



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EST. 1868

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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

*Prayer for the Parish
Book of Common Prayer*

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Clergy

The Reverend David Hodges, Rector
The Reverend Doctor Nathan Haydon, Assisting Priest
The Reverend Zack Rugenstone, Assisting Priest
The Reverend Luke Jernagan, Assisting Priest
The Reverend Jay Kanzler, Assisting Priest
The Reverend Valerie Patton, Assisting Deacon

Parish Staff

Ann Babington, Interim Director of Children & Family Ministries
Connor Bryant, Communications Manager
Regina Clay, Sexton
Lisa Reynolds, Playgroup Director
Janet Rouse, Director of Stewardship and Parish Life
David Sinden, Organist and Director of Music
Jacquelyn VanWeelden, Parish Coordinator

Wardens and Vestry

Allan Ivie, Senior Warden	Laura Frank, Junior Warden
Peter Boumgarden, Treasurer	Barbara Brinkman, Secretary (<i>ex officio</i>)
Keith Boris	Margaret Carmichael
Jane Gilbert	Amy Hilmer
Rich Huck	Tim Noelker
Logan O'Connor	Michael Orlowski
Josh Schafer	William Schoenecker
Traci Scudi	Ann Sutter Spann

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Mark Pye
John Schoenecker
Tim Noelker
Jimmy Grimmett
Charlie Clkaggett (alternate)
Katie Claggett (alternate)

Annual Meeting Minutes – Sunday, January 28, 2024

- I. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer:** (David Hodges)
 - a. The meeting was called to order in the Undercroft at 9:15 a.m. David welcomed everyone and David Sinden led the parishioners in Hymn 380, stanza 3 (Old 100th).
- II. **Introduction of Officers:** (David Hodges)
 - a. Ann Babington, Secretary for the Vestry, was introduced as the Secretary for this meeting; and Tim Noelker, St. Peter's Parish Counsel, as Parliamentarian.
- III. **Opening of the Polls:** The polls opened at 9:20 a.m.
- IV. **Approval of the January 22, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Sandy Peters, seconded by Kit Baker. **Approved.**
- V. **Report of the Nominating Committee:** (Claire O'Brien, Senior Warden)
 - a. Claire thanked the Nominating Committee for their work: Ann Babington, Bob Craig, Jimmy Grimmert, and Lynn Stockwell.
 - b. Vestry Nominations for 2024 are: Amy Hilmer, Tim Noelker, Michael Orłowski, William Schoenecker, and Ann Sutter Spann, all with terms that expire in 2027. Nominees for Diocesan Delegates are Jimmy Grimmert, Delegate with term to expire in 2024; Mark Pye, Delegate with term to expire 2025; John Schoenecker, Delegate with term to expire in 2025; Tim Noelker, Delegate with term to expire in 2026; Katie Claggett, Alternate Delegate with term to expire in 2026; and Charlie Claggett, Alternate Delegate with term to expire in 2026.
- VI. **Report of the Senior Warden:** (Claire O'Brien)
 - a. Claire referred to her Senior Warden Report on page 6 of the Annual Report, and gave her gratitude to David and the members of the St. Peter's staff and Vestry. She said St. Peter's is on steady financial footing, and mentioned the many ways David and the Vestry have supported the church's continued growth and their commitment to the future of St. Peter's.
- VII. **Report of the Treasurer:** (Peter Boumgarden)
 - a. Peter gave the Treasurer's Report, which begins on page 10 of the Annual Report. The Vestry approved a balanced 2024 budget which was made possible by:
 - i. Efficiencies in staffing, including the decision to have a part-time accountant.
 - ii. A decision to pull from the endowments at a 4% draw versus the 3% draw from 2023.
 - iii. A decision to pull back some from our Diocesan support.
 - iv. The Music program will be more in line with 2019 and 2020 expenses.
 - v. We will continue to find other opportunities in the budget for greater fiscal discipline.
 - b. Peter feels that St. Peter's is in a healthy place with a stable and talented group of leaders, a generous and engaged congregation, and the work of a strategic planning process which will provide new opportunities to move forward in the church with the vision of philanthropic support.
- VIII. **Approval of the 2024 Budget:** moved by Sandy Peters, seconded by Bud Wilson. **Approved.**
- IX. **Report of the Rector:** (David Hodges)
 - a. David referred everyone to his Rector's Report on page 5 of the Annual Report. He introduced and thanked the remarkable lay staff: David Sinden, Organist and Director of Music; Janet Rouse, Director of Stewardship; Yvonne Twillmann, Director of Children and Family Ministries; Connor Bryant, Communications Manager; Jacquelyn VanWeelden, Parish Coordinator; Regina Clay, Sexton; and Lisa Reynolds, Playgroup Director. He then said it is a joy and a privilege to work with the St. Peter's Clergy: The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon, The Rev. Luke Jernagan, The Rev. Jay Kanzler, The Rev. Susie

Skinner, Valerie Patton, Diocesan Intern; and The Rev. Zack Rugenstone, Youth and Young Adult Minister. David announced the official retirement of Susie Skinner who then received a standing ovation.

- b. David introduced Jeanie and Clark Davis, the Co-chairs for the 2024 Annual Giving Campaign, “Alive in Christ”, and announced the two recent Vestry appointments of Allan Ivie as Senior Warden, and Laura Frank as Junior Warden. The Church is excited to move into the implementation stage of our Strategic Vision and Planning and the leaders for each of those three missions are: Outreach Co-chairs - Chris Knight and Jen Schafer; Community Co-chairs - Laurie Haffenreffer and Didi Noelker; and Worship Co-chairs – Carrie Marks Burroughs and Page Melton Ivie. David encouraged all others who would be interested in joining one of these committees. Today we are handing out bags for our February food drive in support of the Trinity Food Ministry. Our goal for 2024 is to donate 1,200 bags of food.
- c. David remarked that all of us at St. Peter’s have so much to be thankful for, and how blessed we are to have faith as a firm foundation. He said he is so grateful for all of us and the church, and our blessings and challenges.

X. **Closing of the Polls and Casting of the Ballots:** The polls closed at 10:05 a.m., and the Casting of Ballots for the Vestry Nominees and the Nominees for Diocesan Delegates and Alternates was taken. Motion to accept the 2024 Vestry nominations was moved by Katherine Mathews, seconded by Rich Huck. **Approved.**

XI. **New Business:** There was none.

XII. **Adjournment and Prayer:** Motion to adjourn moved by Kit Baker, seconded by Jim Johnson. **Approved.** The meeting ended at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Babington
Vestry Secretary

Parish Membership in 2024

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

Decreases (all members lost by death, transferred, or removed): 28

Total Members at end of year	1173
Adults 16 years and older	1040
Children under 16	133
Number of Households	467

Sacraments and Services 2024

Average Sunday Attendance: 197

Total Sunday and Saturday Evening Eucharists:	120	
Total Weekday Eucharists:	50	
Total Private Eucharists:	33	
Daily Offices held on Sunday or Saturday Evening:	8	
Daily Offices held on Weekdays:	67	
Marriages:	6	
Burials	21	
Baptisms	12	12 were under 16 years of age
Confirmations	8	4 were under 16 years of age

The Report of the Rector

*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:18-19*

I am about to do a new thing. During the past year, three groups in our church have focused on charting a path for doing new things at St. Peter's. In concert with the Vestry, they have led the important work of moving us forward in the process of formulating a strategic vision. They have spent time thinking about how we will implement three proposals that emerged from you, the people of St. Peter's, as part of several conversations we had together.

COMMUNITY

St. Peter's is an unexpected oasis for all. We are a loving, diverse community with a shared calling.

OUTREACH

St. Peter's is a wellspring of hope. We inspire one another to transform St. Louis and beyond in the name of Christ.

WORSHIP

St. Peter's offers expansive worship experiences beyond Sunday that are tailored to engage people where they are.

Led by Laurie Haffenreffer and Didi Noelker (Community), Chris Knight and Jen Schafer (Outreach), and Carrie Burroughs and Page Ivie (Worship), these groups have developed strategies around the proposals. Members of the Vestry along with our lay and clergy staff were also involved in the process. The Vestry has allocated \$90,000 in the current year's budget to fund some of the first initiatives, with detailed plans to be presented to the congregation in early 2025. Meeting with the three groups and hearing their hopes and dreams filled me with optimism and confidence that God is guiding us toward some new things that can make a difference.

As we work to discern what God may be calling us to do at this time, we remain focused on how we can continue to be formed and shaped by God as those who follow in the way of Jesus Christ. St. Peter's is a vibrant, active, and growing church and a place where people come together for various reasons. We faithfully and regularly offer many opportunities for worship and to participate in the sacraments. We faithfully and regularly offer varied opportunities to study the Bible, to eat meals together, to gather for fun and fellowship, and to listen and learn from others in our church and beyond.

We also faithfully and regularly continue our ongoing efforts to support the needs of those around us. At the beginning of the year, we set a goal of collecting 1,200 bags of groceries for the Trinity Food Ministry and we exceeded that goal by almost 100 bags! The proceeds from another successful St. Peter's Garden Party were designated to support a new food ministry in the Diocese of Missouri, the JustFood truck, that takes free food into areas of high poverty. During Advent and Christmas, gifts made to our annual Giving Tree were distributed to four local non-profits and the offering given at our Christmas services, in the amount of \$7,200, was directed to a family who had lost their home in a fire. Our annual winter clothing and blanket drive helped provide for those who are unhoused. All of this says something about who we are and reflects our commitment to reaching outside of ourselves to extend the love and compassion of Christ to others.

One of the gifts of my ministry is the chance to work with members of our very dedicated lay staff who are instrumental in planning and coordinating much of the various ministry that goes on in our parish. They are thoughtful and creative; they care a lot about St. Peter's, and I am very grateful for them. They are Ann Babington (Interim Director for Children and Family Ministries), Connor Bryant (Communications Manager), Regina Clay (Sexton), Lisa Reynolds (Playgroup Director), Janet Rouse (Director of Stewardship and Parish Life), David Sinden (Organist and Director of Music), Jacquelyn VanWeelden (Parish Coordinator), I am also grateful that God has given me the opportunity to share in ministry with several gifted clergy colleagues; The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon, The Rev. Zack Rugenstone, The Rev. Luke Jernagan, The Rev. Jay Kanzler, The Rev. Susie Skinner, and The Rev. Deacon Valerie Patton, all of whom carry out their ministry with us in a variety of meaningful ways.

I am about to do a new thing. As we have left another great chapter in the story of St. Peter's and move toward the new things that God is about to do in and through us, we are making room for whatever that may be. As I was driving through the parking lot of another church late last year, there was a sign that read, "The Best Is Yet To Come." I believe that is true for St. Peter's and I look forward to being part of that with you. *Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rev. David Hodges
15th Rector, St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Report of the Senior Warden

It's been an honor to serve as your Senior Warden over the past 12 months, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with our clergy, staff, and fellow Vestry members. St. Peter's is blessed to have strong and dedicated leadership from so many people.

We are a growing and thriving parish despite the headwinds of decreased church attendance across the country. We are so fortunate to have David Hodges as our Rector. David is a dynamic and forward-looking leader who has built a fantastic team of clergy and an extremely dedicated lay staff. Since David's arrival, our opportunities for worship and fellowship have expanded, and the engagement of the parish members has increased. Significantly, under the leadership of Zack Rugenstone and Ann Babington, our children and youth ministries are thriving. Our music program is wonderful and celebrated throughout the St. Louis area. The St. Peter's Guild raised significant money throughout 2024 to support our food ministry. Thanks to the generosity of many, the parish exceeded the 2024 goal of donating 100 bags of food each month (1,200 for the year). These food and personal hygiene items provide desperately needed support for the homeless and food insecure throughout the St. Louis area. We have increased our goal to 1,500 bags for 2025 and I strongly encourage everyone to participate in this ministry. St. Peter's is on a very positive trajectory, and it is exciting for all of us to be a part of this.

We made great progress in 2024 on the development of a new strategic plan focusing on three key areas: worship, community, and outreach. Led by our six committee chairs: Carrie Burroughs and Page Ivie on worship, Laurie Haffenreffer and Didi Noelker on community, and Chris Knight and Jenn Schafer on outreach, these committee members have volunteered many hours of time to create the structure of our plan. Each committee has developed and priced out a set of priorities which the Vestry has reviewed and endorsed. With the help of parishioner Ben Park, we are now combining the recommendations of the three committees into a single document which will be presented to Vestry for review and approval before being presented to the parish. Please join me in expressing thanks to the six committee chairs, the members of their committees, and the members of the original strategic planning steering committee for their fantastic and dedicated work on behalf of St. Peter's.

I would also like to thank our Junior Warden Laura Frank for being a great partner to me. In addition to providing me with wise counsel, Laura worked closely with Keith Boris and William Schoenecker on multiple projects to maintain and improve our physical plant. Some of this work is easily visible (enhanced landscaping, parking lot re-surfacing, improved exterior lighting, new flooring on the second floor, repainting of the entrance and stairwell leading to the second-floor offices, and soon to come beautiful new signage at the corner of Ladue Road and Warson Road) while other projects are harder to see (upgrades to some of the kitchen equipment, improvements to the AV system in the undercroft, and multiples repairs and upgrades to the HVAC system). Keith has dedicated so much time over his three-year term on the Vestry and we all owe him a significant "thank you"!

St. Peter's is fortunate to have a beautiful and large campus that is true asset. As with any large property, the cost of regular and unexpected maintenance can be significant. To ensure funding is always available to cover the cost of maintenance and upgrades, in 2024 the Vestry worked with the Endowment Commission to establish a separate endowment account for this purpose. Thanks to an unexpected gift from the estate of a parishioner, the amount of the initial funding for this account was approximately \$1,300,000. I would like to express my thanks to John Haffenreffer, Chairman, and the Commission

members, Meredith Jones, Michael Lauer, Dave Schmid, and Kelly Sullivan for being fantastic stewards of our endowment accounts. John has also agreed to spearhead our efforts to establish a Planned Giving program. The work is underway and more information about this will be shared later this year.

In late 2023, as the Vestry worked with our treasurer Peter Boumgarden on the 2024 financial plan, we felt it was important for that we present a balanced budget. I am so happy to report that we ended the year with a surplus for the first time in several years. This positive result was the result of the generosity of the parish and the strong financial stewardship provided by Peter and by Janet Rouse. For the long-term sustainability of our parish, it is important that we operate within our means financially and that starts with having a balanced budget on an annual basis whenever possible.

One of the great things that St. Peter's celebrated in 2024 was the ordination of Zack Rugenstone as priest and Valarie Patton as deacon. I am so proud of both of these fine individuals, and we are very blessed to have them as part of our clergy team. Congratulations, Zack and Valerie!

All of us owe the St. Peter's staff a big pat on the back for their tireless efforts on behalf of the parish. They are all true assets for us. Their work is second to none and we are very fortunate to have them as part of the St. Peter's family.

In addition to myself, four of the current Vestry members will be cycling off at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Please join me in thanking Keith Boris, Laura Frank, Jane Gilbert, and Josh Schafer for their years of service to St. Peter's. Each of these departing members brought unique gifts and talents to the Vestry, and I am very appreciative and thankful for their efforts.

In conclusion, St. Peter's is a very special parish. It is a place of peace and fellowship. The spiritual guidance and teaching of our clergy is a blessing to us all. The music is lovely, and the ministry opportunities are numerous and growing. Our support of both our own community and the community at large is heart-warming. Thank you for your support and please look for opportunities to become even more engaged. Cheers to a great 2025!

Allan Ivie
Senior Warden

The Report of the Nominating Committee

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

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

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

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

- **Cyd Alloway** for a term to expire in 2028
- **Clark Davis** for a term to expire in 2028
- **Noelle Miles** for a term to expire in 2028
- **Matt Sokolich** for a term to expire in 2028

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

- **Mark Pye**, Delegate for a term to expire 2025
- **John Schoenecker**, Delegate for a term to expire 2025
- **Tim Noelker**, Delegate for a term to expire 2026
- **DeWayne Trainer**, Delegate for a term to expire 2027
- **Katie Claggett**, Alternate Delegate for a term to expire 2026
- **Charlie Claggett**, Alternate Delegate for a term to expire 2026

Allan Ivie, Senior Warden
Claire O'Brien, Past Senior Warden
Keith Boris
Laura Frank
Jane Gilbert
Josh Schafer

Our Delegates at Work

The 185th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri was held on November 15 and 16, 2024. Episcopalians from throughout the diocese gathered at the Double Tree Hotel in Chesterfield in fellowship to worship and engage in the work of the convention. The theme of this year's convention was "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism," and through the resolutions and reports, the idea that "we are leaning deeper into collaboration, connection, and community as we chart new paths toward the dream of a world transformed by God's love, justice, and peace"¹ was made clear. Alongside this, a continued celebration of 50 years of women in ministry was marked and highlighted in various ways throughout the weekend.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church was represented by these delegates to Diocesan Convention: Jimmy Grimmatt, Tim Noelker, Mark Pye, and John Schoenecker; Charlie and Katie Claggett were the designated alternate delegates for convention. St. Peter's member Hal Burroughs served in his role as Diocesan Chancellor for convention.

The business of Diocesan Convention included:

1. The proposing of these resolutions:

Regular Resolutions

- A-185: Clergy Compensation
- B-185: Church Pension Fund Benefits for Vocational Deacons
- C-185: Elizabeth Dyer Resolution
- D-185: Practical Guidance for Episcopal-Jewish Relations/Christian-Jewish Relations, Theological and Practical Guidance for Episcopalians
- E-185: Mental Health Awareness Sunday
- F-185: Join the Communion Forest Initiative
- G-185: Commending Safe Gun Storage
- H-185: End the Practice of Labor Trafficking of Migrant Youth
- I-185: Support for the Association for Episcopal Deacons
- J-185: Condemning Censorship
- K-185: A Resolution to Amend Section 1 of Article III.9 of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri

Proposed alterations to the Book of Common Prayer and the Constitution

These resolutions, from the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church, were provided for review, pertaining to the Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Book of Common Prayer:

- A043: Amend Constitution Article VIII Regarding Clergy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships [First Reading]
- A116: Marriage Rites for Inclusion in the Book of Common Prayer [First Reading]
- A224: Amend Article X with clarifying amendments [First Reading]
- D049: Increase by one the possible number of bishop suffragans in a Diocese [First Reading]

All resolutions introduced to convention were approved.

¹ <https://diocesemo.org/2024-convention>

2. The election of those serving in Diocesan roles to the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Disciplinary Board, and the Cathedral Chapter
3. Adoption of the 2025 operating budget
4. Convention address, delivered by The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of Missouri
5. Keynote address, delivered by Bishop Michael Curry, retired presiding bishop
6. Ministry reports from Diocesan Governance, Diocesan Convocations, Diocesan Ministries, Diocesan Staff, and Diocesan Missioners, which included a report for LGBTQIA+ ministry submitted by parishioner DeWayne Trainer
7. Dinner and the awarding of the Bishop's Medals

The 186th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri will take place November 14 and 15, 2025, in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon

The Report of the Treasurer

Fellow Parishioners,

Thank you all for your generous support of the St. Peter's Church community. Looking back on the past year, we're grateful to have ended on a strong note financially. Through November, our actuals exceeded the previous year's figures, and we closed the year with a small surplus (not yet reflected in the documentation below which lags as we close out the books for the year).

As we look ahead, the year represents not just our continued fiscal health but also an exciting opportunity to make strategic investments that will strengthen and sustain our congregation for years to come. Thank you for being a vital part of this work.

Summary of Key Points of FY2023 and 2024

At the start of 2023, we took a conservative approach to our projections, anticipating a \$100,000 budget deficit. While I had hoped we would close this gap by year's end, we ultimately finished the year in a similar position.

Running a deficit is never ideal for a church, but we wanted to be transparent about the challenges we faced coming out of COVID and navigating leadership transitions. Fortunately, this deficit was manageable thanks to a generous 2019 gift.

In 2024, we made it a priority to project a balanced budget, which required some difficult decisions. These included operating with a part-time financial manager and reducing our contribution to the Diocese, among other adjustments. These efforts paid off, as we successfully ended the year with a balanced result. This was due in large part to deep generosity by many of you, and a well-run organization and gifted team of leaders.

Key Priorities and Notes for FY2024

As we move into 2025, there are a few key updates I'd like to share:

- **Congregation Giving:** We project forward an increase in giving in several categories, both pledges and other gifts. This is tied to tracking a more engaged congregation and an anticipation of a few gifts that have already been announced to leadership.
- **Endowment Draw:** We will continue drawing 4% from the endowments based on a three-year moving average. Given recent market performance, this approach remains a reasonable assumption.
- **Diocesan Contribution:** We have increased our contribution to the Diocese, recognizing last year's reduction. While we have not yet returned to the recommended 12.5% of revenue, this step represents forward progress and one that we hope shows our deep appreciation of the central church body. Additionally, we continue to support the Diocese in other ways, such as donations for initiatives like the **JustFood Truck**.
- **Strategic Planning Fund:** A generous endowment gift allowed us to allocate \$150,000 toward strategic planning priorities. This year, we will use \$90,000 of that gift, with the remainder held for other use cases over the next two years. The Vestry hopes this investment will address missional concerns identified in the planning process, enabling growth in size and capacity to fulfill our mission.

- **Capital Improvement Fund:** Another portion of the gift enabled us to establish a new capital improvement fund, now reflected as a line item. With the high cost of maintaining our building and grounds, this fund provides stability for future operational needs, even amid potential uncertainties.

As I've shared over the past two years, St. Peter's remains in a fiscally healthy position. We are blessed with a stable, talented group of leaders and a generous, engaged congregation. Thanks to the strategic planning process and the remarkable generosity of our community, we have a unique opportunity to envision and embody what it means to be a vibrant Episcopal congregation in the heart of St. Louis.

As you reflect on your philanthropic priorities for the year ahead, I invite you to partner with this parish in a shared vision—one that not only enriches the lives of those within our walls but also reaches far beyond, extending our impact well beyond a Sunday morning gathering.

With gratitude,

Peter Boumgarden
Treasurer

Stewardship Report

2024 Annual Giving Campaign

The formal part of the 2024 Annual Giving Campaign kicked off on January 21, 2024, and culminated with Dedication Sunday on February 11, 2024. The theme, ***ALIVE IN CHRIST***, reflected the belief that St. Peter's is a faith community that strives to be relevant and vibrant in the years to come. We look for ways in which we can work together to spread hope and love in Christ's name.

We had a successful giving year, exceeding our campaign financial goal by 8%. Our goal to increase household participation was not met, but the parishioners who supported the campaign made generous gifts to the church and we were able to fund our ministries and also donate to community organizations as desired. Next year, we will focus on increasing our participation in the giving campaign.

2024 Annual Giving Campaign:

Total Number of Pledges	269 (57% of parish households)
Pledge Dollars	\$1,135,734
# New Pledges	19
# Pledges Increased	82
# Pledges Same or Decreased	168 (62% of pledges)
Total Parish Households	470
Retention Rate	87%
Households that give with no pledge	30
Households - no giving	171
Average Pledge	\$4,218
Median Pledge	\$2,400
Pledge Campaign Goal	\$1,050,000

Thank you to the 2024 Annual Giving Campaign chairs, Clark and Jeanie Davis, and to the committee members: Kit Baker, Luke Fouke, Laurie Haffenreffer, Jim Johnson, Louise Jones, Connie Lohr, and Sandy Peters. Their hard work and efforts are certainly appreciated!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all parishioners who supported St. Peter's in 2024! Because of you, we are able to worship, care for one another, gather together, and help our community!

Janet Rouse
Director of Stewardship and Parish Life

Buildings and Grounds Commission Report

2024 was another year filled with surprises, challenges, and accomplishments for the Buildings and Grounds of St Peter's.

Accomplishments & Improvements:

- Replaced the ~25-year-old flat roof over the church offices which was beyond its service life and had numerous leaks.
- Finished the installation of vinyl flooring and carpeting in the 1st floor hallway and offices.
- Repaired several areas of the parking lot, added additional handicapped parking spots, and sealed the entire the parking lot to diminish trip and fall risks.
- Oversaw an insurance claim which covered excavation in the parking lot and repair of our geothermal field along with the replacement of the two main geothermal pumps and four circulating pumps which sustained damage.
- Ongoing repairs to the masonry of the Columbarium and courtyard.
- At the end of 2024, we ordered a new commercial dishwasher for the kitchen, which will replace a ~30-year-old machine.

Improvements to reduce energy consumption, enhance the aesthetics of the Church, increase accessibility, and maintain the buildings will continue in 2025.

Keith Boris
Vestry Buildings and Grounds

The Altar Guild Report

“And their charge [shall be] the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof.”

Numbers 3:31

The members of the Altar Guild do sacred work. We provide what the clergy, our parish and wider community need to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. We prepare the church for our regular worship on Sundays, and other services as needed, including funerals and weddings. We also care for many of the items used in our worship. Our dedicated members are Kathy Baker, Merrill Buettner, Jan Craig, Nancy Grimes, Penny George, Connie Lohr, Claudia McMillin, Pixie Messey, Didi Noelker, Wendy Olk, DeWayne Trainer, and Caren Vredenburg. If you'd like to learn more, speak to a member after a service or contact DeWayne at dewayne.trainer@gmail.com or 314-296-1563.

DeWayne Trainer
Chair

The Report of the Organist and Director of Music

The worship services at St. Peter's include various instrumental works, hymns, psalms, canticles, anthems, motets, and other liturgical music. This music is led by the

- St. Peter's Choir, the parish choir,
- St. Peter's Singers, a professional 16-voice ensemble, and
- St. Peter's Choristers, our training program for young people. This ensemble is one of the diocese's only Royal School of Church Music-affiliated programs. In 2024, one to two choristers met weekly to rehearse, and we hope that other young people will join this unique culture of robust music-making and education.

Choral Evensong (or Lessons and Carols) continues to be sung monthly on the second Sunday, except from May to September. The St. Peter's Singers led Evensong services on the

- Second Sunday after the Epiphany (Epiphany Lessons and Carols)
- Last Sunday after the Epiphany
- Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Third Sunday of Easter
- Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, and the
- Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

We are proud to continue our partnership with Early Music Missouri (EMMo), an organization that serves as a resource to musicians and Early Music audiences across the central Midwest. EMMo presented five concerts at St. Peter's, including an organ recital by David Sinden on February 4. Many singers from the St. Peter's Choir, past and present, collaborate with this fine organization.

On the fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, the parish choirs of St. Peter's and the Church of St. Michael & St. George (CSMSG), Clayton, sang Choral Evensong at CSMSG. This was the seventh annual joint service sung by these two choirs.

As the year began, St. Peter's was still holding a service of Holy Eucharist weekly on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. in the Undercroft. As the size of this congregation began to diminish, music was discontinued starting on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. Several outside musicians had been involved in providing music for this weekly service.

A service of Poetry and Music for Holy Week was held on Holy Monday for the first time. Dr. Kathryn Haydon selected and recited poetry at this service.

A cantor provided music at a Holy Eucharist on Ascension Day.

On the Day of Pentecost, we were privileged to welcome Lyyra, a new professional vocal sextet founded under the auspices of the VOCES8 Foundation. These six singers and Ann Wright, the foundation's Director of Education, held a workshop the day prior with the St. Peter's Choir. The two groups sang two pieces by Pierre Villette for Pentecost. St. Peter's hosted Lyyra's educational outreach concert that Sunday afternoon.

The St. Peter's Choir concluded the choral year on Trinity Sunday. After this, various choir members formed semi-choruses to lead music throughout the summer. The full choir returned to services on the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

This fall marked one year since the introduction of choral Communion Antiphons sung from Bruce Ford's *American Gradual 2020*. In accordance with ancient liturgical tradition, these proper antiphons are sung weekly after the Invitation to Communion.

A service of Organ Vespers was held on the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The organist was the newly appointed parish musician for the Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton, Joseph Arndt.

An organ "Spooktacular" recital was presented in the church on the Sunday afternoon before Halloween by Heather Martin Cooper, organ, and Jay Kloecker, bass.

On the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, we were again pleased to welcome the St. Louis Caledonian Pipe Band for a service of Morning Prayer with Kirkin' of the Tartans.

The Parish Choir sang a Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent on the Second Sunday of Advent. This was the ninth year of this popular service.

We are truly fortunate to have such a wealth of experience and ability among the musicians of the St. Peter's Choir. The English minister, composer, and musicologist Erik Routley famously referred to the practice of church music as "our duty and delight." At St. Peter's, we take the work of music seriously, but doing this work in community is also a real source of joy.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sinden
Organist and Choirmaster

Parish Life Report

There were many opportunities for fun and fellowship in worship, formation, youth and family gatherings, as well as parish-wide events this year.

- The beloved annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held in February. A dedicated group of bakers and servers prepared a delicious pancake-inspired dinner for parishioners to enjoy.
- The sixth annual #givelikecharlie blood drive was held in May. We had 70 units donated. Over 278 lives were impacted by these donations! We are thrilled to host this event each year, bringing the St. Peter's and MICDS communities together for a great cause.
- The St. Peter's Guild met weekly and offered many opportunities to gather in-person. They continued their charitable work with projects to support the community and our youth group at church. This year, they were an integral part of our gifts to the JustFood Truck and St. Peter's Church as well.
- The Tuesday Morning Breakfast Group met monthly for breakfast and hosted the annual First Responders' Breakfast in September. It was a great way to celebrate our local community fire and police departments.
- Two speaker series were held this year. Both series were very well received and attended:
 - Spring - Sacred Ground: Perspectives on Conflict, Religion, and Identity in the Holy Land
 - Fall – In Good Company: The Joys and Challenges of Life in Community
- On June 5, we held our evening Garden Party, organized by Frances Gay, Suzanne Johnson, and many other parishioners who worked tirelessly to make this event a success. The party was a wonderful opportunity to mingle with fellow parishioners in a beautiful setting. Thank you to the hosts, the chairs, and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this a special event.
- Our parish picnic was held in June, complete with food, music, and fun. We hosted an "Open House" on our traditional St. Peter's Day in September with worship and an outdoor ministry fair. Thank you to the parishioners that volunteered their time to help coordinate this event.
- In October, we hosted a Fall Family Bonfire. Families came out for music, pumpkin painting, and delicious s'mores. A Halloween Organ Spooktacular was held at the end of the month with a "spooky" crowd in attendance. Fun spooky songs were sung, and goody bags were handed out.

Look for more new and exciting ways to participate in the life of St. Peter's in the coming year!

Janet Rouse

Director of Stewardship and Parish Life

Children and Family Ministries Report

St. Peter's held two successful summer camps this past year: Camp Invention July 15-19, and Vacation Bible School, July 29 to August 2. Back-to-school in August was a busy time getting ready for the opening of Sunday School and the start of Children's Chapel on September 15. Twenty-two Sunday School teachers were recruited in August, and a schedule was set up so each volunteer would teach once a month. We were so fortunate to hire Deana Huff as our new Nursery Director who started on September 1. Deana is a parishioner and had been the Director of the Children's Ministry in Palm Springs, California, before moving to Missouri. We moved the Nursery from the Sunday School hallway back to the large playroom on the lower level of the Little Building.

To help the children feel more connected, the classes were also divided as they had been in the past with Kindergarten/Grade One, Grades Two/Three, Grades Four/Five, and we recruited four teachers who have been able to re-establish the Grade Six/Seven class. Our numbers are up in every classroom, and we average approximately 20 parishioners each Sunday in Children's Chapel. The Rev. Zack Rugenstone is our priest for Children's Chapel and The Rev. Emily Rosencrans leads Chapel once a month. Everyone is so grateful to our fabulous and dedicated 2024-25 Teaching Team: Deana Huff, Carolyn Parham, Hannah Parham, Melissa O'Connor, Nicole Maher, Mary Otto, Camilla Brauer, Julie Peters, Claire O'Brien, Erin Chance, Abigail George, Emily Rosencrans, Alix Gulick, Drew Gulick, Mokie Carmichael, Ann Babington, Charlotte Lane, Sarah Striler, Didi Noelker, Hal Burroughs, Lynn Stockwell, and Chris Maher.

August and September were spent making sure the class lists were accurate, calling and emailing families to encourage them to attend, meeting and welcoming new families, decorating the classrooms, scheduling families to lead Children's Chapel each week, and sending an informational Sunday School email to over 100 St. Peter's parishioners each week. In November the children assembled Blessing Bags, an outreach Ministry of the St. Peter's children, and these were given to parishioners to keep in their cars to give to those in need on the streets. The Blessing Bags contain personal care items such as shampoo, soap, Kleenex, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and a prayer. St. Peter's parishioners have been so generous and through our Giving Tree have donated many more supplies.

Katie Claggett has donated an amazing addition to our Children's Program. Katie has assembled the very popular Children's "Busy Bags" found in the Narthex that hold books, finger puppets, and drawing tablets for the children to enjoy while sitting in church. Thank you, Katie!

Some of our activities this fall have included: Blessing of the Backpacks in mid-August, Grandparents Day (a new event) on September 8, and the start of Sunday School and Children's Chapel on September 15 that also included the commissioning of our Sunday School teachers and the blessing of Connect Bibles for the children in Grade Four. We also celebrated that day our St. Peter's Open House with a Sunday School booth, bubbles, and crafts. October brought the Fall Family Bonfire with crafts, s'mores, and painted pumpkins, and the Organ Recital Spooktacular with Fall snacks on the 27. December was busy with Advent Wreaths to Go on the First Sunday of Advent, and Saint Nicholas Sunday with a visit from Saint Nicholas himself, the Stars of the Christmas Pageant spoke at Children's Chapel, and the Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist was held on Christmas Eve that included 35 children in costumed parts, 7 youth Readers, and 14 adult and youth Leaders. The children earnestly and beautifully told the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, and created an unforgettable experience for the overflowing crowd at the Christmas Eve service.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Babington
Interim Director, Children and Families Ministries

Youth Ministry Report

In 2024 the youth went on a Winter Retreat to Camp Wyman and got to go ziplining and climbing, and we played a ton of really fun games with the youth of the Church of St. Michael and St. George as well. We also did a Middle School Mission week where our Middle School students served the St. Louis community. We were at a farm, a food bank, and multiple other non-profits where we got to learn about the needs of the community and give back. The high school students went to Benton Harbor, Michigan, and served the community there as they cleaned parks, helped those who were disabled with their living situation, and ensured that those in the community had something to eat. And that's just the stuff we did outside of the church!

The youth group got together almost every Sunday to play games and have meaningful discussions around what it means to be a member of a church, following the church calendar and how we pray. Partnering with St. Timothy's Episcopal Church has been an incredible source of life and vibrancy for our youth group. The youth of these two churches continue to support each other week in and week out as they come together and pray for one another. While the average for youth attendance in 2023 was in the single digits, it has grown significantly this year. We averaged about 12 youth each Sunday evening, and had a high of 24 youth in one evening.

This growth has led the group to move rooms! We now meet in the confirmation classroom so that we can ensure we have enough space for everyone who's invited. This has been a very cool opportunity for us that we continue to explore in 2025. If you missed out on anything in 2024, we'll be doing everything again, and more!

The Rev. Zack Rugenstone
Youth Minister

St. Peter's Cares Report

St. Peter's Cares is a group of parishioners who give their time, talents, and dollars to parishioners in need. We pray for those who ask for our prayers, and we feed those in need of a meal. We have made meals for people who are ill, for those who are grieving a loss, and for those who are celebrating a joyful event. All prayer and meal requests are kept confidential. Our service to others has expanded to include receptions for funerals and parties to celebrate events happening in our church. There are four teams within the arms of Saint Peter's Cares.

Prayer Team

Leader: Charlie Claggett

11 members

65 people have requested prayers in 2024

In December, we prayed for 46 people. That's 506 prayers in December, 2024. Prayers are confidential. Each prayer team member prays daily in the space and time of their choosing. The list is fluid, people come off and are put on at their request. The shepherd checks in with each parishioner requesting prayers once a month to see if there are any modifications to the request.

Meal Team

Leader: Sandy Knight

23 members

53 meals made and delivered in 2024

Sandy Knight uses an online meal scheduler to post meal requests. Members of the meal team sign up to take a meal when it is convenient for them. This year requests have varied from two weeks to two months.

Reception Team

Leader: Caren Vredenburg

18 members

6 events

The reception committee makes food, arranges food buffet style, hosts the event and cleans up afterward. We hosted three funeral receptions, Zack's Ordination Celebration, a farewell party for Frances Gay, and a reception after Advent Lessons and Carols.

Transportation Committee

Leader: None at this time

Eleven rides have been given to two different parishioners by two SPEC members. This committee was disbanded during the pandemic and has not come back. Our current policy is that when we hear someone needs a ride to church we do our best to match them with a parishioner that lives close.

While St. Peter's Cares is a group with a focus of giving to others, all members have expressed in one way or another, how much joy and satisfaction they receive by their service. It is truly a win for all involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Grimes and Frances Gay

St. Peter's Cares Shepherds

Communications Report

The past year at St. Peter's has been what I would call, "the good kind of busy." As we've expanded offerings in worship, formation, fellowship, and outreach, effective communication is more essential than ever. I am happy to report increased levels of engagement from St. Peter's parishioners across our various communications platforms including an increase in our following on Facebook and Instagram as well as an increase in subscriptions to *News From the Rock*.

In response to the expanded visions for community, outreach, and worship activities envisioned by our strategic visioning committees, I have worked with our Vestry and finance office to budget for expanded communication tools in 2025. We are working to develop a new website for St. Peter's, expand our digital footprint, and increase our communication through more traditional channels.

Phishing scams continue to be a headwind as fraudsters target church communities with increased frequency and aggression. As we continue to work to guard against scams, it is important to remember to carefully check email addresses/domains and delete suspicious messages. You can always call the office if you have a question about an email.

There are many ways that we like to share news with you:

- *News from the Rock*: is our weekly email newsletter which goes out on Friday mornings. You'll find news about upcoming events, helpful updates and links, and a schedule for the upcoming week. If you're not signed up, please email office@specstl.org requesting to get added to the list!
- Bulletin announcements: located at the end of every Sunday bulletin you will find an announcements section! Take a few minutes to look and see what's going on at St. Peter's. For folks who like to keep it low-tech, the bulletins will cover almost everything you need to know!
- Visit our website: specstl.org is your digital homebase for St. Peter's. You'll find news, information, and other helpful resources.
- Social media: Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/specstl) and Instagram (@specstl) to see pictures and updates! This is especially helpful for urgent updates like inclement weather cancellations.
- Realm: Realm is a safe and convenient way for parishioners (and ONLY parishioners!) to log in and see contact information, giving history, church groups, and a parish directory. You can update personal information, add a profile picture (a great way to connect with other church members), change privacy settings, update or edit monetary gifts, and join groups. Haven't signed up yet? Email office@specstl.org with your full name, email, and phone number to receive an invitation to create your login.

We always do our best to keep information thorough, accurate, and current across all our communication platforms. I always welcome you to reach out to me with additions, corrections, questions, or comments!

Respectfully submitted,

Connor Bryant
Communications Manager

St. Peter's Playgroup Report

Waving goodbye to 2024 and saying hello to another promising year for the Playgroup.

I greatly appreciate all the interest in the Playgroup last year and this year; it reinforces how valuable our program is to our young families and how important it is that we continue our mission to provide a stimulating, safe, and nurturing environment where children will have experiences that promote their emotional, social, intellectual, and physical development - never disregarding our most important goal: PLAY!

The 2023-2024 financial year ended as a healthy one. When summer 2023 was coming to a close, I wondered if we would have enough children to open our doors, and then families started enrolling...If we had been able to staff it, we could have had two classes. Unfortunately, we were not able to find teachers and only offered one class on Monday/Wednesday/Friday with a two-day option.

For the current Playgroup year, we were able to hire several new and outstanding teachers and have two Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and, again, we have a waitlist. Each room has two staff members in each classroom. They have background checks performed by the Missouri Safety Care Registry, and the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. The staff members also participate in a CPR class. The morning begins at 9:10 a.m. and ends at 11:45 a.m. Each class follows a routine but, of course, is flexible. A typical day includes free play indoors and outdoors, as well as snack, music, art projects, group activities, and story time. There are events throughout the year to which parents, grandparents, siblings, caregivers and special guests are welcome.

Church members' children have priority in admission followed by current students and then siblings of previous SPP students. Thereafter, applications received with a \$70, non-refundable application fee are processed in the order they are received. If spaces are available, children may enroll at any time throughout the Playgroup year.

Children do not have to be potty-trained.

The program is tuition based, but SPP benefits from the following fundraising events:

- Pizza Party, held monthly, where a Pizza lunch is served with dismissal at 12:30pm.
- Photographer, Barbi Macon, takes pictures in the spring.
- The Playgroup will offer a summer camp from May 27 through June 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Reynolds
Playgroup Director

The St. Peter's Guild Report

The goal of the St. Peter's Guild is to be an active part of the church, providing fun, fellowship, support, friendship, faith, and spiritual growth while serving the church, its members, and the community. The Guild meets year-round, making it possible to provide support to the St. Peter's programs as well as to each other. In November this year, the Woman's Guild voted to change its name to The St. Peter's Guild to make our group more inviting and inclusive, hoping to make the men feel more comfortable attending our group and participating in our programs. Men have always been invited, but changing our name makes it more apparent.

The St. Peter's Guild is greatly involved in helping those who are less fortunate, while providing for the greater good. Episcopal City Mission, in conjunction with the St. Louis County Detention Center, looks for organizations that will sponsor a birthday celebration for the youth. We saw this as a challenge and a very worthwhile project as we have supported Episcopal City Mission with these celebrations for the past 25 years.

In October, the Guild held their annual Opening Luncheon at the Missouri Athletic Club. Zack Rugenstone led us in prayer followed by a tasty lunch with beautifully lit Fall centerpieces, colorful favors, and a spectacular program about The Musical History of Famous Musicians who Played Ragtime Music on the Steamboats as they cruised up and down the river. Music was provided by Don Franz and his Ragtime Trio. The Program and Music were both fantastic!

Our goal this year was to bring back the highly requested Estate Sale to sell goods so we could use the money to support much needed and very worthwhile projects. The Guild worked seamlessly putting the Estate Sale together. It was a great success!!! We raised \$10,000 which we split between the JustFood Truck for fuel cards and truck repairs and to St. Peter's Church to use for a new upgraded website. We also donated our leftover items in super condition to Fantastic Finds for their charities. Definitely a win-win situation.

The Guild finished out the year by having our annual Christmas party, complete with festive Christmas decorations and a delicious salad from the Woman's Exchange, along with a variety of sweets. Continuing on in 2025 the Guild will resume our Speaker Series and will close out the year with our Annual Plant Sale for Mother's Day! Thank you to one and all for all your support this year!

Cheryl A. Meyer
St. Peter's Guild President

Report of the Outreach Committee

Vision Statement

St Peter's is a wellspring of hope.

We inspire one another to transform St. Louis and beyond in the name of Christ

The newly formed Outreach Committee, co-chaired by Jen Schafer and Chris Knight was convened with 4 staff, 1 Vestry member and 11 self-identified parishioner volunteers. We agreed that the goals of the committee would be two-fold; first, to improve and expand existing outreach ministries supported by SPEC and second, to explore opportunities for championing projects with the potential for transformational results, i.e. God-sized dreams.

Recommendations were made to the Vestry and were approved. Implementation on the actions recommended will begin to be implemented in 2025.

St. Peter's is a very generous community and there were several events this year that resulted in assistance to those in the community that in most need of our help. Through our Sunday offerings that were designated to various community partners, our annual Garden Party event in June, and the efforts of the St. Peter's Guild, we were able to donate more than \$27,600 to help organizations in the St. Louis community.

In addition to monetary donations, we were able to donate much needed assistance, including:

- 1,270 food bags collected for Trinity Food Ministry
- 278 lives impacted by blood donations from the 6th annual "Give Like Charlie" blood drive
- 1,300 school supply items donated to Normandy School District
- 100 Easter baskets donated to community organizations
- 366 Giving Tree gifts donated to our partners at Haven of Grace, Episcopal City Mission, Trinity Food Ministry, GiFT, and to St. Peter's Blessing Bags
- 100+ pairs of shoes and foot care items donated to the Trinity Foot Care Clinic
- 350 articles of warm clothing donated to the unhoused community served by the Trinity Food Ministry.

Jennifer Schafer and Chris Knight
Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

The above includes excerpts from the "Outreach Strategic Visioning Committee Final Report." To read the full report, including information on St. Peter's outreach in 2024 and upcoming initiatives, visit tinyurl.com/nh9thmmc or scan the QR code:



Read the latest parish news and updates at www.specstl.org.
Subscribe to the weekly newsletter, *News from the Rock*. From the front page
of the parish website, scroll down to “Get Weekly News” to sign-up.



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