

# 2023 MINISTRIES



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
211 Mulberry Street  
P. O. Box 464  
Lewes, Delaware 19958

# SAINT PETER'S STAFF - 2023

## Rector

The Reverend Jeffrey A. Ross  
*jross@stpeterslewes.org*

## Associate Priests

The Reverend Canon Mark Harris  
*poetmark1940@gmail.com*

The Reverend Carlyle Gill  
*jcarlylegill@yahoo.com*

The Rev. Ted Olson  
*frted79@gmail.com*

The Reverend Deacon Larry Norfleet  
*deacon@stpeterslewes.org*

The Rev. Deacon Paula Waite  
*Diocesan Chaplain to Beebe Hospital*

## Rector Emeritus

The Reverend Douglas Culton

## Minister of Music

T. J. Thomas  
*tthomas@stpeterslewes.org*

## Director of Family Ministry & Communications

Jessica Potter  
*jessica@stpeterslewes.org*

## Parish Administrator

Kelley Mallon  
*kmallon@stpeterslewes.org*

## Parish Administrator Emerita

Adele Fluharty

## Sexton

Bob Reehorst

## Gardener

Helen Waite

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
Second and Market Streets  
P.O. Box 464 ~ Lewes, Delaware 19958

Church Office Hours  
Monday through Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
302-645-8479 ~ fax 302-645-0986  
[office@stpeterslewes.org](mailto:office@stpeterslewes.org)  
[www.stpeterslewes.org](http://www.stpeterslewes.org)

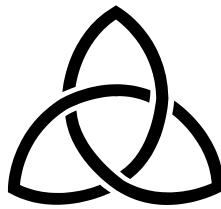


Saint Peter's Church is an active, caring, and open Christian community committed to our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of the Gospel to the surrounding community and the world.

As a faithful and Christ-centered community, there are a wealth of opportunities offered for ministry, worship, fellowship, and outreach. This booklet contains a list of some of these opportunities with a description and contact person for each one. It is for the use of members, friends, and visitors who desire to become actively involved in the life of Saint Peter's Parish.

It is our hope and prayer that this booklet will assist you in discerning what your role could be in this church as you live out your faith in the lively and gracious presence of God.

*May God the Creator direct and bless us in our ministries.  
May God the Son, nourish us for the work we face.  
May God the Holy Spirit fill us with the power to serve.*



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Sunday

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing  
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, from age 3  
Through High School (Sept.-May)  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing  
*This service is also webcast on  
YouTube and Facebook*  
10:30 a.m. Family Service in Parish Hall  
with Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday

1:30 p.m. Centering Prayer (Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing

### Thursday

Noon Holy Eucharist at The Moorings in Lewes  
1 p.m. Holy Eucharist at The Lodge in Lewes

### Saturday

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Morning and Prayer is offered at 9 am Monday-Friday on Facebook  
Evening Prayer is offered at 5 pm most Mondays and Tuesdays on Facebook

# Pastoral Services

## What are Holy Sacraments?

Our Book of Common Prayer defines a Sacrament as an “outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as a sure and certain means by which we receive that grace,” (BCP, page 857). In other words, they are freely offered signs of God’s love, given to us by our Lord at pivotal moments of our lives, in part to make us tangibly aware of His constant presence in our lives. The Episcopal Church recognizes Baptism and the Eucharist as directly ordained by Christ in Holy Scripture and as essential marks of His Church. Confirmation/Reception, Holy Matrimony, Ordination, Reconciliation and Unction are understood as sacramental rites which are helpful in deepening our spiritual lives and connections to God. It is through these sacramental actions that we are especially aware of God’s continued action in His creation, seeking to intimately engage, redeem, and bless our lives.



## Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated, according to the canons of the church and the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer. By Baptism, we become full members of the Body of Christ and His Church. Baptisms are therefore part of the public worship of the church and are not performed privately but rather during one of the regular services. It is expected that persons who are Baptized at Saint Peter’s will answer affirmatively the questions asked in the baptismal covenant, particularly concerning their participation in the life and ministry of this parish. When we baptize infants and small children, it is expected that their parents and/or guardians will assist their children in regular attendance at worship and in the life of the congregation.

The Book of Common Prayer directs that it is especially appropriate for Holy Baptism to be performed at these feasts: The Baptism of our Lord, The Great Vigil and Easter, Pentecost Sunday, and All Saints Sunday. It is also appropriate to celebrate Baptism at the visitation of our Bishop. In addition to the dates listed above, a baptism may also be scheduled on other Sundays of any month. Except in the case of extreme emergency, baptisms will not be performed in the season of Lent. Before the Baptism is celebrated there is always instruction for the individual and/or parents. Godparents are also strongly urged to be participants in this instruction. If you wish to be baptized or to have your child baptized, please speak with Fr. Ross. There are no fees for Baptisms.



## Confirmation and Reception

Confirmation is a pastoral rite in which a mature person, who was baptized as an infant or young child, reaffirms his or her baptismal vows with a blessing and laying-on of hands by the Bishop. Reception is a similar rite in which a Christian, who has been baptized as an adult in another tradition, is received into the Episcopal Church by means of a blessing and laying-on of hands by a Bishop. The Bishop visits Saint Peter’s Church once every year, in part to Confirm or Receive new members into the Church. Prior to his visit, those wishing to be Confirmed or Received, will be prepared by the Clergy through study, prayer and contemplation. If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received, please speak with Fr. Ross.





## Marriage

The Celebration of life-long unions between two people at Saint Peter's Church will be scheduled no later than six months prior to the service date. During this time, the couple meets with Fr. Ross on at least three occasions to prepare and plan the service. All services in the church are governed by the Canons of the Diocese of Delaware, the Book of Common Prayer, and the laws of this state. Services will only be performed for couples in which at least one of the individuals is a Baptized Christian. No marriages will be performed during Lent. In addition, if either one and/or both individuals have been married previously, it will be necessary to secure

permission from the Bishop of Delaware to perform the marriage (and this will require extra time). In any event, it is crucial to speak to Father Ross before scheduling a date. It is customary for all services to take place at the church. It is also customary, if there is to be music in the service, to use the services of our Minister of Music. His fee is \$250 for the service. The Priest and the Minister of Music must approve all music selected for the service. The wedding ceremony itself, everything affecting the ceremony and anything taking place on the church premises are under the direct and full control of the clergy.

The Vestry has approved the following appropriate fees for weddings. (Fees may be waived at the discretion of the Rector.)

- † Pledging Members: Saint Peter's Episcopal Church offers to its pledging members a no-charge policy for the use of the Sanctuary for weddings. However, a \$300 honorarium for the Rector is suggested. In addition, the Organist Honorarium: \$250; Sexton service: \$75 (both of which are required). Use of the Parish Hall for receptions is \$200 for pledging members and \$400 for all others. Webcasting services are available on request for \$200.
- † Non-Members: Organist: Service including one rehearsal: \$250 additional rehearsals for other musicians: \$100; Sexton Services: Extra cleaning and/or moving furniture, etc. \$75. Out of normal working hours \$150. Marriage Preparation counseling (up to 3 visits) \$300. Use of Sanctuary: \$1,000 Clergy Fee: Including rehearsal and liturgy service \$300. Webcasting services are available on request for \$200.



## Ordination

This Sacrament is the setting apart, by the laying-on of hands and prayer by a bishop, of a person, to function in the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Church. There are three orders of ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church: Bishop, Priest, and Deacon. Those who are contemplating a vocation of ministry, lay or ordained, should speak with Fr. Ross.

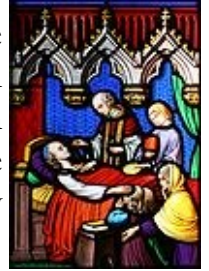
## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a rite by which a minister of the church absolves and offers forgiveness of sin to a penitent in the name of Christ and His church. The Sacrament is also known as Confession and is available to anyone who feels that sinful events in their life have caused a block in their relationship with Christ. It is by no means mandatory, but is rather a means offered by the Church to help reconcile individuals to God and to receive counsel in restoring their relationship with Christ. It is celebrated upon request to a member of the clergy.



## Holy Unction & Sick Calls

All parishioners are strongly urged to inform the church when they or a loved one are seriously ill and/or hospitalized. The Rector is very willing to visit and pray with members of the congregation at any time, but especially when they are in need. When you call the office, please let the staff know if you or your loved one would like to be anointed with the oil of the sick (Holy Unction) for healing and/or have Holy Communion brought to you.



## Funerals



The death of a child of God is a tender event. Members of the church are urged to call Fr. Ross as soon as possible when death is anticipated or has come, in order that he may bring the comfort of our faith and the presence of the church family. In addition, parishioners are encouraged to sit down with the Rector ahead of time to make advance arrangements. It is appropriate for the funeral of a Christian to take place in the Church. A viewing can also be held in the Parish Hall or the church prior to the service. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has an opportunity to be present. Members and their families may also avail themselves of the Pilottown Cemetery.

The Vestry has approved the following appropriate fees for funerals. (Fees may be waived at the discretion of the Rector.)

- † Pledging Members: Saint Peter's Episcopal Church offers a no-charge policy for the use of the Sanctuary for funerals. However, a \$300 honorarium for the Rector is suggested. In addition, the Organist Honorarium: \$250; Sexton service: \$75 (both of which are required). Use of the Parish Hall for receptions is \$200 for pledging members and \$400 for all others. Webcasting services are available on request for \$200.
- † Non-Members: Organist: Service including one rehearsal \$250. Additional rehearsals for other musicians \$100; Sexton Services: Extra cleaning and/or moving furniture, etc. \$75. Out of normal working hours \$150; Clergy Fee: \$300. Webcasting services are available on request for \$200.

## Prayer Vigils

At various times during the Christian year it has become a tradition at Saint Peter's to hold a Prayer Vigil in the Church. In preparation we make certain that at least one person (although the number is unlimited) is responsible for one hour. The hour may be spent in meditation, prayer, reading the Scriptures or other devotional literature that is made available. This is done for the purpose of making intercession for the worshipping community in its ministry. Traditionally we have a Prayer Vigil beginning Maundy Thursday evening through Good Friday as well as before and during events that affect the parish and world community.



### Occasional Services Offered

There are many services offered by the Church for the spiritual growth and well being of the members and friends of the Body of Christ. Among them are:

- † Reconciliation of a Penitent (commonly known as Confession)
- † Blessing of a Home
- † Blessing of food for Easter, Christmas or Thanksgiving
- † Commissioning of Ministries
- † Ministration at the time of death (commonly known as Last Rites)

For more information, please contact a member of the Clergy.

### Special Services within the Christian Calendar

#### Ash Wednesday

12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Imposition of Ashes*

#### Holy Week

Wednesday ..... 7 p.m. Tenebrae

Thursday ..... 7 p.m. Stripping of the Altar

8 p.m.—8 a.m. Friday ..... Vigil in the Garden

Friday ..... 8 a.m. Mass of the pre-sanctified

12 noon Liturgy of Good Friday

7 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross

Saturday ..... 7 p.m. Easter Vigil

Sunday ..... 8 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

..... 10 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

..... 10:30 a.m. Family Service

*(Any additional Services during Holy Week  
will be announced)*

#### Christmas Eve

5 p.m. .... Family Service

*Candlelight Service with  
Holy Eucharist & Carols*

7:30 p.m. .... Candlelight Service

*With Holy Eucharist, Carols, Sermon,  
and Handbell Choir .*

11 p.m. .... Candlelight Service

*With Festal Holy Eucharist, Carols,  
Sermon and Parish Choir*

#### Christmas Day

9 a.m. .... Holy Eucharist

*The laying-on of hands and anointing with oil for  
healing is available at all Sunday Services.*

***Services are subject to change.***

## **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**November 6, 2022**

The meeting was held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10 am service. There were approximately 100 in attendance, with several more watching online via Facebook and YouTube. Dan Somerset nominated Kelley Mallon to serve as recording secretary. The motion was not seconded, however, Stu Brahs moved to close the nominations. This motion was seconded by several in attendance and carried unanimously. Stu Brahs moved to accept the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting as published in the Annual Report. Jeff Whipple seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Vestry Election**

Senior Warden Sue Potts announced the results of the very close Vestry election. Chip Beaverson, Robert Gotwalt, Debby Gensch, and Kevin Morgan were all elected to a three-year term on the Vestry which will begin in January of 2023. Sue Potts thanked all the candidates who ran and noted that the three candidates who were not elected (Brian Jenkins, Michelle Norelli, and Lee Peters) have all expressed a desire to serve St. Peter's in any way that they can.

Fr. Jeff recognized our retiring Vestry members and thanked them for their many years of service: Sue Potts- Senior Warden, Tracy Mulveny- Junior Warden, John Mears – Invite Welcome Connect, and Lois Powell – Worship and Music.

Fr. Jeff also recognized our retiring Treasurer, Bruce Bolander, and thanked him for his inspired leadership during a very tumultuous financial climate, and noted that Bruce was exactly the person we needed as Treasurer over the past three years. Fr. Jeff introduced our incoming Treasurer, Minnie Shorter, who will start her term in January of 2023.

### **Ministry Reports**

Stu Brahs moved to accept the ministry reports by title. Several persons seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Rector's Report**

Was delivered as the Sermon at all services over the weekend: St. Peter's continues to strive to be Sanctuary in the Heart of Lewes, open to all.

### **Open Door**

Randy Burton presented the current plans for Phase 2 of the Open Door Project.

The Hart House will be converted into administrative space on the ground level and Christian Formation space on the second floor. The Parish Hall will offer two large meeting spaces on the upper level, and a large space for the music program in the lower level. Both buildings will have elevators installed to allow greater accessibility. The current plans will require us to rethink where the "Front Door" is: the primary entrance to St. Peter's Square will move to Third Street. With the new layout, there will be enough space to have up to 6 groups meeting simultaneously. The new plans have enough space to offer Adult Ed programs on Sunday.

Several questions were asked concerning specifics of the new plan:

There will be wheelchair accessible bathrooms. The plan is to look at adding solar panels once the roofs on the various buildings reach the end of their useful life. Geothermal evaluation was done, but would disturb too many graves. The plan is to convert the Hart House first, and then work on



the Parish Hall in sections. This will allow for less disruption to any programs running on St. Peter's Square. From groundbreaking to completion should be about 24 months. Groundbreaking will happen when we are certain we will be able to meet the financial obligations of the project. We would like to seek grants from foundations, but we need to have a higher percentage of our membership pledging to this project before we approach any organization. Current participation is at about 50%, need it to be at least 85%. Even a gift of \$5 will help. We are not seeking additional pledges from those who pledged during Phase 1.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bruce Bolander noted that we are currently in excellent financial health due to both the generosity of our members and to the steady guidance of the Financial Advisory Committee. He stated that he has absolute faith that we will raise the funds necessary to complete Phase 2 of Open Door. Bruce presented the 2023 budget. Pointed out that interest rates and fuel expenses are both up, and that salary increases for staff are based on diocesan guidelines. Our endowment stands where it was three years ago; which is remarkable considering that the markets have seen a 20% downturn in just this past year. Chip Beaverson asked why it appears that our to-date expense numbers for Mission and Outreach and Christian Formation seem so low. Mission and Outreach spends most of its budget in December, with large donations to the Community Resource Center and Primeros Pasos. The Christian Formation expenses are lower because we have not been able to find a person to work in our nursery on Sunday mornings.

### **New Business**

There being no new business, Stu Brahs moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20. Several in attendance seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.





## Senior Warden

The Vestry of St. Peter's is an elective body composed of the Rector and an elected group of 12 members who administer the operational affairs of the parish. The presiding officer of the vestry is the Rector and the Senior Warden is the support person for the rector. The Senior Warden is responsible for overseeing four main areas of the church: 1) legal aspects regarding contracts and properties 2) accurate financial documentation of all accounts 3) parish functions with regular services and acting on behalf of the rector when he is ill or cannot perform his duties and 4) assisting and supporting the rector with his other roles and responsibilities.

The Year 2023 has seen many significant developments and challenges in the life of St. Peter's Parish. Not only have our weekly and weekend services returned to normal, but additional worship opportunities have been created or renewed, most notably the Sunday Family Service (formerly the Iona Service). Also, ushers and greeters are now available to assist worshipers at Saturday night services.

Programs aimed at younger families and children have been developed under Jessica Potter's skillful direction. Efforts continue to strengthen these activities to help further integrate these families into parish life.

Of major significance has been the final completion of the Open Door Project's first phase in the church building and the grounds of St. Peter's Square. Work has started in the renovation of the Hart House into office space and meeting rooms, with an estimated mid-2024 completion. This additional facility will enhance our programs by providing state of the art a/v & communication capabilities. We will be able to pursue new ministries and offer meeting space to local non-profit groups at no cost. Necessary repairs have also been made to the Rectory on Second Street, under Junior Warden Scott Samples' able supervision.

After over a decade of tireless work and perseverance by Fr. Jeff, the Financial Advisory Committee, parish Chancellors and several Treasurers, St. Peter's finally secured the transfer of an eight decade-old trust from a commercial bank to the church's Master Fund A account administered by the Diocese. These resources will provide a welcomed financial cushion for the parish.

During the year we suffered the grievous loss of our beloved Father Ray Michener. In the midst of Fr. Jeff's well-deserved sabbatical, our very able Clergy – Fathers Mark and Ted, Mother Carlyle, Deacons Larry Norfleet and Paula Waite – and by our dedicated staff and volunteers, led by Church Administration Kelley Mallon, covered all bases. We continue to be blessed and nurtured by Father Jeff's ministry, refreshed in both body and spirit. Our Clergy, staff and volunteers deserve our deep appreciation. Thank you

Respectfully submitted,  
*Stuart J. Brahs, Senior Warden*

## Junior Warden

The Junior Warden has responsibility for the maintenance and care of St Peter's physical assets, the church, parish hall, rectory, Hart House, churchyard, and the Pilottown Cemetery. However, the Junior Warden can't do this without the help of many others at St Peter's along with many contractors and consultants. Thank you to all who contributed to everything accomplished this past year. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Junior Warden.

The following is a summary of projects completed between November 2022 and October 2023:

- In the spring the church underwent an Energy Audit to determine what could be done to improve our energy efficiency and possibly obtain energy-related grants for Phase II.
- The latter part of this year much of the Junior Warden's time was focused the Open Door Project, Phase II. This especially involved collaborating with Mark Chura, our Owner's Representative and many others.
- Beginning in July 2023 demolition of the interior of the Hart House began in order to create new office space and meeting rooms. The capital campaign is ongoing to cover Phase II. These changes, together with modifications to the parish hall, will comprise Phase II of Open Door. Once work is completed on the Hart House it will be possible to move forward with much-needed remodeling of the parish hall, allowing for improved spaces for worship, gatherings and music programs.

Our gardener, Helen Waite, and the St. Peter's Weeders have done a wonderful job this year. Our grounds have never looked better! Ten mature Arborvitae died of drought stress along the Third Street wall in the fall and were removed. Three were re-planted. Plans are being finalized for a memorial garden in the remaining area.

St. Peter's is in good repair as we move into the future. We have a great heritage from those that preceded us. The Junior Wardens of the past have prioritized the projects and needs of the church. A huge thank you to Randy Burton and Mark Chura who are leading the team on Open Door Phase II.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Scott Samples, Junior Warden*





## Acolytes

Acolytes are most often thought of as “those who light and extinguish the candles before and after a church service.” As a broad definition, that works. However, Acolytes are far more than those who deal with candles; they are also important assistants who often help the priest and deacon during liturgies. Here at St. Peter’s we are working to expand the Acolyte program, inviting people of all ages to become part of a group of individuals and families who serve the church in many ways as liturgical assistants. Acolyte training will include such things as: lighting candles, being the Crucifer, being Torch Bearers, and learning to be a Thurifer. Other training is being offered for those who wish to be Chalice Bearers (a position that requires approval of the Rector and the Bishop - but not as daunting as it might sound) Feel free to speak to Fr. Jeff for more information or to offer your service!



## Adult Education

Most programs have been offered in person and on Zoom or Facebook. Fr. Ted offered an Lenten series using Dr. Amy Jill Levine’s book: *Witness at the Cross*. The Summer Spirituality Series was well-attended by approximately 20-25 persons each Thursday evening over the course of the summer. A wide variety of topics was offered. Scripture study continues to be offered twice weekly. A centering prayer/spiritual reading group meets weekly. A men’s spirituality group meets twice a month on Monday evenings. A women’s spirituality group, led by Mother Carol Flett, Rev. Rebecca Brenner, and Carol Wzorek, meets twice a month on Friday mornings. Fr. Jeff leads a weekly series on Anglican Spirituality. Fr. Ted provides spiritual direction monthly to several persons and is willing to offer this opportunity to other parishioners. The popular program of The Episcopal Church “Sacred Ground” has been offered at St. Peter’s and led by Carol Wzorek and Mother Carlyle.

Some of the challenges of adult formation has been identifying topics of interest, the timing, and the location of programs such as the Adult Forum. Some of these challenges may be addressed with property development. To help address the challenges Fr. Ted is assembling a team of several parishioners for the purpose of brainstorming and planning.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study

The group meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room (and concurrently on Zoom for those unable to attend in person) for lively discussion and reflection on selected portions of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. The group is always open and you would be most welcome to join them.

## St. Peter’s STaR\* Adult Education Program

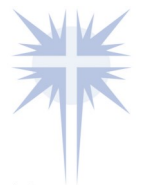
This 4-year program, designed by members and clergy from St. Peter’s, takes the place of the EfM program. We have 11 participants and 2 mentors in this program; 7 of whom came from the EfM program. Participants in the program explore their spirituality and relationship to Christ and the Universe. The class meets weekly on Tuesdays from 5pm-7pm during the school year.

Year 1 - Hebrew Scriptures - The Hebrew Bible for Beginners

Year 2 - Christian Scriptures - The New Testament in Its World

Year 3 - Church History - Introduction to the History of Christianity

Year 4- Exploring your mission - Faith Seeking Understanding and Glorious Companions



S.T.a.R.

Scripture, Tradition and Reason  
a program of Christian study



## Altar Flowers

Flowers for the Altar are provided weekly by our Parishioners, through a local florist. Forms for the current year are provided in the weekly emailed announcements and on our website starting in December. You may also call the Church Office, or email ([office@stpeterslewes.org](mailto:office@stpeterslewes.org)), if you are interested in open dates available for flower dedications. However, it is recommended, and encouraged, that you get your dedication in as soon as possible, as dates can fill rather quickly. No more than two families or individuals, can sponsor the altar flowers for any given Sunday with the exception of Easter and Christmas, when we invite unlimited dedications. The names of the givers, as well as the names of those who are honored, remembered, or celebrated are printed in the weekly service bulletins. We do not have flowers on the altar during Lent, so no dedications are available during that season, and we have greenery only on the altar during Advent.

We would like to thank Jim and the staff of Windsor's Florist for the beautiful arrangements delivered every week.



## Art Show

This annual event held on the first Saturday in July is Saint Peter's largest fund-raising event with net proceeds benefiting local charities. It started as a clothes-line art show in 1966 and has grown to become one of the region's oldest and finest outdoor art shows with more than 100 artists and artisans exhibiting their works.

In 2023 more than 100 artists and artisans set up booths around St. Peter's Square on July 1st. The Art Show Committee thanks the artists and artisans who have exhibited their work and donated items for the silent auction and raffle and everyone who has volunteered, supported, or attended the event. This year we raised just over \$24,000 from booth fees, raffle ticket sales and the Silent Auction.

In January the Art Show Committee will begin planning for the 57th Annual Art Show which will occur on July 6, 2023. We will need volunteers to assist with the silent auction and logistics. If you are interested in knowing more about these roles on the Art Show Committee, please contact Jeff Whipple and Scott Samples at [artshow@stpeterslewes.org](mailto:artshow@stpeterslewes.org)



## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild, in the words of one member, is the "secret service" of the church because much of its work is conducted behind the scenes. The charge of the Altar Guild is to prepare and care for the sacred vessels and vestments used in our worship, and several members have served in this capacity at Saint Peter's for many years. The acts of preparing the implements of worship and attending to details can be wonderfully spiritual experiences, and members have likened it to planning for a very special party – a feast — because the linens, table service, and lighting are selected with care and presented with reverence.

Altar Guild members serve on a rotating basis, and new members are always welcome. We're a low-key, flexible, and jovial group, and we work well together as a team to cover regular services, weddings, funerals, and other special services. Anyone who is interested in serving in this satisfying and rewarding ministry should contact Shelly Souder at [shellysouder@gmail.com](mailto:shellysouder@gmail.com). Please join this fun group if you feel so led!



## Audit

The Diocese of Delaware requires that each congregation submit a professional audit report each year. Since 2015, the Vestry has employed Raymond F. Book and Associates, C.P.A. to perform the audit for us.

## Bishop's Visitation and Reception

The Bishop of Delaware visits the parish to celebrate Confirmation and Receive New Members each year. The service is followed with a reception in the Parish Hall.



## Blessing of the Animals

The blessing of the animals is held in October on the Sunday closest to the celebration of Saint Francis Day. This service is usually held at 12 noon and all animals are welcomed and blessed.



## Broadcasting/Media

We continuously work to bring you Sunday services at 10am on YouTube and Facebook. Webcasting continues to be available for funerals and weddings. For more information on other pastoral services please visit our website: [stpeters-lewes.org](http://stpeters-lewes.org). On Facebook we broadcast Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Sunday

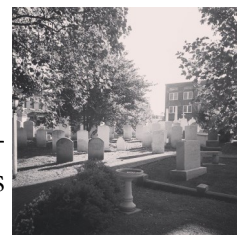
10am Service, Adult Forum, The Christmas Pageant, other services, and special events. On YouTube you can find the Sunday 10 am service, The Christmas Pageant, other pastoral services, and special events.

## Churchyard Cemetery

Financial records are kept in the Church Office. There are no plots available for sale. Some burials are held in existing family plots.

## Churchyard Columbarium

Added in January of 2016, for parish members only, this 6 niche high octagon columbarium has 72 niches that will hold 2 to 4 urns per niche. To date, 29 niches have been sold and 11 interred. For more information, please contact the office.



## Pilottown Road Cemetery

19 full size plots and 2 niches have been sold this year. The in-ground cremation section is sold out.

Committee members include: Charlie Atwell, Bernie Gilmore, Paul Kratt, Tracy Mulveny (chair), Lee Peters, and Elaine Russo. *Ex officio* members are our Rector, Jeffrey Ross and Parish

Administrator, Kelley Mallon, who serves as the Committee's Secretary/Treasurer.

Investment Funds for the Pilottown Road Cemetery remain separate from the Church funds with recommendations handled by the Financial Advisory Committee.

We maintain a strong commitment to provide a serene and attractive final resting place for departed loved ones. Regular clean-ups occur and there is interest in exploring additional trees as buffers to adjoining properties.

Cemetery plots can be purchased in the Church Office.

***Plot pricing as of January 1, 2023:***

Full Plots	Members \$1,000	Non-Members	\$2,000
Columbarium Niches	Members \$2,000	Non-members	\$2,500

*There is a Permit Fee of \$300 for any plot.*

Standard burial plots can accommodate the interment of a maximum of four cremation burials or one coffin plus up to two cremation urns. Cremation burial space is allocated for burial of a single cremation urn. Each columbarium niche can accommodate up to two urns.

## Centering Prayer

A group interested in deepening spiritual understanding and engagement meets on Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Zoom with the Rev. Carlyle Gill as moderator.

Group members have the option of attending either or both of two 45-minute sessions as interest and schedules permit. The first session, from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m., is devoted to Centering Prayer, cultivating ways to be closer to God amid our busy lives. We start by reverently reading a Psalm using a time-honored spiritual practice called Lectio Divina. We then allow ourselves to be open to God's presence by simply sitting quietly together – no special training or experience is needed.

The second session, from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m., focuses on readings that may lead us to greater wisdom and understanding. Books we have discussed recently include "Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times" by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; and "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. All are welcome to join us for open and thoughtful discussion; reading is not necessary for participation in the group.



## 2023 Christian Formation Annual Report

Christian formation is an ongoing journey that helps us foster strong relationships with both new and existing families in various ways. We offer engaging Sunday School classes, fun events, and interesting programs throughout the year, all aimed at building a vibrant and inclusive community. Our goal is to create a safe and welcoming space for people of all ages, from toddlers to adults, and to embody the concept of being a Sanctuary in the heart of Lewes. We extend a warm welcome to you and are truly thrilled to have you here with us!

### **Children and Youth Services:**

Godly Play: 9:15-10:15 ages 3-11

St. Peter's Youth Group Middle and High School: 12pm

Family Service: 10:30

### **Our 2022-2023 accomplishments include:**

- ♦ The Godly Play and Saint Peter's Youth classes had an average attendance of 14 children.
- ♦ Supplementing the Godly play curriculum with Building Faith Brick by Brick. It gives the kids



an opportunity to re-create and react to the story in different creative ways.

- ♦ A successful shared Vacation Bible School with Deacon Chris at All Saints and St. George's.
- ♦ A successful and well attended Christmas pageant and Easter Egg Hunt.
- ♦ Episcopal Youth Event or EYE was scheduled for July 4-8 at the University of Maryland with a Pre-EYE scheduled for July 3rd. None of our youth were able to attend.
- ♦ The Iona service has been revamped and is now called the Family Service. The order of service is similar to the Sunday 8am service only with a simpler music catalog. The families are loving it.
- ♦ Oct. 14, 2023 The Family Fall Festival was rained out. We moved into the Parish Hall and had 5 children and several volunteers attend.

### **What's New:**

- ♦ The coat drive and angel tree have been handed over to Mission and Outreach. To get involved talk to Kevin Morgan.
- ♦ The Blessing bags collection runs from Oct. 1st -Nov. 11th. Follow the E-blast to see when they will be blessed and distributed to Primeros Pasos and the CRC
- ♦ Several of our children and youth are Acolytes and gift bearers. Keep an eye out for them and tell them what a wonderful job they are doing!
- ♦ I started a Community Playgroup that meets in our Parish Hall from 9:00 am - 10:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Bring your toddlers for a time of indoor play. Enjoy conversations with other parents and caregivers as your toddlers build their social emotional skills.

### **Ongoing Projects**

Miss Katy's Mommy and Me class continues to meet on Wednesdays at 9:30 and 10:30.

Delaware Youth Advisors continue to meet to discuss what youth leadership throughout Delaware should look like and to facilitate the sharing of resources with youth leaders across all three counties. The Mission Statement: The Youth Ministry Advisory team aims to support, promote, and encourage Youth Ministry in the Episcopal Church in Delaware through communication, collaboration, and the nurturing of a community of youth and their leaders.

Over the past year, we have been involved in exciting new endeavors, while also keeping up with our ongoing projects and making any necessary adjustments along the way. I feel fortunate to have received an incredible amount of support and guidance, both mentally and spiritually, for which I am truly grateful. I want to express my deepest appreciation to Robert Gotwalt, our Vestry Liaison, as well as the dedicated volunteers of the Godly Play and SPY teams. I also want to extend thanks to all the parents and volunteers who are always there to lend a hand whenever needed. It is your contributions that have played a significant role in the success of our Christian formation programs. The progress we have made so far is largely thanks to the exceptional and generous individuals within our amazing community. I genuinely want to thank each and every one of you for your invaluable contributions in shaping the future of our Church.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Potter  
Family Ministries and Communications



## Coffee Hours

Following the Eucharist, the congregation is invited to join in fellowship in the Parish Hall. Goodies and drinks are served by parishioners. This ministry is reliant on volunteers.

Coffee hour does not need to be elaborate—it is the fellowship that matters. Training can be offered as needed.



## Communications



This year has been a productive one for communications at St. Peter's. We maintain our online presence by continuing to stream worship services on Facebook and YouTube. We would like to express our gratitude to Andrew and Drew for their valuable support and dedication to broadcasting. The maintenance of our website remains a priority, and we consistently update it with upcoming events and engaging stories.

Moreover, we have expanded our outreach efforts by utilizing Instagram posts and reels. St. Peter's employs various advertising platforms to effectively communicate our message as the Sanctuary in the Heart of Lewes and foster stronger connections with the community.

## Saint Peter's Disaster Preparedness Program



For over a decade the Vestry and other parishioners have focused on issues involving disaster preparedness. A 14- page St. Peter's Disaster Preparedness Plan was revised in June 2014. Many of the plans recommendations, as well as more recent proposals, were addressed in the Open Door Campaign's renovations and improvements (e.g., increasing the number of church exits, installation of updated defibrillators and fire suppressants, making walkways and lavatories ADA compliant.)

These and other improvements are envisaged in the Open Door Phase Two plans. Do not be surprised when an unannounced fire alarm drill will be held during a service. In addition to myriad completed and proposed physical improvements around St. Peter's Square, an ad hoc disaster plan review team, coordinated by The Rev. Deacon Larry Norfleet, is assessing steps that should be taken to determine the most efficient and effective way to deal with security matters. Some security improvements have already been made but more are anticipated. This issue will continue to be an on-going priority issue in 2024.

## Daughters of the King

### What is the Ministry's Mission?

In 1885 our founder, Margaret J. Franklin, envisioned the mission of the Order to be the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism. Today the Daughters of the King are still called to that mission. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to reflect God's love throughout the world.

### Who are the Daughters of the King?

The Daughters of the King is an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in commun-

ion with it. Today our membership includes women in Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. At Saint Peter's, we recently started a chapter which is called the "Bread of Life".

### **Rule of Life**

As Daughters we undertake a Rule of Life, which can be thought of as a covenant between God and ourselves. It helps us focus on our walk with Jesus Christ. Our Rule of Life incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service.

### **Rule of Prayer**

Daughters seek to grow and deepen their relationship with God through the Rule of Prayer

### **Rule of Service**

Through the Rule of Service, a Daughter seeks to do the will of God every day. It is an application of her Baptismal vow in which she strives to be Christ's faithful servant by growing His Kingdom, participating in worship and study, and assisting clergy in the outreach and work of the church.

### **Evangelism**

Evangelism is the presentation of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in such ways that other persons may be led to believe in Him as Savior and follow Him as lord within the fellowship of the Church.

### **The Emblem of the Order**

The Emblem of the Order is a modified Greek Fleury cross inscribed in Latin, "*Magnanimitate Crucem Sustine*" which means "With heart, mind and spirit, uphold and bear the cross."

### **Motto**

#### **For His Sake**

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

When I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do.

Lord, What will you have me do?

Anne Canan, President; Debby Gensch, Vice President; Jeanne Rogers, Treasurer;

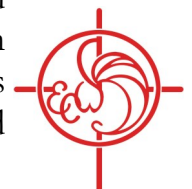
Pamela Gallamore, Secretary.



## **Episcopal Church Women**

All women of Peter's are members of the ECW. We are now a primarily a social organization whose activities provide the women of the parish opportunities to get better acquainted through gatherings in homes for a Ladies Night Out or for tea or luncheon either in members' homes or a restaurant. In addition to the social opportunities, ECW members are actively involved in Parish Life activities by volunteering to help with receptions and other fund-raising activities such as the Art Show or the Cookie Walk.

ECW's "Ladies' Night Out" are wonderful social gatherings with ever increasing participation. These evening gatherings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month from September -May. All women of Saint Peter's are welcome, and we encourage new members and seasonal visitors to join us. These social evenings are a unique and fun way to meet people and to become involved in the rich parish life of Saint Peter's. During the colder, darker months an afternoon tea may be offered when going out at night is more challenging.



## Financial Advisory Committee

This committee is directly responsible to the Vestry and provides financial advice and information pertaining to the investment and management of all church funds. Information and advice is provided to the Vestry to: (1) purchase and sell securities and other investments, (2) facilitate budget formulation and execution, and (3) conduct special analytical financial related studies and reports as may be requested or deemed appropriate. Members are nominated by the Rector and confirmed by the Vestry.

Meetings are held every second month and reports are made to the Vestry quarterly. Members include: Dan Somerset, chair, Sue Potts, Minnie Shorter, Shelly Souder, Gordon Tanner, and Marylou Wellbrock-Reeves. The Rector and Parish Administrator are *ex-officio* and non-voting members.



## Saint Peter's Gardeners

The Garden Committee has been active now for over 15 years, working to enhance Saint Peter's Church and the Churchyard as a form of outreach that offers spiritual and ecological benefits to all. We like to see the garden draw in visitors, locals and parishioners for refuge, peace and contemplation.

Our Spring Plant Sale, usually in May, supports purchasing and maintaining trees, shrubs, plants and thousands of bulbs. We aim to be self-supporting, and to keep costs to the parish at a minimum. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sale this year, both buyers and donors. The Garden Boutique has become quite popular, featuring garden books, tools, decorative pots and other garden "accessories". Paperwhite bulbs for forcing are sold at Thanksgiving and Christmas as a service to parishioners.

Many thanks to our long-time volunteers who have put in long hours planting and maintaining their chosen gardens. Sadly, most of this work was stopped during Covid. Our Weeders include Arthur Sutton, Grace Lowe, Ernie and Patti Soffronoff, Anne and Tony Broomfield, Tracy Mulveny, Carole Somers, Michael Seifert and Harvey Holthaus, Betsy and Pete Hansot, Denise Emery, Brenda Mitchell, Karen Fischer, and Lynda Dunham. As many of us are aging, we are always looking for more volunteers!

Tracy Mulveny and Helen S. Waite



## Green Team

November 2022- October 2023

The Green Team of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, in our ongoing work of restoring our relationship with "this fragile earth, our island home", strives to reduce our ecological impact wherever and whenever possible. We believe that it is important to lead by example, in good environmental stewardship practices.

Activities:

- ♦ Repurposing animal feed bags into tote bags, distributed to the Community Resource Center
- ♦ "Back to the Tap" reusable water bottles at the Art Show
- ♦ Ministries Fair- distributed flower bulbs



- ♦ Take Styrofoam (expanded polystyrene foam) to the recycling station.

#### Education:

- ♦ Bulletin Board- displays have included information about “green alternatives”, electric vehicles, pollinators and more.
- ♦ Regular notices in “Our Week Together” including sharing meatless recipes, information about St. Francis, decreasing your carbon footprint.

#### Advocacy:

- ♦ Actively supported efforts to ban Styrofoam containers in restaurants. Met with representatives and wrote to legislators.
- ♦ Members attended a local workshop addressing environmental issues in the community.

#### Collaboration:

- ♦ Participate in Good News Garden, an Episcopal Church wide Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism, holding monthly gatherings and Compline.
- ♦ Indicated desire to participate in Episcopal Church in Delaware’s new Creation Care Team
- ♦ Share information about Plastic Free Delaware and Green Drinks, which holds monthly speakers/ presentations

#### Celebration:

- ♦ Earth Day- hosted coffee hour and educational display
- ♦ Suggested David Schofield as preacher for that Sunday.
- ♦ St. Francis Feast Day- preparatory items for the “Our Week Together” and flowers.

The Green Team meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2PM.

All are welcome!



## **What is “Heart and Soul Ministry?”**

### **The Little Cupboard – Heart & Soul Ministry**

Heart and Soul Ministry/The Little Cupboard is a sustainable program for feeding children and families of our local and larger communities. According to Feeding America, “42 million people in the United States face hunger, including nearly 13 million children and more than 5 million seniors.” Feeding America is a nationwide nonprofit organization that feeds more than 46 mil-

lion Americans through Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens, Shelters, and other community outlets.

Though our Little Cupboard can’t address the magnitude of this problem, we do, with the time and talent of dedicated volunteers, with donations, and support, help to assuage some of the hunger faced by those in our little part of the world. Through this ministry hunger and poverty in our communities are addressed each and every day. The Little Cupboard, located just outside the Church gate by the labyrinth, contains a variety of nourishing, non-perishable food items for those in our larger community who are food insecure. Consideration is given to foods that contain protein, and a nourishing variety of items are available for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The Little Cupboard coordinates with St. Peter’s youth and children’s programs to incorporate involvement and education about the purpose, promise, logistics, and offers the children actual involvement in the operation of The Little Cupboard.

The Little Cupboard is part of the larger parent Heart and Soul Ministry. Together they have served several thousand people in need since founded in 2012 by Deacon Chris Miller-Marcin.

Several area churches and organizations have since created their own Little Cupboard. But its reach has gone even farther, we received a note from a former Lewes resident last year stating that



her granddaughter was taken with The Little Cupboard idea. She took a picture, and the idea back to her church. It is now in full use in Rockland Maine.

The Little Cupboard/Heart and Soul Ministry also participates and assists in organizing food collection and donations to the Community Resource Center, and holiday food donations for Community Resource Center, and other local organizations as requested.

## Invite\*Welcome\*Connect.



Invite • Welcome • Connect

Invite\*Welcome\*Connect (I\*W\*C) is a three-fold ministry: Invite is evangelism; Welcome is hospitality; Connect is belonging. Some of our ongoing activities:

Ushers: We schedule the ushers for the 8:00 and 10:00 am Sunday services on a quarterly basis with monthly e-mail reminders. Newcomers' Cruise: I-W-C, long with Parish Life, served as

hosts for this event, and the cruise was a great success.

Ministries Fair: I\*W\*C coordinated a Ministries Fair to offer an opportunity to all our members to learn about the many different ways they can serve in our parish. There will be another Ministries Fair in January: watch the bulletins and the weekly email for details.

The ongoing work of I\*W\*C is to come up with ways to attract and welcome newcomers as well as to connect with everyone. To that end, we are also looking for ways to engage young families. Any ideas to help St. Peter's accomplish these I-W-C goals are welcome!

Because there is a lot of overlap between the work of Parish Life and Invite\*Welcome\*Connect, the two groups are merging in 2024.

## Labyrinth

Saint Peter's is fortunate to have **three** labyrinths that are used by the church and the community. Labyrinths are winding paths that are walked for prayer or meditation, to find comfort and peace. The Churchyard labyrinth was renovated in 2017 by Austin Ross as part of his Eagle Scout process, and refreshed in 2023 in loving memory of Mary Van House's by her children. A beautiful brick and stone path in the peaceful setting of Pilottown Cemetery. The portable canvas labyrinth, painted in 1995, is used in the parish hall or can be transported to other venues for special presentations or events and was the first church labyrinth in Delaware. Both labyrinths are walked by visitors daily.



## St. Peter's Men's Group

Saint Peter's Men's Group has been meeting for breakfast fellowship monthly for over five years. The group's primary function is fellowship and includes both open meetings and meetings with various speakers of interest. While the group does not function directly as a service organization, it functions as a vehicle to announce church and church-related service opportunities. Men from this group have and continue to volunteer to work at Camp Arrowhead, Stephen Ministry, Spirituality Series, Saint Peter's Art Show, and several other outreach activities.

The group's monthly breakfasts are very informal and are open to all members and friends of St. Peter's Church. It affords a unique opportunity to become better acquainted with one another,



(Continued from page 21)

particularly for those who are new to the parish and Coastal Delaware, and to discuss topics of current interest.

Throughout 2023 the group met on the Second Saturday of each month (except for the summer months) at 8:30 am at the Lewes Diner, 1201 Savannah Road, Lewes. There are usually 10-15 persons in attendance; all St. Peter's men are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Stu Brahs (sjbrahs@prodigy.net) if you wish further details or wish to attend a monthly get-together.



## Lay Eucharistic Minister & Lay Eucharistic Visitor

To serve Saint Peter's Church as a Lay Eucharistic Minister is a meaningful and fulfilling ministry. The opportunity to assist the celebrant during Holy Eucharist as a chalice bearer and lay reader is available to any church member who is or who wishes to be trained to perform these duties.

Presently, 29 parishioners are serving as Lay Eucharistic Ministers during our worship services. Two LEMs are scheduled to serve at each of the Sunday morning services. The volunteer's preference for serving at the 8 or 10 o'clock service is honored. The schedule for serving is emailed monthly to those scheduled. We would welcome additional volunteers to serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in volunteering at any of our services, please call the church office or speak to Father Ross.

A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the consecrated elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration of the Eucharist. A Eucharistic Visitor acts under the direction of a deacon, if any, or otherwise, the member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please speak to our Deacon, Larry Norfleet.



## Lay Readers

By reading the lessons at each service, this group of parishioners are given a meaningful way to participate. Some training is needed. We would welcome additional volunteers to serve as Lectors. Each Lector may indicate a preference for the service for which they prefer to read. The schedule for serving is sent via email monthly.



## Men's Spirituality Group

The group meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room below the Absalom Jones Chapel (and concurrently on Zoom for those unable to attend in person) for open and lively conversation about growth issues in our lives and the Church at large. All men are welcome to join us for a time of enriching discussion of spiritual matters as they are part of our lives. Discussions are very open, lively, and without any judgment or criticism. Any discussions or information of a personal nature is held respectfully in a bond of confidentiality.

As a starting point for discussion, the group uses readings from various authors such as Krista Tippett's "Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living". Other readings have focused on Richard Rohr's books on spirituality in general as well as the spirituality of men

specifically. We are currently using Marcus Borg's book, "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time – Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally." Discussion, as usual, has been lively, timely, and honest. The group is always open to suggestions for readings or other discussion starting points. Reading is not necessary for participation in the group as it tends to be a group which is interested in sharing ideas from many sources; especially personal experience. While seriously considering exactly what spirituality means to the participants, we also enjoy a sense of fun and good fellowship.



## Mission and Outreach

The Mission & Outreach Committee consists of a small but dedicated band of St. Peter's parishioners. Supported by our clergy liaison, the Rev. Canon Mark Harris, and our Vestry liaison, Kevin Morgan, our goal is to foster connections and lend support to our neighbors both locally and globally.

So far this year, we have continued our financial support of local and international organizations with donations to the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) fund in the wake of both the devastating Turkey/Syrian earthquake and the Maui wildfires (\$1,500), Doctors Without Borders (\$1,500), and Family Promise of Southern Delaware (\$250 matched by Jeff+ from his discretionary fund). We also sponsored a child (\$600) attending *Centro Infantil de Los Angeles*, a nonprofit organization that provides high quality daycare and preschool education to children with the greatest need in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico with longtime connections to St. Peter's and hope to make this an annual gift.

Continuing this fall, St. Peter's parishioners will be teaming with Tony and Nancy Marks in their Shelter Meal Ministry program, providing a meal on Sundays to those housed by Angels With Broken Wings at the Red Mill Inn. If you are interested in being a part of this team, and have not already done so, please email them ([nmarks51355@gmail.com](mailto:nmarks51355@gmail.com)) concerning your participation and copy Kevin Morgan ([kgmorgam54@aol.com](mailto:kgmorgam54@aol.com)).

Meals are also needed Monday – Friday at the Community Resource Center. Contact Tony and Nancy for the particulars.

The Mission and Outreach team will be managing the Angel Tree program this year. We are striving to have the tree up with the gift requests by November 18th. Approximately 130 children will benefit from this Christmas project.

The annual Fall coat drive will begin again in November, supporting the Community Resource Center and Primeros Pasos. Mission and Outreach will be overseeing the collection and distribution.

Ingrid Miller continues to be our liaison to Our Neighbors' Faith, an Interfaith group fostering understanding between faith communities. Watch 'Our Week Together' for their session schedule.

We welcome all who feel called to the ministry of mission and outreach to join us at 7 PM on the third Monday of each month either in the conference room or via zoom.



## Money Counters

Counters are responsible to tally contributions given to the Church during our weekend services. Pat Casadei, Suzanne Crager, Karen Fischer, Ann Freeman, Scott Samples, and Dan Somerset are our current counters.

## Music Ministry

September always means cooler temperatures, fewer tourists, and most importantly, our choirs start making music again! The week of Labor Day is like back to school week for us. Nick Lindberg and Jean Hosutt welcomed the parish choir to their home for a “back to choir” party. Handbells started rehearsal the following Tuesday. Choir members helped lead a few a capella songs during the service at Camp Arrowhead during our parish picnic.

After 13 years of service the vestry granted my request for a 3-month sabbatical from October 3, 2022 to January 3, 2023. A full report of my sabbatical activities is printed elsewhere in this document. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Georgiana Ibach, Michael Main, Richard McPherson, and Judy Moore who so ably led our choirs during my sabbatical.

Caroline Robinson, organist and associate choirmaster of St. Philip’s Cathedral in Atlanta opened our St. Cecilia Music Guild series on October 21 with a brilliant recital. Violinist Sylvia Ahramjian and pianist Cynthia Raim presented a program on November 11. Our own parish choir led the annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 4. Our bell choir and parish choir led special music at our middle and late services on Christmas Eve.

I returned to the helm of the music program on January 3 refreshed and ready for another season of music. On February 5 we welcomed the all-female, critically acclaimed Seraph Brass Ensemble for a concert. The line for seats stretched all the way down Second and Market Streets! The second weekend in March members of the parish choir traveled to St. Margaret’s, Annapolis where we enjoyed Saturday workshops, rehearsal, and fellowship. On Sunday we sang at two services of Holy Eucharist.

Later in Lent I played on two weekday recital series at Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford, and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Lewes Chamber Players played a program on March 19 featuring piano quartets of Brahms and Schumann. Holy Week brought the full complement of 9 services with music in 7 days. On Easter Sunday St. Cecilia Music Guild sponsored two trumpets to add to the feast.

Oboist Elizabeth Stevens joined us on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 30 to accompany John Rutter’s beautiful choral setting of the 23rd psalm. St. Cecilia Music Guild concluded its seventh season on May 5 with the Marian Anderson String Quartet’s program *On Being Enslaved*. We were proud to welcome members of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice as our guests at the concert. The Guild’s 2023 scholarship for a high school senior majoring in music was awarded to Paul Jones of Laurel High School who is a Music Education major at Delaware State University in Dover.

On Ascension Day, May 11 the parish choir sang Choral Evensong guest conducted by Jack Warren Burnam. Later in May I accompanied the choirs from Sussex Tech in their spring concert at Epworth United Methodist Church. From June 12–16 I attended the annual conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians in Dallas, TX. During the art show July 1 I presented sched-





uled organ demonstrations to showcase the instrument and provide relief from the heat! Violinist Margaret Matthews provided special music at mass the next morning. Countertenor Augustine Mercante sang at worship on July 16. I am grateful to Georgiana Ibach and David Hogue for playing services on the Sundays I was away in the summer. St. Cecilia Music Guild met over the summer to finalize plans for the 2023–24 season. Brochures were mailed to all households around Labor Day. I would like to thank my fellow staff members, Kelley Mallon, Jessica Potter, and Fr. Jeff. Ross, and vestry liaison, Pat Casadei, for their support of me and the music program at St. Peter's. Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Thomas

Minister of Music

### **About Music at St. Peter's**

The music program at Saint Peter's Church is unique in southern Delaware; focused on providing finely crafted music in the Anglican tradition as well as presenting concerts through Saint Cecilia Music Guild, the music program is the only one of its kind in the area. Our various choirs are detailed below, new members are warmly welcomed to any ensemble, please contact T.J. Thomas, Minister of Music, to learn more.

**St. Cecilia Music Guild** is the parish's musical outreach ministry which strives to bring high quality music to the wider community through partnerships with local and regional arts organizations. All Guild concerts are free and open to the public thanks to the generosity of donors. The Guild's 8th season began in September 2023 with a full slate of concerts and special services planned through June. Visit [www.StCeciliaGuild.org](http://www.StCeciliaGuild.org) to learn more.

**Parish Choir.** The Adult Choir is a volunteer ensemble of approximately 25 singers providing musical leadership at the 10 a.m. Eucharist most Sundays from September to early June as well as special liturgies throughout the year. In addition to preparing 1-2 choral anthems for each liturgy, the adult choir sings the psalm appointed for the day and leads congregational hymns and responses. Singing a wide spectrum of music from chant to gospel, the choir's primary focus is the repertoire of our Anglican choral heritage spanning many centuries. The adult choir rehearses at 7 p.m. Thursday nights and is open to adults and high school-aged youth. Please contact T.J. Thomas to learn more and schedule an interview.

**Bell Choir.** Comprised of 12 handbell ringers, the bell choir rehearses at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesdays from September to May with a focus on ensemble repertoire for our worship services, generally ringing one Sunday per month at the 10 a.m. service in addition to Christmas Eve service and one of the Holy Week liturgies. Music includes bell choir anthems, accompanying hymns, service music, and sometimes the singing choirs. We ring 4 octaves (49 bells, C4 – C8) of Schulmerich English handbells in addition to 5 octaves of handchimes. This choir is open to those with the ability to read music; previous handbell experience is helpful but not required. Occasionally an Introduction to Handbells class is offered to engage those new to handbells and reading music.

### **Newsletter**

The monthly newsletter has evolved into the weekly email (Our Week Together) and is one of our tools for sharing information with the whole parish. In order for us to be efficient, we need the people in our community to help by bringing us the news and other articles of information. Please send articles to the office or email them to [kemallon@stpeterslewes.org](mailto:kemallon@stpeterslewes.org) by Wednesday afternoon each week for inclusion in the weekly email. We generally send this email by 3 pm every Thursday. If

*(Continued from page 25)*

you are not already receiving this email and would like to, please email us so we can add you to the our contact list. (This is a confidential list and addresses are not visible on the email.)

## Parish Life

The success of our parish events was the result of the efforts and participation of many wonderful volunteers and the support of the staff and clergy of Saint Peter's parish.

Events in 2023 included:

Foyer (Dinner) Groups: Parish Life puts Foyer groups together every year from the list of those who signed up. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and share fellowship with others in the parish they may not know. It gets more popular every year and has expanded to include not only dinner groups but lunch groups for those of us who do not want to drive at night. And a further expansion has groups dining out rather than eating in someone's home. There is truly something for everyone in this activity.

Because there is a lot of overlap between the work of Parish Life and Invite\*Welcome\*Connect, the two groups are merging in 2024.



## Parish Nurses

The parish nurse group is a mix of many backgrounds and abilities. Currently there are 10 members who meet monthly to develop health and wellness programs as well as schedule blood pressures once a month after the Saturday and Sunday services.

This year's educational programs discussed gut health and supplements with the assistance of Dr. U. Jani; stroke prevention presentation by the stroke coordinator at Bebee hospital; and a pain management seminar organized by the parish nurses, as well as providing ongoing information about timely health issues. In addition, for those parishioners who need more medical support, nurses are available to accompany them on doctors' visits, helping to clarify their treatment plan. The focus is on prevention and educational awareness.

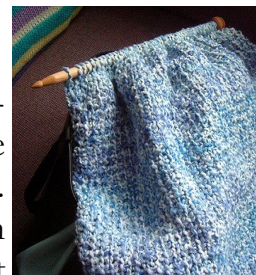
## Prayer List

Names of individuals placed on the Prayer List are listed in the Sunday Bulletin and weekly email for two consecutive weeks. If the name is submitted to the office later than Thursdays by 10 a.m., they will be read that Sunday, and printed for two succeeding Sundays. If you are requesting a person remains on the Prayer List for more than two weeks, you must either resubmit their names every two weeks, or speak with Father Ross for placement on the Permanent Prayer List. If you would like to request a person be placed on the prayer list, please contact the office or email [office@stpeterslewes.org](mailto:office@stpeterslewes.org). Please keep in mind that you must have permission to place them on the prayer list, especially if they are under the age of 18.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry began in Connecticut with two women making hand knitted or crocheted shawls for those in need. These shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance, enriching both the creator and recipient. They are appropriate for comfort during illness, bereavement, celebrations such as weddings and baptisms, farewell, and graduations- times when the recipient can feel the love of this community of faith.

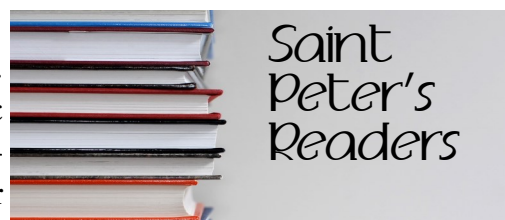


Since 2004, our group has become Prayer Shawls + because our activities have expanded to include special annual projects: Christmas At Sea in the Fall (hats and scarves) and Knit for Kids in the Summer (sweaters, blankets) for children in need. In addition, Prayer Shawl Ministry responds to special requests.

To request a Prayer Shawl or make a donation, please contact the Church Office.

## Saint Peter's Readers

The St Peter's Book Club has been meeting for over 20 years. Books, chosen by the group, are: fiction, non-fiction and classic works in a three-month cycle. Books are readily available in paperback, at the library or in electronic format. Each December we collect children's books to donate to local schools and we celebrate Poetry Month in April.



Our meetings are held in the Conference Room and on the Zoom platform. We meet on the Third Sunday of the month at 5 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time and 4 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time. An advance list of our book selections are published in St Peter's E Blast each Thursday. Our discussions are lively and are open to all interested readers.

## Round Robin Bridge

The group provides bridge players the opportunity to meet other parishioners while they enjoy playing Bridge. The group is in its twelfth season which runs from September 2023 to May 2024. This is a fun, social group, and players at all levels are most welcome. This entertaining parish life activity consists of playing seven rounds of Bridge over eight months and uses the Chicago scoring method. Scores are sent to the facilitator, Rita Nelson, who tallies them up. Each team sets its own playing schedule and decides who will be the host. If you'd like to be included in the 2024-2025 round-robin season, or have questions about how our tournament is organized, call Rita at 302-945-7520 or email [revritas23@gmail.com](mailto:revritas23@gmail.com).



## Scouts Pack One



St. Peter's is glad to be the Charter Organization for Pack One. This year we were glad to have their assistance with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, as well as several other projects around St. Peter's.



## Stephen Ministry

**What Is Stephen Ministry?** Active at St. Peter's since 2012, there are currently 20 Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders serving our parish. Stephen Ministers are lay people who provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, birth of a child, or separation due to military deployment. The initial training of fifty hours

and monthly continuing education equip them to provide high-quality care to people who are hurting. Stephen Ministers serve as caring friends to walk with during a time of stress.

A Stephen Minister usually meets weekly with their care receiver. They offer listening, caring, encouragement, and emotional support. Men are paired with men, women with women. Each Stephen Minister is assigned only one Care Receiver at a time. Their relationship may last for weeks, many months, and sometimes over a year as needed and requested by the care receiver. In addition to monthly continuing education programs, Stephen Ministers also meet with a small Peer Support group to help each other become better Care Givers. These meetings may be in person or virtual as the group desires.

St. Peter's offers a training class every other year. The 2023 class had 9 members, 3 of whom are serving at St. Peter's. Other class members were from All Saints, and St. George's Chapel. The initial commitment to Stephen Ministry is for 2 years, and people can serve as long as they desire.

Please contact Fr. Jeff, Mthr Carlyle, or the office if you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry or want to request a Stephen Minister. Contact Elinor Boyce at 240-463-5517 or any Stephen Minister to find out more about Stephen Ministry Training.



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us for pancakes, sausage and scrapple in the Parish hall the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. A wonderful opportunity for food, fun, and fellowship. Proceeds from the 2023 supper went to Code Purple.

## Treasurer

The Treasurer is elected for a term of three years. At its first meeting after the annual meeting of the parish and after the treasurer has served two years, the vestry shall elect a Treasurer-elect. The Treasurer-elect shall work together with the Treasurer during the Treasurer's third year. After the Treasurer-elect has completed one year working with the Treasurer, at the first meeting following the annual meeting of the parish, the Vestry may confirm his election as Treasurer to begin the Treasurer's three year term. Bruce Bolander has been our Treasurer for the past three years and has ably guided us through the financial uncertainties we faced during the pandemic. We are very grateful for all of his hard work! Minnie Shorter will take over as Treasurer in 2023.



## Vergers

Vergers are liturgical assistants to the clergy for Special Services such as weddings, funerals, Bishop's visits and major holidays. They have completed extensive studies with the Rector. If you are willing to serve, please speak to Father Jeff.



## Website

Saint Peter's website is maintained by Jessica Potter. Please visit the web page at [www.stpeterslewes.org](http://www.stpeterslewes.org) for current events going on in the parish. If you haven't joined our Facebook page, please do so by visiting [www.facebook.com/SaintPetersLewes](http://www.facebook.com/SaintPetersLewes). You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel: go to YouTube.com and search for St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes DE.



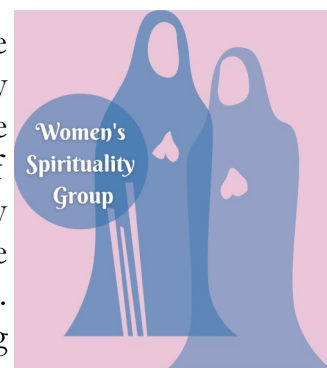
## Wescoat Memorial Scholarship

The will of the late Louise Wescoat l'Hommedieu of Lewes states that the committee to administer the fund will be comprised of the Rector of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes, the Superintendent of Schools of the local district and the Mayor of Lewes. Interest from this fund has benefited college bound students for the past 40 years. The awards are available to worthy and needy graduates of the high school, but not necessarily to those graduates who have attained the highest scholastic rating during their high school experience. Those who can benefit are individuals who plan to attend accredited colleges or universities in the United States.

To date it has been possible for the committee to provide 228 scholarships, each in the amount of at least \$200.00. The number and amount of the scholarships are dependent upon the cash balance in the fund. Contributions to the fund are always welcome. Applications are available in the Church Office for those interested in applying.

## Women's Spirituality

Similar to the Men's Spirituality group, this group meets twice a month on the 1st & 3rd Friday mornings to discuss relatively short books on spirituality that appeal to women. We have had some amazing conversations on how the spirituality in each book inspires us a women. We began with "The Book of Creation - an introduction to Celtic Christianity" by Philip Newell; followed by "Anam Cara" by John O'Donohue. For the summer, we read "A New Climate for Christology - Climate Change and Befriending Nature", by Sally McFague. This fall we began discussing, "The Gospel of Mary Magdalene—discovering the woman at the heart of Christianity", by Cynthia Bourgeault. Books are chosen by the women and discussion facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Carol Flett. Women may join at any time. For questions, contact Rev. Dr. Carol Flett [revflett@gmail.com](mailto:revflett@gmail.com)



## Saint Peter's Vestry

### PROCESS OF RECRUITMENT FOR VESTRY AT SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

The polity of the Episcopal Church is grounded in a balance of respect and power between the Laity and the Clergy of the Church. In our tradition, according to the Catechism in *the Book of Common Prayer* (1979), the highest order of ministry is the Laity. Typically, they have primary charge over the temporal affairs of the local congregation while the clergy attend to the pastoral and spiritual aspects. The laity and clergy provide a check and balance for the work of each other. While the Rector ordinarily chairs the Vestry meeting and has voice, they cannot vote. The Rector is also not a signer on any of the bank accounts of the congregation, although from a secular perspective they do function as the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation.

Here at Saint Peter's, our Vestry is comprised of twelve members, each elected for a term of three years from the membership of the congregation, (please see the eligibility guidelines on the next page). Accordingly, four new members are elected each year at the annual meeting with their terms beginning on the first day of the next new year. Our annual meeting is held typically in the beginning of November. It is the responsibility of the current Vestry to secure nominations for each succeeding class.

Since 2005, the Vestry has followed the guidelines:

1. Each year, at the May meeting of the Vestry, the "senior" class who are in their final year of service, are charged by the Vestry to begin to seek out new members to succeed them. If a Vestry member wishes to run again, they are recused from service. This search committee also seeks out representation to Diocesan Convention.
2. Typically, during the months of May and June, an appeal is made in all Saturday/Sunday Bulletins and the Newsletter that new members to the Vestry are being sought. Interested individuals are encouraged to speak with a member of the search committee to make a nomination of themselves or another.
3. Each person nominated is then vetted by the Rector and the Parish Administrator to ensure they conform to the eligibility guidelines given on page 34.
4. The Search committee is charged with finding either 4 or 6 or more nominations. Five is to be avoided so that there is not a single loser in the election. More than 8 candidates is to be avoided because it limits the possibility of a clear majority of votes in the election.
5. By the September Vestry meeting, those who have been nominated and who are eligible to serve are announced. They each must submit a single biographical paragraph and picture to be published in the October Communications.
6. At the Annual meeting, the election is held. The retiring Vestry members, who are not running for re-election, serve as the tellers and count the vote. If there are only four nominations, the slate of candidates can be elected by acclamation at the annual meeting.
7. The Vestry may amend or change these guidelines at any time.



# CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS

## Term Expires 2023

Jody Barbarulo  
Scott Samples (Junior Warden)

Jackie Ferris  
Gordon Tanner

## Term Expires 2024

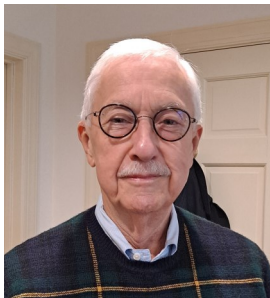
Stu Brahs (Senior Warden)  
Pat Casadei

Lee Peters  
Dan Somerset

## Term Expires 2025

Vacancy  
Kevin Morgan

Robert Gotwalt  
Minnie Shorter (Treasurer)





## Rector's Sabbatical Report

*July 3 to October 2, 2023*

I began my 19th year of serving as your Rector in August of this year. In the Episcopal Church, clergy are encouraged to take time for study, renewal, and refreshment every 5 to 7 years to maintain spiritual wellness. A sabbatical is different from a vacation in that vacation time may be spent on any kind of personal recreation while sabbatical leave should be related in some way to one's ministry. It is also a time for reflection on one's vocation and discernment about where the Holy Spirit is calling you to go next.

This is the second sabbatical I have taken during my tenure; the last was in 2014 in which I walked the Camino de Santiago through parts of France and Spain. This time, I had several major goals:

- ♦ to rejuvenate and renew from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ♦ to reflect on my vocation in the next ten years or so before retirement.
- ♦ to study and reflect on the past and future of the church.
- ♦ to spend time and visit with my young adult children and see where they now live.
- ♦ to reset some patterns in my life for better physical health.

During July, I was able to spend some time away with my each of my kids. Usually, they come to Lewes to see me, since they work a regular work week and I work on weekends. It was a blessing to be with each of them. Sheila and I also met with our financial advisor to plan the focus for our next ten years or so before retirement.

In August, I traveled to Scotland where I spent some time in the lowlands in Glasgow and Edinburgh before going on to lead our third parish pilgrimage to Iona. After ten days with the pilgrims, I traveled the North Coast 500 in the Highlands of Scotland with another priest who was also on sabbatical.

During my travels through Scotland, I visited a number of churches as well as church ruins. Scotland is a country that, in the last two millennia, has been racked with pagan Viking invasions, along with the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the Reformation and, of course, the Jacobite rebellion. While much of Scotland has retained its faith, it has by no means been a static system. In recent years, the focus and work of the local congregation has changed with the times, while other Christians have given up their physical meeting space (building) in order to be more nimble in their ministries. I was awed by the aspirations of the faithful who built the now-ruined churches in the border abbeys and throughout Scotland. Other congregations have retained their buildings like Roselyn Chapel, St. Mungo's Cathedral in Glasgow or St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh. They have changed to meet the challenges of the current times while maintaining their mission and ministry. No one community has found THE correct answer. Rather, they prayed faithfully for God's guidance and paid attention to the context of their community, as they cared alike for their community and those outside their congregation.

It was very affirming to recognize the same pattern at work at St. Peter's. We are by no means the same congregation that began here 342 years ago. We have changed and evolved as time and the Holy Spirit have affected our community. Yet, we have remained steadfast in our worship of God as we seek to grow in the knowledge of the love of God as we seek to serve our membership and community.

My deep thanks to the Vestry and staff of St. Peter's for making it possible for me to go away for this time. It is good to go away but it is always GREAT to come home! jar+





## Minister of Music's Sabbatical Report

*October 3, 2022—January 3, 2023*

Now that I have returned to full-time ministry I have had time to reflect on my sabbatical. As you will recall, after nearly 13 years of service, I was granted a 3-month sabbatical from October 3, 2022 to January 3, 2023. What follows is a summary of activities during my time away.

During the month of October I focused on unplugging and cultivating a different pace of life. One of my constant companions in the car was a new CD that had just been released by the choir of St. John's College, Cambridge entitled *The Psalms*. The recording is a masterclass in sensitive, clear, and electrifying psalm chanting. I was able to sail our boat, *Osprey*, from Lewes to Rock Hall, MD and back and spend some time cruising the Chesapeake Bay. During our stay in Rock Hall I was finally able to hear an organ that had been on my list for years: the 1993 Harrison & Harrison organ at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Chestertown. It is a magnificent marriage of room and instrument and got me thinking about the next steps in addressing St. Peter's 20 year old electronic organ.

At the beginning of November Emily and I travelled to Florida via the auto train. We first met up with dear friends and longtime King's College Royal School of Church Music participants who live in St. Augustine. The rest of our time was spent on the Gulf Coast in Bradenton Beach. I was graciously received and able to spend a week observing the music program at Christ Episcopal Church, Bradenton; a parish similar in size and demographic to St. Peter's. Upon our return to the Mid-Atlantic I stopped in Annapolis, MD to attend the dedication of St. Margaret Episcopal Church's new Marshall & Ogletree organ and play in the hymn festival.

Shortly after Thanksgiving I flew to Portland, OR to spend a week at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Trinity's newly appointed Canon for Music (and one of only 3 such women in the Episcopal Church) is Katie Burk Webb who visited St. Peter's in May 2022. She is assisted by Glenn Miller, another longtime RSCM friend. My time in Portland included attending all 3 weekly rehearsals, a dress rehearsal, Eucharist, and Advent Lessons and Carols. Trinity easily ranks among the best music programs in the Episcopal Church and was exactly the rejuvenating experience I needed.

My sabbatical concluded with a trip to New York to spend Christmas with my family: something ministry and distance had prevented for 18 years. It was a joyful time.

My sincere thanks to the staff and choirs of St. Peter's for allowing me this much-needed time away. A special thanks to Judy Moore, Georgiana Ibach, Michael Main, and Richard McPherson who ably led our musical efforts.



T.J.

## GUIDELINE ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE ON THE VESTRY (VESTRY RESOURCE GUIDEBOOK)

We welcome your interest in running for the Vestry of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church. Any member of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church can serve on the vestry as long as the following criteria have been satisfied. They are listed below:

- † Received or confirmed in the Episcopal Church
- † 16 years of age or older;
- † A minimum of twelve months of membership at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church;
- † A commitment to active attendance, including participation in the annual vestry retreat;
- † A commitment to serve in the ministries of the church, i.e., projects, ushering, altar guild, etc.;
- † A commitment to sustained financial support/pledging;
- † Regular attendance required at vestry meetings; conference calls considered if individual is a "snowbird" limited to 2 continuous months of leave;
- † Paid employees of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church are not eligible to hold a seat on the vestry;
- † Immediate family members of paid employees of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church are not eligible to hold a seat on the vestry;
- † Clergy family members are not eligible to hold a seat on the vestry; and
- † Only one family member may serve on the vestry at the same time.

The Saint Peter's vestry is an involved working body and an integral ministry of the life of the Saint Peter's parish. Thank you for your consideration to serve on this very important ministry.

### **Diocesan Delegates**

*(pictured below, left-to-right.)*

**John Michael Sophos** – *Delegate to Diocesan Convention*

**Anne Canan** – *Delegate to Diocesan Convention*

**Drew Somerset** – *Under-30 Delegate to Diocesan Convention*



## **Annual Meeting of Saint Peter's Church**

### ***Sunday, November 12, 2023***

Each year, the people of Saint Peter's Church gather for their Annual Meeting. This is a time when we celebrate our faith community, share reports about the status of all of our ministries and elect the lay leadership of the parish for the Vestry and the Diocesan Convention. The Canons of the Diocese of Delaware state the responsibilities of the Vestry as follows:

*The Vestry shall take charge of the property of the Congregation, regulate all its temporal concerns, elect and call a Tenured Pastor, ...provide for clergy maintenance, keep order in the Church during the celebration of Divine Worship and, in general, act as helpers to the Tenured Pastor, ...in the furtherance of the Gospel.*

All Vestry members are required by National Canon to be Baptized, regular in worship and financial support of the congregation for the previous year and have made an adult commitment to the Church (i.e. Confirmed or received). Currently at Saint Peter's, the Vestry meets monthly on the first Tuesday of every month and holds an annual retreat to pray and plan for the future of the congregation. Each member of the Vestry acts a liaison to at least one ministry within the Church and facilitates communication within the parish. In addition to their work on the Vestry, they attend the meetings of the group(s) they represent. The Vestry also strives to be present at all major events in the life of the parish. Twelve people serve on the vestry, four of whom are elected each year for a three year term in accordance with the by-laws of the Church.

The Diocesan Convention is similar to the Annual meeting of the congregation. At Convention, all of the congregations come together to celebrate our common life together, approve the budget of the diocese and hear of the progress of our diocesan ministries. Each Congregation has two delegates who each serve a two year term. One new delegate is elected each year at the congregation's annual meeting. Those who run and are not elected will serve as alternates.

The four retiring members of the Vestry receive the nominations for Vestry and Convention delegates from the Congregation. In turn, they inquire if the individual is willing to serve and insure that the candidates meet all canonical requirements. In 2005 the Vestry adopted the policy that since candidacy for Vestry membership is equally available to all members through this process, additional nominations will not be invited/accepted at the Annual Meeting. This year, the following people agreed to be nominated for Vestry: Jeanie Hosutt, Brian Jenkins, Michelle Norelli, and Barbara Tenney. Current vestry members Jody Barbarulo and Scott Samples agreed to run for re-election. Ballots were mailed to all members in good standing in early October. The retiring Vestry members (Jackie Ferris and Gordon Tanner) tabulated the results of the election, which will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

For Diocesan Convention the Vestry selected the following members to serve as Delegates and alternate Delegates: John Michael Sophos and Anne Canan (Delegates) and Drew Somerset (Under-30 Delegate)

An adult member is defined as a person who is Baptized, 16 years or older, who actively worships and supports the Church financially, and is listed in the Parish Register.

# **Saint Peter's Episcopal Church**

## **Annual Meeting**

*November 12, 2023*

- 1) Opening Prayer
- 2) Election of Secretary
- 3) Secretary's Report from 2022
- 4) Announcement of Vestry Election Results
- 5) Thank you to retiring Vestry Member
- 6) Necrology
- 7) Submission of Annual reports (by title, in writing, in packet)
- 8) Rector's Report
- 9) Open Door Capital Campaign Update
- 10) Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2024
- 11) New Business
- 12) Adjourn

## **Saint Peter's Office Holidays 2024**

Monday, January 1	New Year's Day
Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King jr. Day
Monday, February 19	President's Day
Monday, April 1	Easter Monday
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 19	Juneteenth (Freedom) Day
Thursday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 2	Labor Day
Monday, October 14	Indigenous People's Day
Thurs & Fri November 28& 29	Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas

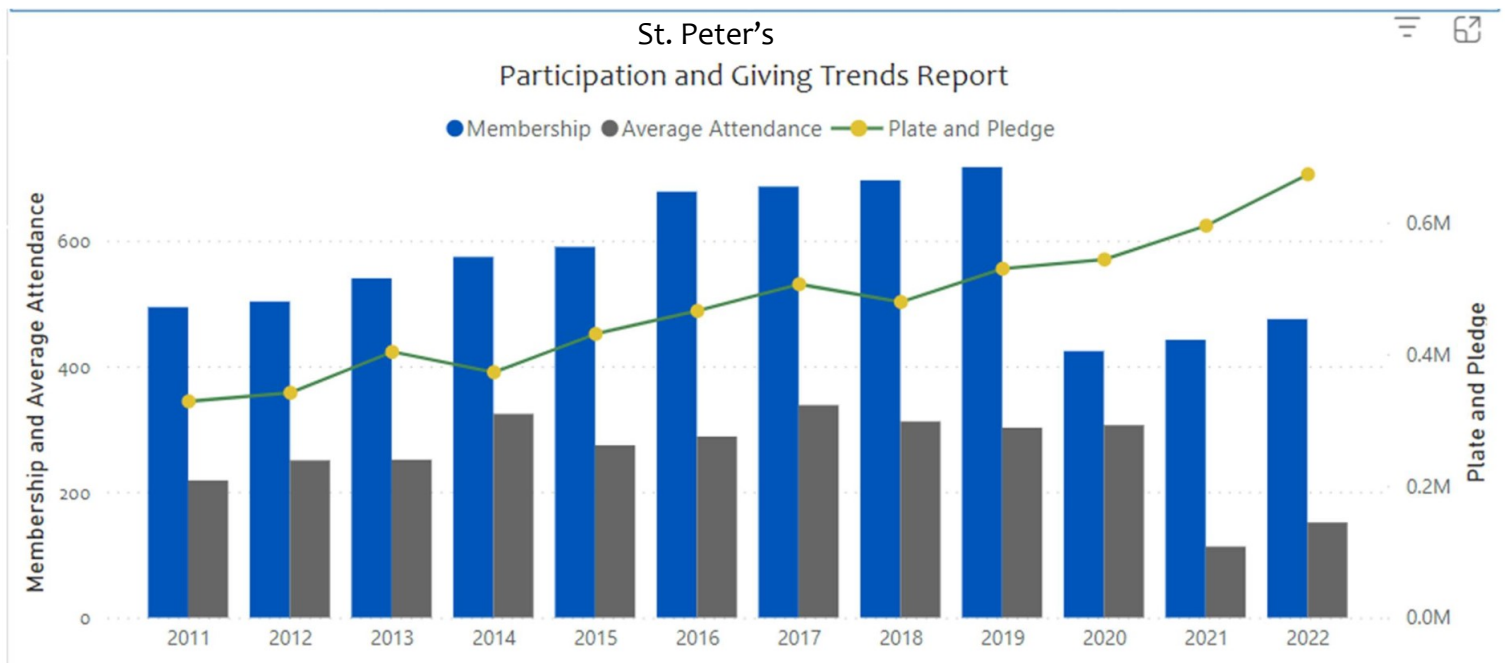
## **Lewes-Rehoboth Association of Congregations**

The Lewes-Rehoboth Association of Churches (L-RAC) was established in 1983 as a collaborative effort of local churches to come together to serve those in need in the community. In 2021 the Association evolved from an Ecumenical group to an Interfaith group, welcoming the Seaside Jewish Community, the Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware, and others into membership in the association. L-RAC's primary fundraising organ is the New Life Thrift Store, located behind Jiffy Lube and Bethany Blues on Route One. There are several members of St. Peter's who volunteer at the thrift store, but it is always in need of more volunteers. Money from the Thrift store goes to support community organizations such as the Community Resource Center. For more information, please contact Fr. Ted Olson or Karen Dettwyler.



## COMPARISON OF THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNANCE BETWEEN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE UNITED STATES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH	UNITED STATES
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY	SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN
ANGLICAN PRIMATES	THE G-8
ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL	SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UN
WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN COMMUNION	UNITED NATIONS
PRESIDING BISHOP	PRESIDENT OF THE USA
HOUSE OF BISHOPS	SENATE
HOUSE OF DEPUTIES	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DIOCESAN BISHOP	GOVERNOR
DIOCESAN COUNCIL/ CONVENTION	STATE LEGISLATURE
DIOCESE	STATE
RECTOR	MAYOR
VESTRY	TOWN COUNCIL
PARISH	TOWN



## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer engages with virtually every aspect and ministry of St. Peter's Church. The Treasurer is elected by the Vestry and not by the Parish and is now a voting member of the Vestry. The Treasurer attends and reports to the Vestry at each Vestry meeting; interacts with the Rector, Wardens, Parish Administrator, Chancellor and external entities (e.g., accountants, banks, Diocese of Delaware); and usually serves on the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), on which I currently serve.

### **Revenues**

We began 2023 with most of the pandemic-related financial challenges behind us. We have made modest recoveries in the equity and bond markets. Fortunately this aided the finances of many in our community. Our parishioners have increased and continued to honor their pledges, which together with contributions from non-pledgers and many new friends of St. Peter's who began viewing our services online, have kept our revenues at the levels needed to support our mission.

As we have been able to hold in-person services, many in our Parish and the community at large have returned to in-person worship. Our revenues have thus resumed to a mix of traditional pledges, an increased level of online contributions, and collection plate donations from non-pledgers each week. Our finances have benefited significantly from pandemic-related revenues such as employee retention tax credits and forgiveness of a PPP loan. These revenues are of course non-recurring, and one of our major challenges going forward will be to keep our financial condition strong without them. Thanks to the faith, dedication and hard work of our parishioners, friends, volunteers, clergy and staff, we have successfully navigated another year in good financial condition. We anticipate that 2024 will be our first \$1,000,000 budget.

### **Endowment**

Our endowment has recovered slightly from the financial markets in 2023. Our unrestricted endowment funds started the year with a value of \$2.72 million. After withdrawals thus far during 2023 of \$105,000 (still below the budgeted amount of \$144,000) and increases in market value, the value of the unrestricted endowment funds had risen to \$2.79 million as of September 30, 2023. Because our investment horizon is extremely long-term, the FAC has refrained from any dramatic moves, but we are making some adjustments as investments mature and funds are redeployed.

### **Expenses**

Highlights of our current year expenses and our proposed 2024 expense budget appear below. In putting together the proposed 2024 budget, the Vestry has (as was the case in 2023) provided for modest increases in controllable expenses. We have also budgeted very modest increases in compensation for clergy and staff. Our health insurance costs for 2024 are slightly higher than 2023. We have started to pay back the Diocesan loan from Open Door Phase One. In July, we began, officially, Open Door Phase Two, with the start of internal demolition of Hart House. Accordingly, we have started to incur some expenses for Phase Two, as well as receiving a modest level of contributions. The latest estimate for Hart House renovations is around \$600,000, with an estimated completion date of May 2024. Accordingly, the Open Door fundraising campaign will need to restart and we will probably need to tap into our line of credit from Community Bank.

## Conclusions

In order to keep our budget balanced, we are budgeting a 6.73% increase in pledge income for 2024. Because of improved financial market conditions we are budgeting a slightly greater draw from our unrestricted endowment funds. Accordingly, the Vestry and I, together, will continue to monitor revenues and expenses as we move into 2024 and make adjustments as appropriate.

Minnie Shorter

St. Peter's Budget Summary	2023 Budget	2023 as of October 27	2024 Budget
Administration	\$ 248,061	\$ 170,152	\$ 262,521
Property	\$ 151,361	\$ 130,613	\$ 152,127
Worship - <i>Includes support for Clergy</i>	\$ 247,289	\$ 198,520	\$ 248,494
Music Ministry	\$ 120,234	\$ 96,437	\$ 136,073
Christian Formation	\$ 103,497	\$ 78,003	\$ 106,723
Outreach	\$ 90,950	\$ 46,454	\$ 96,450
Parish Life	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,597	\$ 6,000
<i>Complete budget available in the office</i>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 968,392	\$ 725,776	\$ 1,008,388

## Vital Statistics for 2023

(November 2, 2022 - November 1, 2023)

Deaths: 14

Baptisms: 7

Weddings: 5

Confirmations and Receptions: 14

New Members transferred in: 16

Transferred out: 4

Members in Good Standing: 429

Inactive Members: 100

## St. Peter's Necrology - 2023

John Adams

Chip Beaverson

Rob Comeau

Marlys Cowan

Rogers Jones

Carolyn Kindon

Jennifer Malm

Diane Marshall

The Rev. Ray Michener

Tom Reale

John Roman

Bob Shea

Mary Van House

Michael Zwicke

## Open Door Project

As reported last year, the two-year Phase One of the Open Door Campaign was successfully concluded this year. Over two hundred parishioners and friends of St. Peter's contributed over \$1.5 million to the project. We now have a splendidly restored and renovated historic structure in which to worship and conduct parish and community activities.

Throughout 2023 planning was continued on Phases II and III, focusing on the renovation of the Hart House and the existing Parish Hall to meet the needs of St. Peter's myriad ministries and programs as well as to provide facilities for local non-profit groups. After a detailed discernment process by the Vestry, Clergy, staff and outside experts, including an in-depth analysis and discussion at a day-long Vestry retreat, it was decided to proceed with Phase II and III over the next two to three years with a view toward raising at least \$2,000,000. It was concluded that the Parish has the capacity and will to meet this challenge, aided by support from governmental, corporate and philanthropic entities. The modernization and re-purposing of much of Hart House and Parish Hall into state-of-the-art facilities will enable us to continue to broaden and expand local programs and ministries for future generations.

Hart House

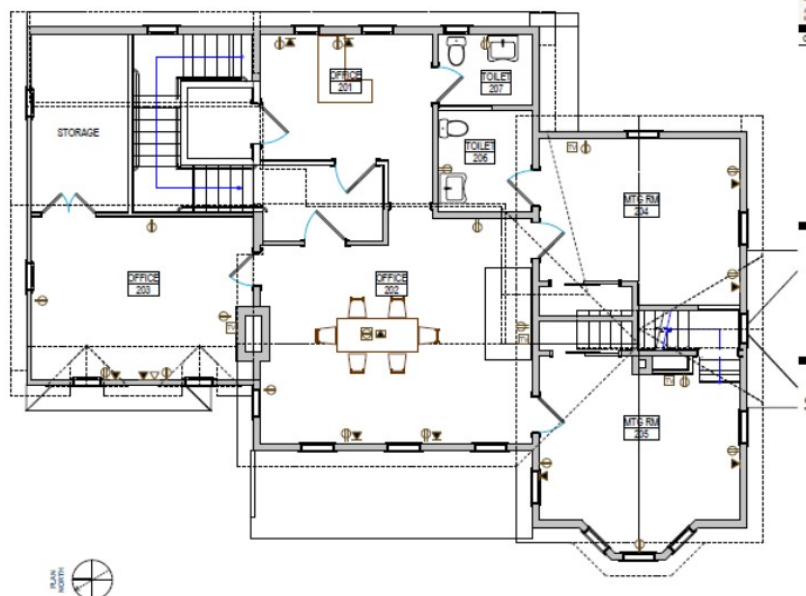




## Hart House— Ground Floor



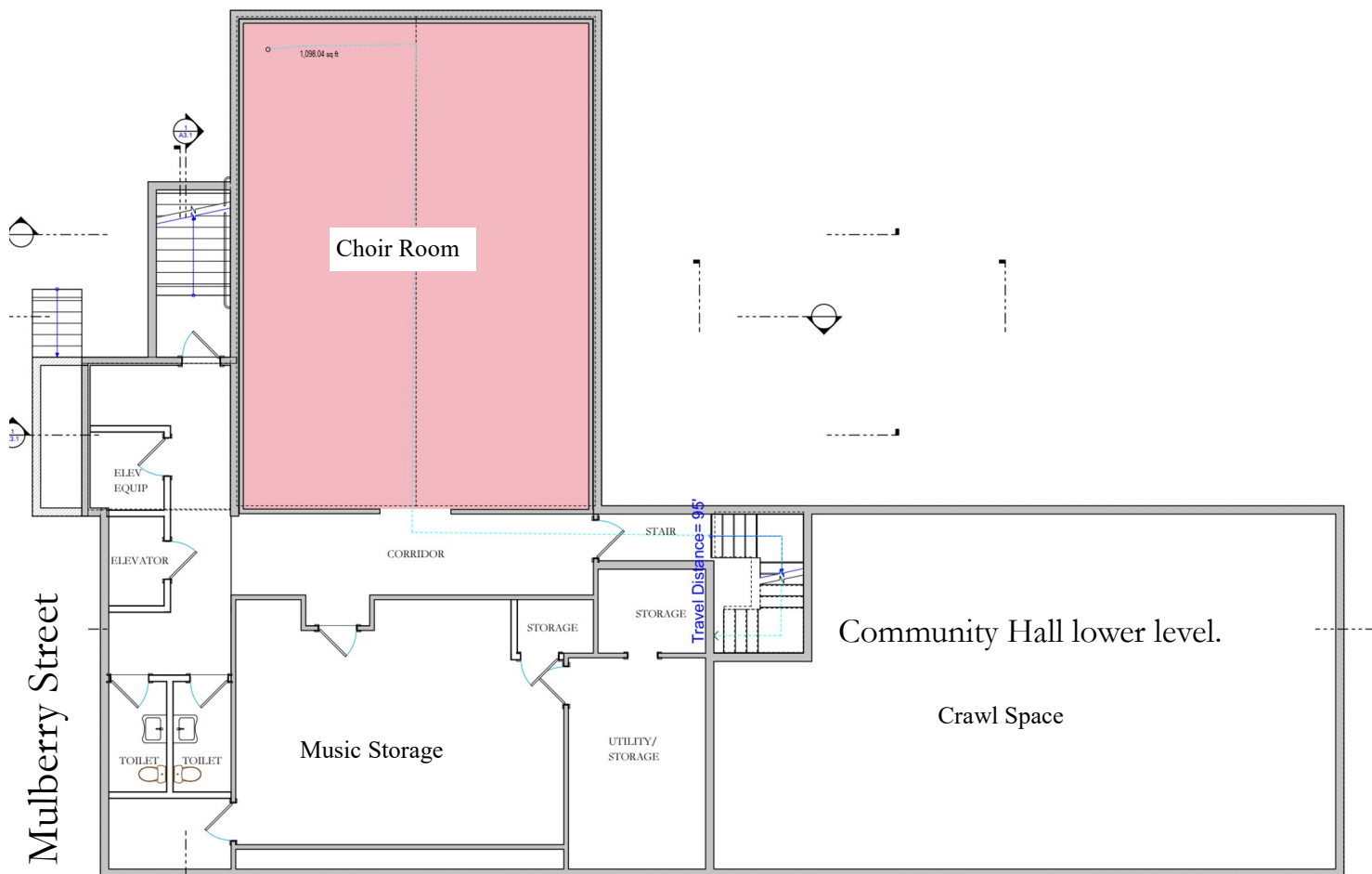
## Mulberry St



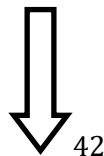
② SECOND FLOOR FURNITURE & IT  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

## Mulberry St

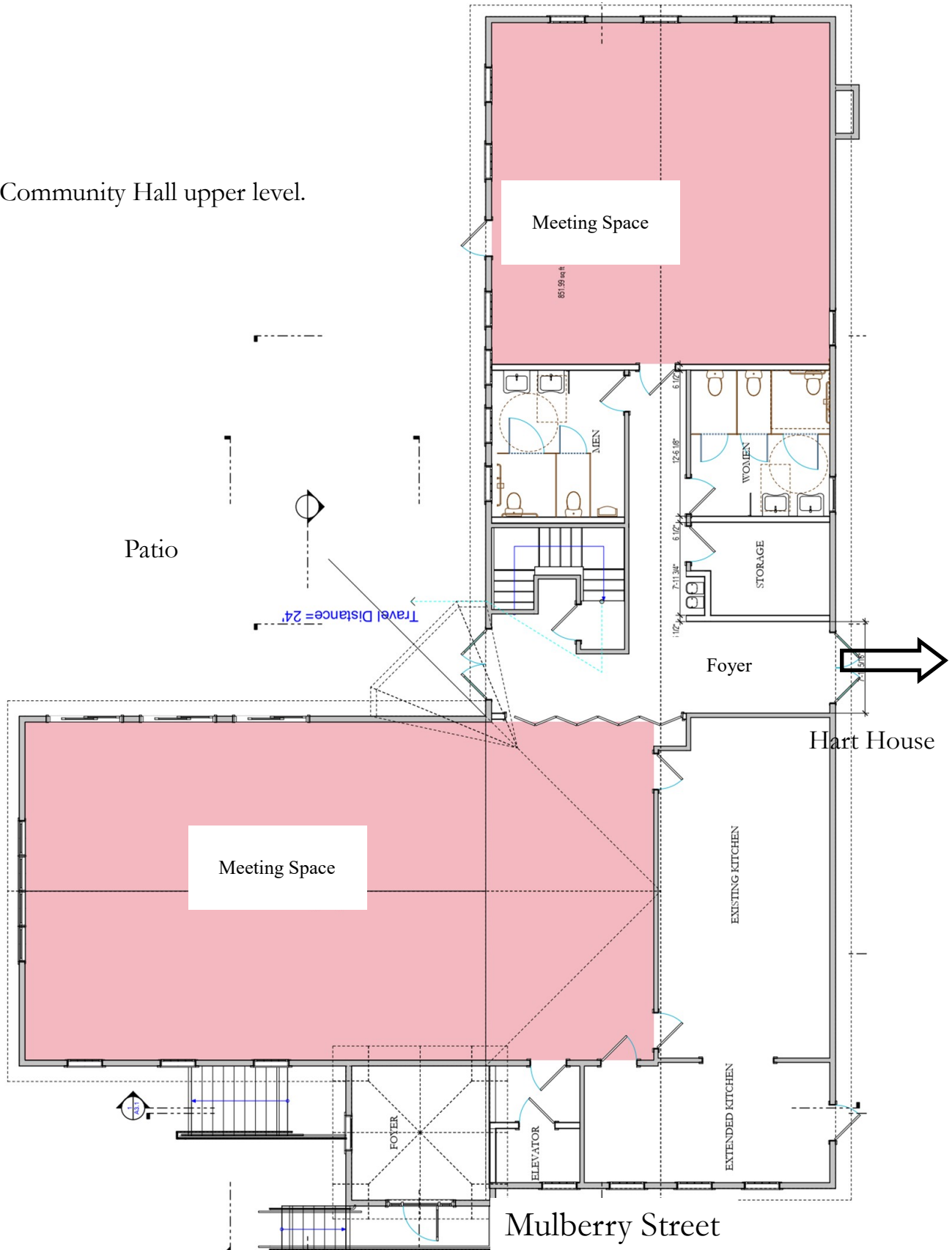
PHASE III  
COMMUNITY HALL (Mulberry Street elevation)



Hart House



Community Hall upper level.



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