who have joined the church choir. The entire choir is a dedicated and wonderful group of people with whom I have the honor and pleasure of working, and that every parishioner should thank for their service to the music ministry of the church. Thanks also to the continued generosity of many parishioners for the Garrison Music Fund, because of which we are able to enjoy not only the section leaders of our choir, but also the guest musicians who perform in our church services throughout the year. I also remind everyone that we are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to be a part of our choir. You do not need to read music, although it does help.



This past May also marked my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a church organist. I cannot believe how the time has flown so quickly. The service was attended by many of my friends and relatives as well as the parishioners of the parish. I feel very fortunate that not only God has given me these talents to share with many churches and people in my career; but that I was especially able to share them these last 13 years and to celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at St. Peter's. I have found such a wonderful church in which to work, and I appreciate this journey through which God has guided me in my life. I look forward to sharing my musical talents this year with all of you as the church embarks on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary observances.

Sal Lagattuta

Organist/Choir director

### **From the Desk of The Reverend Deacon Nancy Hansen**

As the calendar pages flip from one year to another, I think about how grateful I am for all the things the previous year and God has brought me; family, friends, new ministries, and a faithful family of such amazing followers! I feel great joy at being a part of St. Peter's Church. I never cease to be amazed by your kind hearts, spirits and the warmth, warming me from the inside out. When I witness the love you show for God and each other, I am convinced that visitors and new members quickly feel the same warmth as I did at becoming a new part of the team. I would go on and on, but what it comes down to is, I thank God for all the numerous blessings in my life.

During the winter of 2022, I had the opportunity to make pastoral visits to many of the members of St. Peter's Church who are either house bound or in long-term care. A bulletin from the previous Sunday is brought to them including the Gospel, prayers and Holy Communion. These visits have become a highlight of my service along with serving with Fr. Michael at Eucharist. We continued with the regional faith community gatherings, sometimes at The Church of the Saviour and sometimes at St. Peter's.

Spring brought better weather, a warming trend and great community events for us; another way to know and learn about one another. Pastoral visits continued as did the regional faith community.

I had such fun helping at the Wilson house mission project and working alongside groups from other churches during the summer. Godly play was another topic I yearned to know more about and became a certified Godly Play storyteller.

I remain spending time with pastoral ministry, hospital ministry, regional faith community and serving on the Diocesan Council on various committees.

I look forward to next year and going forward together. Let us go forward boldly into the world believing in the power of the Holy Spirit! “Give us grateful hearts, Father, for all your mercies and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen (BCP 835)

## 2022 Update from Fr. George Dredde

To My St. Peter’s Church Family,

So much has happened since my ordination to the Priesthood in June 2022. I am settling in at Trinity & St. Philip’s Cathedral in Newark in many aspects – the liturgical, the administrative, the pastoral and the communal as I develop networks within the community of Newark and the larger diocese as well.

We have been able to participate in anti-violence rallies, walks in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, partner with the YMCA of Newark to provide a luncheon for over 150 residents and families housed in the Y’s temporary shelter, a contingent of parishioners from the Cathedral conducted a Saturday feeding at St. Johns in Boonton so their congregants could participate in the Boonton Day Parade, and so much more.

In addition, we partnered with the Dodge Foundation’s Poetry read program for three days in October, where poets from all over came to showcase their rhyme and meter skills. We are planning several other collaborations with community groups as well as other churches within our diocese, including St. Peter’s! (*I’m really excited to explore that one!*)



Many great things are in the works for the Cathedral, and I am very blessed to be there. The Bishop and Canons have been extremely supportive and dialed-in to making the Cathedral what a true Cathedral should be for a diocese.

To be sure, there have been times when I wonder what in the world did I get myself in to, but then God put something in my path that makes me say, “Ok, I get it God, this is where you want me to be, so I’ll suck it up!” (LOL) There are so many of God’s Beloved that we need to touch and in so many ways. I have experienced so much in such a short period of time, and I thought I had seen it all before, especially with the vast experiences I have had over the course of my life. Well, nope! Each day has brought something new – the good, the bad and the ugly – to be dealt with because these are real world issues and problems.

This I can also tell you. I will never, ever be able to thank my beloved St. Peter's family enough for your support, guidance, counsel, and patience over these last 8 years – from my discernment committee to seminary to ordination and beyond! Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral is home now – but St. Peter's will always have a big piece of my heart. Many Prayers & Blessing to You!.....Fr. George+

## **The Academy for Children – 2022 Report**

The Academy continues to appreciate St. Peter's Church overwhelming support throughout these years. Since 1979, The Academy continues its legacy of serving children ages two through kindergarten (summer camp through ages 13) throughout Mountain Lakes and surrounding communities. The Academy is a licensed non-profit Child Care Center-Pre-School. Our Mission drives our programs and curriculum: “encouraging extraordinary and phenomenal potential in each child, providing education to parents, & mentoring professional excellence”.

We thank our teachers, faculty, and St. Peter's, for their adherence to state regulations, keeping us all safe, while serving the children that are so important to us. 2022-2023 will continue to be another successful School Year & our 2022 Summer Science Camp provided learning opportunities and fun for so many children. We anticipate a great 2023 with enrollment remaining steady, often with waiting lists in place. Referrals are often by word of mouth!

The Academy programs provide low student-teacher ratio, positive learning-play environments, certified teachers, and a differentiated curriculum. Providing scholarships, mentoring, education and advocacy, we take pride in serving families in need. In addition,

The Academy's Family of Programs includes our Pre-School and Rising 5's, Programs, “Little Tykes”, Cursive Handwriting, Tutorials, and Before and After School Programs.

The Academy provides volunteer opportunities for high school students and for a local adult group home, as well as internships for college students. The Academy mentors teachers in achieving their certificate in early childhood education, and in partnership with the NJ Department of Ed., mentors professionals attaining their Provisional Teacher Certificate. The Academy provides its faculty with education, training, and CPR and First Aid.

St. Peter's and The Academy continue to work together to maximize, share and maintain space. The Academy strives to be a good shepherd in every respect, contributing to St. Peter's events, helping maintenance, and participating in the capital improvement project.

We and our students' families are proud to be at St. Peter's Church. Our students drive by and often say proudly while pointing, “that's my school” or “that's my school, and my church!” Academy parents and faculty revere St. Peter's Church as an icon in our community, holding its place as an historical landmark, a place of worship, beauty, peace, solace, and sanctuary within its buildings and throughout its welcoming and beautiful gardens and grounds. The Academy strives to uphold our traditions of maintaining and strengthening our welcoming, wonderful sanctuary for growth, learning, kindness, and peace within this beautiful environment. Thank you, St. Peter's, for continuing to support our work, mission and programs and the community we serve.

Barb Frey  
Founder, President, CEO

Margie Peacock

# Notes