

Easter sunrise service on Lake Logan Martin

ST. SIMON PETER EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PELL CITY, AL

Our Mission as the Body of Christ

To know our faith .....

To live in truth and love .....

To serve the needs of all people .....

Parish Profile 2020

A Word About the Pandemic

This profile has been prepared based on our parish life before the pandemic struck. We pray that we soon will be able to resume a life together that is more like the one we enjoyed in pre-pandemic times, but we don't know when that will be, or what it will look like.

In the meantime, we are doing a live stream of our Sunday service via Facebook, which is posted afterwards on our website. The service is led by our interim rector and supported by a few lay people in the roles of lector, crucifer, acolyte, and cantor. Incense, usually reserved for High Holy Days, is being burned at most services as a symbol of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven during this difficult time. The pews will remain empty until the time our Bishops Sloan and Curry decide we can return to them.

Following the worship service, we invite everyone to attend a virtual coffee hour on Zoom.

Friendship Place, our program for people with memory loss, is continuing to stay connected by a Zoom meeting for an hour twice a week. Our friends, their caregivers, and several volunteers enjoy a presentation on the topic of the day, such as National Hot Dog Day, play some whiteboard games, and enjoy laughing and talking together.



Zoom Coffee Hour

EFM has invited everyone to a weekly book study on Zoom. There is a study guide outlining the chapters for the week's discussion. This is the model that has been used for adult Sunday School, which is suspended along with other meetings such as choir practice. Several choir members serve on a rotating basis to sing the hymns and service music each Sunday.

Episcochicks, our social evening for women, has begun a Zoom meeting on our regular meeting day each month.

These are some of the ways we continue to answer God's call to us to be the Church and to love and care for each other during these uncertain, disorienting times.

Social Media Sunday 2019 Selfie
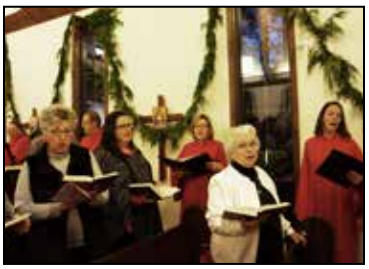














Table of Contents

A Word About the Pandemic ____ **2**

How Did We Become Who We Are? ____ **4**

Our History ____ 4

Our Community: Pell City, Alabama ____ 5

Area Attractions ____ 5

Who Are We Now? ____ **6**

Our Mission ____ 6

Style of Worship ____ 6

Music ____ 7

Facilities ____ 7

How We Stay In Touch ____ 7

Ministry and Outreach ____ **8**

Outreach ____ 8

Inreach ____ 8

Community Worship ____ 9

Social & Fundraising ____ 9

Parish Statistics and Financials ____ **10**

By the Numbers ____ 10

The Financials ____ 11

Our Vision for St. Simon Peter ____ **12**

Our Strengths ____ 12

Our Challenges ____ 12

What We Seek In Our New Rector ____ **13**

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama ____ **14**

This page top to bottom: Exercise at Friendship Place, Easter Egg Hunt, mini-pumpkins at the White Elephant sale, congregation at Lessons & Carols, the Little Free Library, a participant in Painting for the Pantry.

St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church
3702 Mays Bend Road
Pell City, AL 35128
205.884.0877
www.stsimonpeter.org
www.facebook.com/stsimonpeter

How Did We Become Who We Are?

Our History

St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church's history is tied to its geography and the development of the community in ways that continue to influence it to this day. The church got its start in 1975, but the history of an Episcopal church in this community goes back much further.

St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church was founded in 1903 by the man credited with founding Pell City, Sumter Cogswell. When the community suffered from the Great Depression, the church lost most of its members. When it closed in the early 1940s, the parish was decommissioned, the property sold, and the church building torn down. For the next thirty-five years no organized Episcopal presence existed in the Pell City area.



St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church, Pell City, 1903-1942

In the mid-1960's, when the Coosa River was dammed to create Lake Logan Martin, the character of the community began to change as retirees and vacation home owners moved to the area in greater numbers. In 1975 seven Episcopalians, including retired Episcopal priest the Rev. Julian McPhillips, met to talk about holding services. The endeavor was quickly blessed by the Bishop. The group, which included three surviving members of St. Mary the Virgin, met in the lakeside open-air Chapel in the Pines throughout the summer.

Over the next 3 years, the group would become a parochial mission of Talladega's St. Peter parish and move from outdoors to a local real estate office and eventually share rent-free space with the Pell City Seventh Day Adventist Church.

On January 1, 1978, St. Simon Peter became a new independent parish of the Diocese of Alabama with 57 communicants and 85 baptized members. The Reverend McPhillips, priest-in-charge since 1975, became the first rector of the new parish.

Over the next two years, the parish raised capital funds, acquired land, and constructed the first stage of the present building. On Christmas Eve 1980, the first service was held in the new building. The church received its magnificent pipe organ in 1982. Three years later the parish hall was constructed. A capital campaign in 2010 brought new floors, carpets, and many needed repairs and updates to the building. In 2018, the kitchen was renovated and improved to a commercial-style in anticipation of future ministry needs.



St. Simon Peter 2018

In its 45 year history, only 4 rectors have served the parish: the Rev. McPhillips from 1975-1985, the Rev. Van Foreman from 1986-2006, the Rev. Jeff Garner from 2007-2012, and the Rev. Mollie Roberts from 2014-2020.

Over the decades the church has established a reputation for service to the community and as an innovator of local outreach projects. St. Simon Peter organized and launched the local Habitat for Humanity chapter, the original Lakeside Hospice, the Christian Love Pantry, and, more recently, Friendship Place outreach to those with memory loss. The priest has been an active member of the multi-denominational community ministry association which meets weekly to discuss issues of common interest.

From its earliest roots the history of St. Simon Peter is one of growth from within our own God-given resources coupled with a willingness to give back to our local community in as many ways as possible.

Our Community: Pell City, Alabama

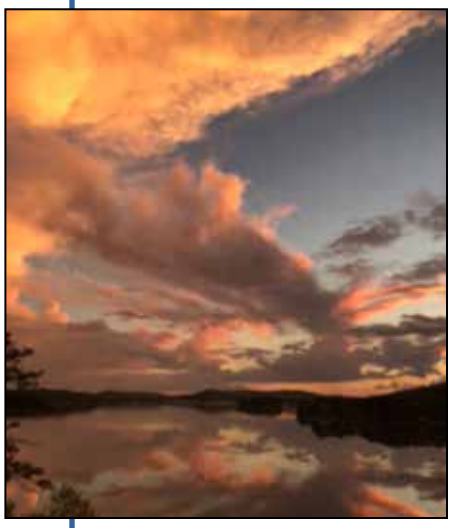
With three exits on Interstate 20, our town lies 35 miles east of Birmingham and 114 miles west of Atlanta. Much of Pell City incorporates the western shoreline of Lake Logan Martin. The lake was created in 1964 when Logan Martin Dam was constructed to provide hydroelectric power to central Alabama. The lake brought a variety of recreational activities and a number of businesses generated from them. Bass tournaments and water sports can be enjoyed all along our 275 miles of shoreline.

The lake and the completion of Interstate 20 (in the late 1960's) changed the nature of this town. Summer residents, tourists and residents desiring homes on the lake brought many changes to our town. I-20 affords our residents quick access to city life, entertainment, restaurants, museums, sports and shopping.

A place where neighbors quickly become friends, Pell City offers many civic clubs and activities; newcomers are encouraged to join those and to participate in our many churches and school programs. Our Industrial Park offers developed space for new business.

Pell City was established in 1887 by a group of railroad investors, but the economic and social center of our early growth was tied to textile manufacturing. Avondale Mills spurred housing growth and provided the first medical clinic. The mill closed its doors in 2006. Today we have thriving downtown businesses and multiple business districts with specialty shops, restaurants and big box stores.

Pell City School system has four elementary schools, one intermediate school, two junior high schools and one high school. Within the city's population, over 80% are high school graduates and about 20% have college or advanced degrees. Jefferson State Community College opened a Pell City Campus in 2005. It offers a range of degree programs including nursing (that works in conjunction with St. Vincent St. Clair Hospital, newly built and opened in 2012.) Nearby is the Veterans Home opened in early 2013. Northside Clinic, recently expanded, offers a wide variety of medical services to the community, including bringing in specialists from Birmingham as part of its offerings.



Lake Logan Martin Sunset

Also of note:

<u>In Pell City</u>

- The St. Clair County Airport is three miles from the downtown area. It has a lighted, 5000 foot runway that can accommodate aircraft up to 30,000 pounds.
- The Pell City Center- performing arts.
- Artscape Gallery
- Pell City Library, in a new facility
- Primary Care Physicians, Specialists, Dentists, Chiropractic care
- Exercise/Gym facilities
- WFHK AM & FM Radio
- *The Daily Home* and *News Aegis* newspapers, *Discover* monthly magazine
- Pell City Civic Center
- Pell City Senior Center
- Splash Pad Water Park
- Lakeside Park and walking Trails
- Golf Courses
- Recently built movie theater complex and bowling alleys

<u>Nearby Attractions</u>

- Talledega Superspeedway – 12 miles
- Motor Sports Hall of Fame – 12 miles
- Barber Motorsports Museum and Park – 34 miles
- Desoto Caverns – 24 miles
- Cheaha State Park – 52 miles
- Anniston Museum of Natural History – 35 miles
- Berman museum (Anniston) -35 miles

Area Attractions



Splash Pad Water Park
Photo credit: Anniston Star

Who Are We Now?



Our Mission

To know our faith.....

To live in truth and love.....

To serve the needs of all people.....

Mission statement adopted by the Vestry, 2011

Style of Worship

The passing of the peace illustrates our very welcoming and family friendly atmosphere within the typical Episcopal service. Enough time is allowed for parishioners to greet, hug, and share the peace with everyone. This is not a time to stay in your seats but truly to envelop all in one of our special traditions.



Our parishioners share a deep love of the Episcopal liturgy and worship services. We embrace the ritual, rhythm, and historical continuity conveyed through the Book of Common Prayer, using Rite I during Lent and Advent seasons and Rite II during other seasons. We did experiment during the most recent Lenten season with continuing Rite II services. Incense may be used on high holy days to uphold these services in a special way. We have been tagged as having an "incense and boat shoes" style of worship: great reverence and appreciation for the high church tradition, while maintaining a casual atmosphere. There is healing Eucharist on Wednesday mornings. Our main service is on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Coffee hour fellowship and Sunday school follow this service.



Volunteers participate in the Sunday worship service by serving as acolytes, lectors, crucifers, and lay Eucharistic ministers. After the service, designated visiting Eucharistic ministers take consecrated elements to homebound parishioners. Special seasonal services include Evensong, Blessing of the Animals, and Lessons and Carols. There is a special blessing given on the first Sunday service of the month for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the coming month. We approach our services with dignity and reverence, using beautiful church music that is liturgically appropriate.

We value sermons that challenge and inspire us to lead more Christ-centered lives, and many of us seek additional opportunities to deepen our understanding of the Bible and theology.

Music

Our choral tradition ranges in style from traditional English Anglican style music to spirituals and the occasional anthem from newer composers and arrangers. We use The Hymnal 1982 as our primary source for congregational singing, but we also include hymns and service music from other sources, developing a well-rounded hymnody to enhance our worship services.

Our current organist and music director, Justin Finch, became part of our ministry in January of 2020. Ten to twelve volunteer singers from various experiences and backgrounds comprise the choir.

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings during the school year and again on Sunday mornings before the service. In addition to Sunday morning services, the choir's established calendar includes a community service of Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, choral Evensong services, hymn festivals, and various Easter related services. Following Thursday rehearsals, it has become customary for the choir (and others) to share a late meal and drinks at a nearby restaurant.



The choir warms up in the parish hall before Lessons & Carols

The primary instrument used for Sunday service is a 2 manual, 8 rank pipe organ that was given to the church by the late Dale Brown whose wife Phyllis still supports its maintenance. The organ was rebuilt in 2007 and has recently been expanded with the addition of several ranks of digital stops.

Facilities



Our church property comprises approximately six acres. Located on the property is the main church building with an adjacent "L" shaped parking lot for 88 vehicles, a children's playground and a memorial garden with columbarium. The church nave and choir loft seat about 200 people. Just off the narthex is a small chapel for more intimate services.



Our parish hall, with 3500 square feet of space, seats 80 at tables. Other space includes the church offices, a large kitchen, Sunday school classrooms and a nursery. There is space upstairs over the kitchen which is currently used for storage.

We have no debt on our facility and have made significant improvements over the last decade. In the last 5 years, we have installed a new roof, painted the exterior and much of the interior. The floors have been refinished in the parish hall, narthex, and corridor. The kitchen was redesigned with new cabinetry and commercial appliances last year.

How We Stay In Touch

Our main communication method, other than Sunday announcements, is a Wednesday email newsletter that is central to staying abreast of what's happening at church during the week. Every week it includes who is serving the next Sunday (a good reminder for the forgetful!) and who is having a birthday as well as announcements of interest to the whole parish. It also contains vital links to our webpage, Facebook page, and Tithe.ly for giving. The Church administrator mails copies to parishioners who do not use email or who ask to receive a paper copy.

The church has a website (www.stsimonpeter.org) and a Facebook page (www.facebook/stsimonpeter) which are actively used.

Ministry and Outreach

Outreach

St. Simon Peter is known throughout the community for its outreach, even by people who know little else of the church. Over the past 25 years, we founded two ministries that have grown and become independent entities - The Christian Love Pantry food bank and Lakeside Hospice. While these organizations remain special to us, they are only part of the picture.



Friendship Place

Our newest ministry, **Friendship Place**, provides twice-weekly respite for adults with memory loss. With one paid staff member and a host of volunteers, friends spend about 4 hours in music, crafts, enrichment games, socialization, and are fed a nourishing lunch. The program started in January 2020 and, after 10 weeks of growth, was suspended by the pandemic. The program has continued with hour-long Zoom calls twice a week to stay in touch with our new friends and their families.

Teenagers growing up in this diocese compete to be selected as a counselor at **Sawyerville or Foothills Day Camps**. The two camps, which are diocesan-wide projects, serve low-income areas with a week-long day camp experience that is free to the participants. The whole congregation gets involved by providing meals and buying campers' provisions, as well as supporting our youth working as counselors.



Painting for the Pantry

An unusual outreach/social event is **Painting for the Pantry**, a quarterly gathering of artists (and wannabe artists) which raises money for the Christian Love Pantry. The church owns painting supplies which it provides and a teacher guides the class. The events attract attendees outside of the parish and raise about $2,000 per year for the Pantry.

Every summer, the call goes out for donated clothing - especially children's clothes - for the August **Annual Clothing Giveaway**. Shoppers are asked for a donation instead of being charged. Those who can afford it actually pay more for the garments than when it was run as a traditional yard sale, and those with a genuine need are served in a dignified manner.

A dedicated group of needleworkers knit and crochet **Prayer Shawls** which are given to the seriously ill or others who may be blessed by them. Shawls are blessed during the Sunday service and are a visible prayer for the well-being of the recipient.



The church runs a **Little Free Library** where anyone is free to take a book or leave a book.

Little used church property across the street from the building has been turned in to a **Community Garden**, headed up by a parishioner and run by volunteers.

St. Simon Peter's variation on the **Angel Tree** at Christmas focuses on nearby nursing homes and their residents who do not have family support.

Inreach

Our parish is a lively group of folks who love being together. Whether it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work, to pray or study, or just to enjoy each other's company, St. Simon Peter comes together.

- The **Daughters of the King** chapter has 20 members. While their main function is as a prayer group, they are available to assist the Priest and church in other ways on request.

- The **Men's Group** meets monthly and does much of the routine maintenance and upkeep of our grounds. They organized and implemented an immediate emergency response to assist those impacted by the devastating tornados in our area in 2011. More recently, they did much of the work on the kitchen renovation, saving the church thousands of dollars.
- **Education for Ministry (EFM)** was launched a few years ago, and has graduated nine people from the 4-year program.

Community Worship

While all worship services are "community services," three annual services have become traditions in the community and regularly draw attendees from outside the parish.

- **Easter Sunrise Service**, held at a parishioner's home on the Lake, regularly draws attendees who do not have a church home in this vacation community as well as members of the congregation.

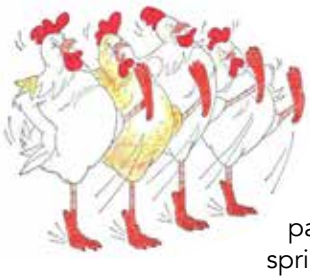


- The annual **Blessing of the Animals**, held on the Sunday closest to the feast day of St. Francis, attracts parishioners and visitors (and sometimes newspaper photographers) with their many and varied pets.
- **Lessons & Carols,** held in the traditional format on a Sunday in December, also attracts attendees from throughout the community. Our tradition has been to include ministers from other faiths as readers and include choir members from other churches.



A full house for the service of Lessons & Carols

Social & Fundraising



Billed as "strictly social," **Episcochicks** invites all the women of the church to a monthly gathering that moves from home to home. The hostess has minimal duties and attendees bring either a bottle of wine or an appetizer and spend a few hours getting to know each other.

An **Annual Church Picnic**, held at either the community park pavilion or at a parishioners lakefront home, is usually held in late spring or summer.

St. Simon Peter holds two fundraising events each year to support our outreach.

- For two weeks in October, the parish hall becomes a market for our **White Elephant Sale**. Now in its eleventh year, this event has been so successful that the amount raised by the sale is usually $7,500 - $11,000. Donations come from parishioners, but also from others in the community. Shoppers come from miles around.
- Our other fundraiser is a **Dinner Dance/Silent Auction** held the first Friday in February. Most recently, the theme has been Mardi Gras, featuring a New Orleans style buffet, plenty of dancing, and the crowning of a king and queen. Items auctioned cover a wide range of value including signed game balls from our state universities, and weekend getaways at choice destinations. The community looks forward to this evening of fun each year. Their support helps us net around $5000.



Mardi Gras outfits 2020

Parish Statistics and Financials

By the Numbers

Between 2015 and 2019, St. Simon Peter has experienced **healthy membership and financial growth.** The number of baptized members has increased by 19% (from 202 to 241) and the number of communicants by 29% (from 172 to 222). Similarly, the dollars pledged has increased 21% (from $160K to $194K), while the pledges and plate offering received has increased 23% (from $203K to $250K). These increases in receipts have had a positive impact on net cash flow, with a $19K deficit in 2015 and a $25K surplus in 2019. This improvement in the financial situation has been accomplished despite a small decrease from 55 to 52 pledging units.

As we are mid-year and in the midst of the virus, it is difficult to forecast either the membership status or financial outcome for 2020, so we have conservatively assumed a 5% decrease in pledge receipts (from $214K to $204K). However, with the expenses of an interim rather than a full-time rector's salary and benefits, we still anticipate approximately a $23K surplus.

The substantial bonus of both designated income and designated spending that culminated in 2018 reflects the renovation of the parish kitchen, a project that has been fully completed with restaurant-quality appliances and fixtures. This effort was fully-funded by special offerings from parishioners, and was completed without incurring any debt to the church. This new facility has had a remarkably positive impact on the church community and support for community activities.



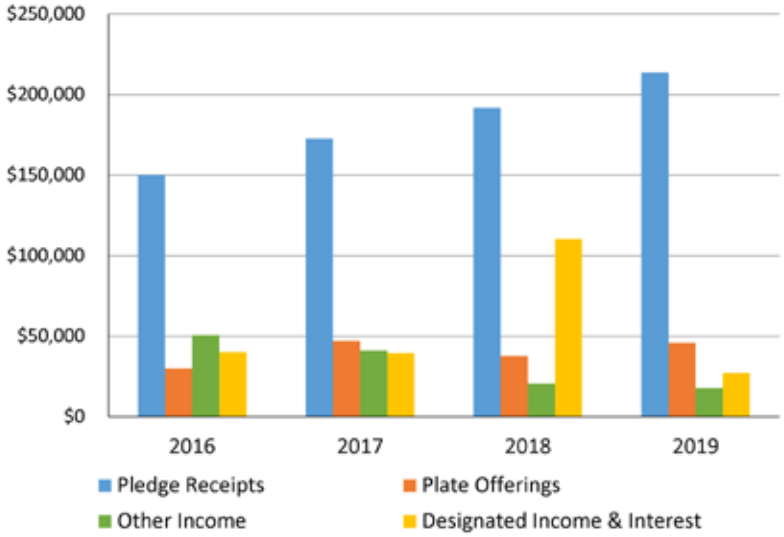
Packing for the Love Pantry holiday food giveaway

St. Simon Peter currently has no long or short-term debt. A modest **endowment fund** anchors the church's ability to carry out its programs and to participate in God's mission. Commonly referred to as the King Trust, the fund currently has an approximate value of $415K, and has made donations of $113K since its inception. The St. Simon Peter Foundation, whose members are elected by the vestry, was formed in 2011 to manage expenditures from the King Trust. The foundation administers financial gifts intended for long-term use in the outreach ministries of this congregation. Management of the foundation allows funds to be distributed for outreach, education, and capital improvements; but not for ordinary operating expenses. As much as 5% of the principle can be distributed annually. Funds have been given to many groups, including the Legacy Building Campaign, tornado relief in St. Clair County, Episcopal Relief and Development, Camp McDowell building fund, The Christian Love Pantry, and the local YWCA woman's shelter. Monies distributed from the endowment bring the **parish commitment to outreach to an average of 19% of the budget over the past few years.**

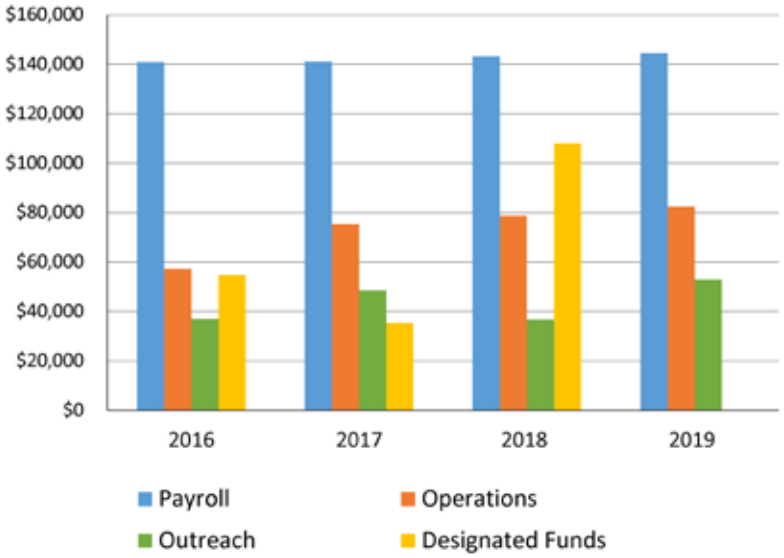
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baptized Members	202	221	203	243	241
Communicants	172	195	228	218	222
Average Sunday Attendance	87	91	96	90	92
Total Church School	15	16	12	12	12
Total Pledging Units	55	55	56	58	52
Total Dollars Pledged	$160,106	$160,106	$176,665	$183,488	$194,526
Pledges & Plate offerings received	$203,091	$180,129	$208,161	$227,128	$250,134

The Financials

Revenue Inflows

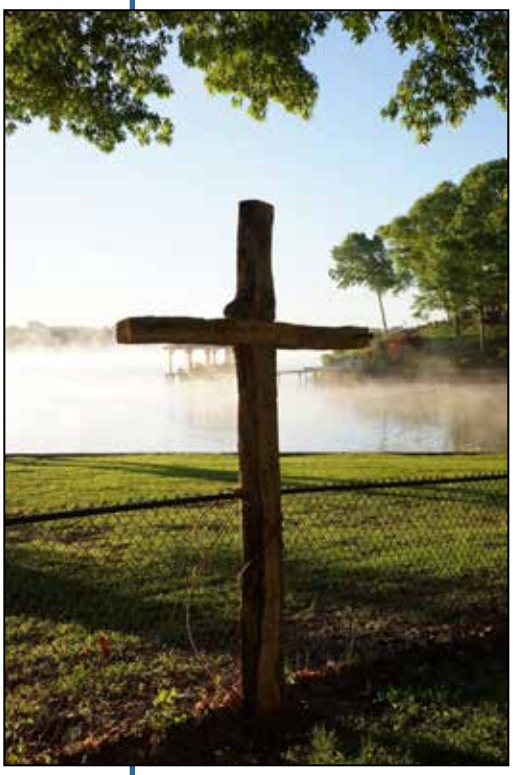


Disbursement Outflows





Sanctuary view from the choir loft



Easter sunrise service

Our Vision for St. Simon Peter

Our Strengths

- We prefer a traditional style of worship and an emphasis on traditional music. Respondents to the parish survey cited worship and sense of community as top reasons why they are at St. Simon Peter.
- We are a welcoming community to all and have a strong emphasis on fellowship.
- We have a long history of focusing on outreach programs (especially food programs).
- Lay ministry involvement remains a quality we value.
- Financial support for the church is strong.

> "It is impossible to reduce the joy and feeling of God's presence to only one experience. To be a part of St. Simon Peter on a daily basis is to find true fulfillment in so many ways. Peace and contentment is what I find constantly."

Write-in response to Parish survey

Our Challenges

- There is a long standing desire to enhance Christian Formation (Sunday School) for all ages. This was expressed in our 2013 profile, and it reappears now as an area we would like to see nurtured and new options explored. While our survey showed strong support for Sunday School for all ages, the numbers of people actually participating does not match that support. We have only a small number of families with children, but we have been blessed with several births in recent years, and the time may be right to look at beginning a pre school Sunday School program. In recent years, Adult Sunday School has been a book study class, but there seems to be interest in offering more variety for Adult Sunday School.
- Seeking new members was rated as a high priority in our survey of members.
- A need to deepen understanding of the Bible, the Church and its traditions was evidenced in many responses to the survey.
- Continuing to increase diversity was an expressed interest.



Blessing of the Animals

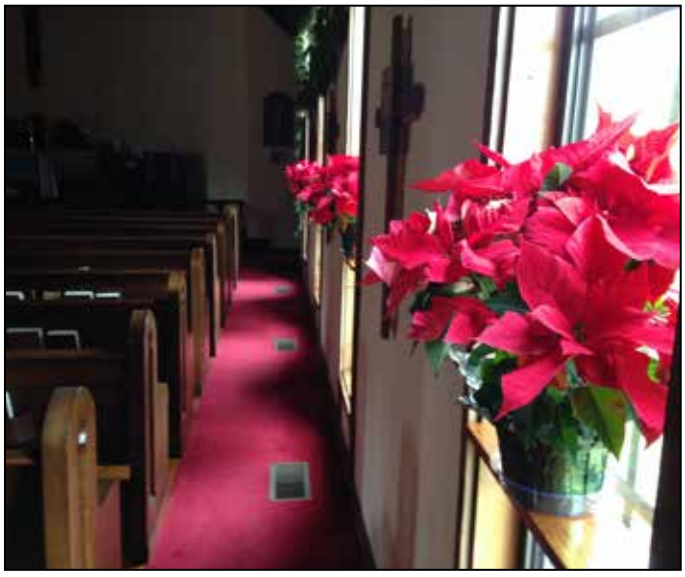


An illustration of the words most often used to describe St. Simon Peter, Parish survey 2020

What We Seek In Our New Rector

When surveyed for the profile, the respondents indicated that **the most important qualities** for our new rector were overwhelmingly relational. The parish strongly desires a priest who has the ability to relate to, get along with, and counsel parishioners. Frequently used words were:

- Patient
- Loving
- Welcoming
- Warm
- Approachable
- Compassionate
- Kind

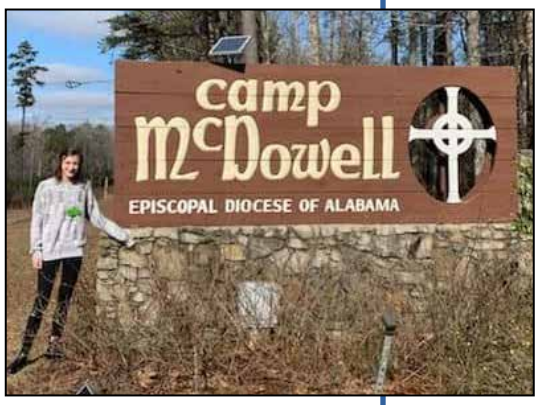


- Rated as very important were preaching style (effective speaking ability), sermons that are useful in our daily lives, and tolerance.
- Rated as significant were community involvement and administrative skills.

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

The Diocese of Alabama finds its roots and best expression in the mission of Jesus Christ. We see ourselves as a missionary people, committed to spreading the Gospel and sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ for the reconciliation and healing of the world.

The diocese is healthy and strong, with 88 parishes and four campus centers and three worshipping communities. As a witness to our growth we have had two very successful capital campaigns in the last ten years. The first raised over six million dollars for ministry development and expansion throughout the diocese, including funds to purchase land for new parishes, a chapel for our conference center at Camp McDowell, an expansion of the campus ministry at the University of Montevallo, create a staff position for communications, and a lay ministry certification program. We have completed the second campaign which raised ten million dollars to enhance and expand Camp McDowell, a new facility called Bethany Village. The new area will allow for more camp sessions and programs for people with disabilities or mobility issues, expand our Environmental Education program to include a Farm Education component, provide a home for the Alabama Folk School, and offer more facilities for our parishes and church groups.



St. Simon Peter and other youth at Camp McDowell

Camp McDowell is known as the heart of the diocese, and serves as host to summer camp sessions, various youth gatherings, Cursillo, retreats, conferences, workshops, a wide array of educational and renewal opportunities to support people as they strive to live out the Baptismal Covenant.

Currently the diocese has a growing baptized membership of over 32,000 parishioners, and we are hopeful that growth will continue well into the 21st Century. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry was elected Bishop Coadjutor in January, 2020, and was ordained in June.



The diocese has vigorously encouraged and supported local parishes in outreach ministry, and sought to address some of the underlying problems of hunger, unemployment and racial tension with initiatives, both locally and internationally. The Black Belt area of the diocese, named for its rich dark soil, is one of the most impoverished areas of the state, and has served as the backdrop for two successful ministries, the Sawyerville Day Camp and the Jonathan Daniels pilgrimage. A third ministry, Foothills Day Camp, follows the model of the Sawyerville Camp and serves children and youth in the northeastern corner of the state.



Since 1969, the diocese has had a high commitment to the Companion Diocese Relationship Program, and over the years has had formal relationships with the Diocese of Namibia in Southern Africa, the Dioceses of Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Sao Paolo in Brazil, the Diocese of South Dakota and Haiti. Presently we are in a partnership with the Diocese of the Virgin Islands.

In 2000, the order of Deacons was reestablished in the Diocese of Alabama; we now have over 43 deacons serving across the diocese. We have recently

launched the Alabama Integrative Ministry School, a program to train bivocational and non-stipendiary priests and deacons with a minimum of disruption, without sending them away for a more formal seminary education. The students will still have to go through our ordination discernment process, but will be able to keep their homes and jobs as they respond to God's call to ordination.

A major focus of formation and renewal with the diocese is Cursillo. This lay led movement was begun in the diocese in 1979. With the full support and encouragement of the bishops, this program for spiritual renewal has reached into almost every parish, and has greatly helped the sense of affection and community across the diocese. Happening, a renewal weekend for young people is similar, as is Vocare for college students and young adults; both of them provide a time for young people to look at what they believe and serve to empower young leaders to share their walk with Christ.

Youth ministry is a valuable priority in the diocese, and we have employed a coordinator since the 1960's. Lifelong faith formation is understood to be an ongoing process for all baptized Christians, and the diocese has employed a coordinator to assist parishes with resources, workshops and conferences to nourish and support teachers and students seeking a deeper relationship with our Lord.



The Diocese covers the northern 2/3 of Alabama

Since 1981 the diocese has relied on a voluntary program of giving from the parishes rather than imposing assessments. While maintaining the standard of voluntary giving, in 2001 the Diocesan Convention established guidelines requesting parishes with annual income of more than $150,000 to commit to giving 15% to the work of the Church through the diocese, and parishes with annual income of less than $150,000 to pledge 10% to the diocese.



Welcoming friends old and new at Foothills Day Camp.

Mindful of the importance of unity, the diocese has been a strong supporter of the ministries of the entire Episcopal Church, and continues to support our part of God's Church by paying the apportionment asked of us and participation at all levels. We assign this high priority to the supporting the budget of General Convention because of its mission and ministry both within the United States and throughout the Anglican Communion. At the same time, the diocese strives to maintain realistic growth in compensation of its clergy and full time lay employees, along with the most recent benefits mandated by the General Convention.

In summary, the Diocese of Alabama is at its heart a community of faith centered in mission. We offer ourselves into the grace of almighty God, striving to live into the Baptismal Covenant, and to equip God's people to do the work of the Church as we proclaim by word and example the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord. Our bedrock belief is that we are called to live the gospel of grace in hope and joy, as we share the blessing of life with all of God's reaction.



God's Peace,

+KEE

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan
Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Alabama



St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church
3702 Mays Bend Road
Pell City, AL 35128
205.884.0877
www.stsimonpeter.org
www.facebook.com/stsimonpeter