

**Annual Report of the Parish
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Charlotte, North Carolina**



Sunday, December 10, 2023
The Second Sunday of Advent, 9:45 a.m.
The Nave of St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam
"You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church."

Our Parish Vision is to be
a place of unconditional welcome and a beacon of God's love in the heart of Charlotte.

Our Parish Mission is to
nurture a community of courageous followers of Jesus and inspire love of God and love of neighbor.

Meeting Agenda – Sunday, December 10, 9:45 a.m.

Welcome, Opening Prayer, and Call to Order — *The Reverend Jacob E. Pierce, Rector*

A Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church

Let us thank God whom we worship here in the beauty of holiness.

Eternal God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Graciously receive our thanks for this place, and accept the work of our hands, offered to your honor and glory. For the Church universal, of which these visible buildings are the symbol,

We thank you, Lord.

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered together in your Name,

We thank you, Lord.

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,

We thank you, Lord.

For making us your children by adoption and grace, and refreshing us day by day with the bread of life.

We thank you, Lord.

For the knowledge of your will and the grace to perform it,

We thank you, Lord.

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,

We thank you, Lord.

For the pardon of our sins, which restores us to the company of your faithful people,

We thank you, Lord.

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,

We thank you, Lord.

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,

We thank you, Lord.

For the fellowship of Blessed Peter, our patron, and of all your Saints,

We thank you, Lord.

silence

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty;

People **For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.**

Celebrant Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom;

People **And you are exalted as head over all. Amen.**

Hymn sung by all

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,

1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Meeting Attendance Report (Quorum required) – Mary Gotschall, Clerk (report in absentia)

Collect First Ballots and Review Election Process – Vestry Nominating Committee

Introductions: Vestry Classes of 2026

2024 - Will Burton-Edwards, Doug Hutto, Charmaine Welch, Mary Virginia Woodall

2025 - Steve Bentley, Ginny Brien, Elsie Erneston, Paul Keller

Thanks for the ministry of the Class of 2023 – Mary Goschall, Ann Miano, Katie Nelson, Matt Sharp

2024–2026 Nominees – John Buric, Eric Burns, Susan Cooper, Brian Gallagher, Peter Morgan, and Gary Wald

Offering of Ministry Area Reports – The Reverend Jacob E. Pierce

Remarks from Program Staff – The Reverend Amanda Stephenson, *Associate Rector*; Allison Elrod, *Director of Stewardship*; Lyn Holt, *Director of Youth Formation*; Anna Hurdle, *Director of Children's Formation*; and Elizabeth Lenti, *Director of Music*

Senior Warden Remarks – Steve Bentley, *Senior Warden*

Junior Warden Remarks – Ann Miano, *Junior Warden*

Treasurer Report and 2024 Planning — Dave Lavoie, *Treasurer*

Annual Giving Campaign 2024 Update — John Buric, *Chair of the Stewardship Committee*

Remarks from the Rector — The Reverend Jacob E. Pierce, *Rector*

Adjournment and Dismissal

Greetings from the Rector

Dear People of St. Peter's,

The following Annual Report provides updates from every major ministry area of the parish, from both vestry and staff. These reports highlight the incredible work we have done together over the past year. I cannot highlight every report worthy of celebration, but I would like to draw your attention to a few.

Over the course of 2023 we have welcomed numerous new faces to St. Peter's and we have celebrated more baptisms than in recent memory. 27 new members have joined in recent months, many of whom are already engaged in our various ministries within the parish beyond our walls.

Thanks to the leadership of Patricia Massey Hoke and all the leaders of the Outreach Committee, we have renewed and deepened our commitment to our Outreach partners in the wider community. I am so very grateful to this group for keeping us engaged in how we serve our neighbors.

In 2023 our Sunday attendance increased by over 20% and our livestream views increased by over 50%. This is a testament to the witness of St. Peter's in our community and the beautiful music and liturgy that is steeped in tradition but relevant to our lives today.

When I think on the year that is past, I am filled with gratitude. I am grateful for the opportunity to observe a restful and invigorating sabbatical. I am thankful for my colleague the Reverend Amanda Stephenson, and for her steady leadership while I was away. I am also thankful for the Reverend Sally Johnston, for her willingness to assist Amanda during this period, and for all our affiliated clergy who helped Amanda and Sally in various ways. I am grateful to Steve Bentley for his leadership of the vestry. And I am thankful for each of you, for members of the staff, the vestry, and the many volunteers who make our shared ministry possible.

As we close out the year, I am also grateful for the Vestry Class of 2023: Mary Gotschall, Ann Miano, Katie Nelson, and Matt Sharp. The Class of 2023 was elected during the COVID closure, when worship was only taking place virtually and in small outdoor gatherings in local neighborhoods. They, like the class before them, led us through that difficult time with prayerful discernment, humor, and grace.

In January, I begin my eighth year serving this parish and my heart is so very full. Thank you for all each of you do, for the many ways you inspire me, and for your commitment to ensure St. Peter's is a place of unconditional welcome and a beacon of God's love in the heart of Charlotte.

Advent Blessings,



The Reverend Jacob E. Pierce, Rector

Vestry Leadership Reports

Senior Warden: Steve Bentley

As I reflect on this past year, I am struck by the renewed spirit and energy we have experienced coming out of the pandemic. We have seen continued growth in all areas of our parish life. We are blessed with dedicated and talented clergy, church staff, lay leaders and amazing parishioners. We give thanks for all of you and especially the outgoing vestry class of 2023: Mary Gotschall, Ann Miano, Katie Nelson, and Matt Sharp for their three years of dedicated service. Have no doubt that the work we all do here is impactful within and outside these walls.

Guided by our strategic plan, in 2023 we continued to strengthen our shared ministry.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Adding 27 new members to our congregation through reaffirmation of faith, baptism, transfer, and confirmation;
- Hosting a well attended and engaging parish retreat at Montreat
- Engaging in successful projects to preserve and enhance our historic property (see the report from Junior Warden, Ann Miano);
- Resuming a full schedule of Evensong;
- Supporting our social justice efforts through programs such as “Stirring the Ashes” and participation in the Martin Luther King Day parade and the Charlotte Pride parade;
- Resuming the Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry;
- Providing outreach grants to 20 organizations and providing church-wide outreach opportunities including Room in the Inn, making sandwiches for Roof Above, a food drive for Galilee Center and Feeding the Red Bins;
- Enhancing the quality of our livestream capability;
- Expanding and adjusting staff roles to increase opportunities for our children and family ministries and supporting our facilities;
- Offering fellowship activities including Holy Chow, Shrove Tuesday pancake and gumbo supper, Luigi’s Spaghetti Dinner, and the newcomer luncheon; and
- Hosting a capacity crowd for the inaugural Williamson Lecture featuring Mayor Harvey Gantt and Hugh McColl.

I encourage you to read the reports from our various ministry teams to learn even more about our efforts to build the kingdom of God here at the corner of Seventh and Tryon. Even with these accomplishments, many exciting opportunities await us and there is much still to be done. We need every hand and heart to accomplish the work we are called to do. I ask you to consider where your time and talents can be used to participate in the life of St. Peter’s in the coming year. I know your investment will be repaid tenfold.

Steve Bentley, *Senior Warden*

Junior Warden: Ann Miano

As we gather together again in this beautiful and historic place, I feel gratitude for the opportunity we share to live and worship here in this sacred space. As your Junior Warden, I can report that we have made significant progress on our goals of maintaining and enhancing St. Peter’s building and grounds.

As you know, caring for this historic house of worship presents challenges and opportunities. We strive to balance those sometimes competing demands by focusing on two elements of our strategic plan: completing critical building repairs and enhancing spaces to reflect our values as a community. Those twin goals continue to drive our efforts every day, even as we deal with the unexpected.

I’m sure you recall that it was one year ago on the eve of our Annual Meeting that we were faced with an unpleasant surprise—a flooded Basement. The domestic water backflow preventor valve failed and flooded the Basement. A part of the valve pierced the wall of the adjacent elevator equipment room and damaged the elevator equip-

ment. St. Peter's was without domestic water service for three days and without the use of the elevator for almost 12 weeks.

In my work in the design and construction of critical facilities, we would refer to this as a cascading event. With strong support from the staff and clergy and patience from all of you, we postponed the Annual Meeting, investigated to find the root cause, quickly developed a plan to accommodate the needs of our congregation until the elevator was repaired, and took steps to ensure this did not happen again. Three days after a well-attended Shrove Tuesday event, the elevator was back up and running. Looking back, I am filled with pride that we were able to navigate this difficult period as a parish with such grace. Thank you all for that.

Throughout the year, I have witnessed the same display of passion, consideration, and determination to improve our precious church building. From resolving ongoing moisture issues to restoring the beautiful 1914 hardwood floors, this sacred space has seen a transformation from top to bottom. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to those who managed and coordinated and lived amid the dirt and dust and inconvenience that is construction/renovation, and my deepest appreciation to Father Jacob and the Vestry for their steadfast leadership and to St. Peter's Endowment for making it all possible.

As you may recall from last year's report, our focus in 2022 was on investigation, discovery, planning, and preparation. That groundwork laid a solid foundation which allowed 2023 to be a year of action.

With the help of our thoughtful clergy, supportive vestry, and dedicated staff, St. Peter's Building and Grounds Committee and numerous St. Peter's Subcommittees worked passionately to see the following projects brought to fruition:

Roof Replacement - 1998 Parish House Addition

- Replaced ballasted EPDM Roof areas with fully adhered PVC single ply roofing
- Replaced existing shingles with Architectural Laminated Shingles
- Installed metal wall panels at single ply roof areas
- Installed new metal flashing, counterflashing, gutters, downspouts, etc.
- Completed October 2023

This critical \$330,000+ project was funded through the St. Peter's Endowment and a Loan from St. Peter's Endowment, for which we are extremely grateful.

Among the more visible improvements we were able to make this year are the Restoration of Original 1914 Parish House Hardwood Floors and several 1st Floor Parish House Improvements. The newly established St. Peter's Interiors Committee (Michael Baker, Tim Bice, Rob Carpenter, Phyllis Ferguson, Christa Lineberger, and Cathy Morrison) guided this work, including refreshing the Parlor with new paint, art and furnishings.

We also completed the Extension of Lobby Flooring (LVP) into the corridors and elevator lobbies, installed new wood base and painted throughout in September 2023. This work was funded through generous donations from parishioners, in-kind gifts and the St. Peter's Endowment.

The St. Peter's Art Committee (Brian Gallagher, Harris Holt, Lyn Holt, and Wes Sturgis) selected, framed, and installed art in the Seating Alcove in the Lobby with a new rug to complement the art and Lobby renovation. Again, funding for this work is a result of generous donations from parishioners, in-kind gifts and the St. Peter's Endowment.

One positive outcome from the Basement flood was that we were able to replace the existing carpet with new flooring throughout the main areas of the basement – a combination of carpet and luxury vinyl plank flooring. This work was completed in October 2023 and was paid for entirely with insurance proceeds.

Also in the basement, we made significant repairs to the HVAC system and sealed the ductwork in the youth area to prevent leaks and save energy. These system repairs included replacing the condenser barrel, evaporator coil, and compressor – all long overdue. All of this HVAC work was funded by the St. Peter's Endowment as well and was completed in February and May 2023.

After an extensive search, we have engaged a preservation architect and a team of specialists to provide an Exterior Envelope Condition Assessment of the Historic Church and Parish House. Their assessment report will include a detailed survey of the brownstone & brick, slate roof, stained glass windows, and trim. It will serve as a guide to prioritize and program future exterior repairs, rehabilitation, restoration, and design including project costs. We anticipate some priority repairs at the exterior masonry wall between the Chancel and the Nave to take place this year, weather permitting.

I am proud of the work we have done to protect and preserve our worship and formation spaces over the past two years. I am honored to have served as your Junior Warden and am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with so many talented and devoted staff, clergy, and lay leaders who truly love this church. Special thanks for the support of Leigh Dixon, Dave Lavoie, the members of the Building and Grounds Committee (Candace Armstrong, Sam Gardner, Mike Hoffman, Greg Jones, Christa Lineberger, Maria Long, Cathy Morrison, Rob Smith, Matt Sharp, and Gary Wald) and the members of the St. Peter's Endowment for their reliable and crucial financial support.

Treasurer: David Lavoie

Vestry Liaison to Finance: Mary Gotschall

2023 has been a very busy year for the parish, and financial results have been better than expected through October 31. We are budgeting in a post-pandemic environment, which continues to generate uncertainty. Expenses are generally back to pre-pandemic levels with some inflation impact. Revenues and attendance are increasing but have not yet built back to a level comparable to expenses. Hence, Vestry approved a deficit budget for 2023, contingently supported by reserves.

The first chart below shows the budgeted levels and actual results for the operating account through October 31. This budget is supported by pledge and plate offerings, plus parking lot revenues and tenant leases. The "variance" column shows how actual results have differed from the budget, and I have arranged the numbers so that all positive variances are "good" and negative variances are "bad." You will see that pledge and plate offerings have been very good (thank you!). The only negative in the revenue section is due to the loss of our kitchen tenant last summer.

Expenses have been very favorable to budget across the board. We have not needed as many facilities assistant hours as expected, some staff singer positions have been unfilled, printing expenses have been low, and minor building repairs have been minimal. All of those things have offset higher fellowship and utility expenses.

With revenues nearly \$40,000 ahead of budget, and expenses \$40,000 favorable to budget, we are almost \$80,000 better than budget for the year. Although we may still end up in a deficit position by the end of the year, indications through October point to a deficit much smaller than was budgeted, and for that we are thankful. We would love to finish the year with positive momentum.

**2023 St. Peter's Operating Budget
January to October (ten months)***

| Operating Account (unrestricted) | Budget | Actual | Variance |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Pledge and Plate Offering | \$664,521 | \$706,615 | \$41,494 |
| Other Revenues | \$137,850 | \$135,745 | \$ (2,105) |
| Total Revenues | \$802,371 | \$841,760 | \$ 39,389 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Clergy | \$227,457 | \$224,634 | \$ 2,823 |
| Administration | \$189,152 | \$183,508 | \$ 5,644 |
| Property | \$195,417 | \$179,864 | \$ 15,553 |
| Music | \$160,394 | \$151,612 | \$ 8,782 |
| Diocesan Ask | \$ 97,379 | \$ 97,379 | \$ - |
| Youth & Children | \$ 96,103 | \$ 90,723 | \$ 5,380 |
| All Other Programs | \$ 18,413 | \$ 16,417 | \$ 1,996 |
| Total Expenses | \$984,315 | \$944,137 | \$40,178 |
| Surplus or (Deficit) | (\$181,944) | (\$102,377) | \$79,567 |

The second chart combines operating fund expenditures with restricted funds. Restricted funds include reserves, Endowment and other grants, insurance proceeds, and gifts received and held for restricted purposes. There was a great deal of activity in restricted funds during 2023, including:

- The Rector's sabbatical, funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation
- An Endowment grant to fund our Stewardship and Planned Giving department
- A new roof for the 1998 section of the building, funded by a bequest and a loan from the Endowment
- Major HVAC improvements and repairs
- Elevator and flooring repairs in the basement, funded by insurance claims
- New gallery floors, funded by parishioner gifts
- The Youth Pilgrimage
- The Choir Trip to England
- The Williamson Lectures, Parish Weekend, and Exploratory Committee
- Outreach and Social Justice grants

**Expenditures through October 31, 2023
Operating and Restricted Funds**

| | Operating | Restricted | Combined | % of Total |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Clergy | \$ 224,634 | \$ 57,907 | \$ 282,541 | 16% |
| Administrative | \$ 183,508 | \$ 64,947 | \$ 248,455 | 14% |
| Property | \$ 179,864 | \$ 455,378 | \$ 635,242 | 35% |
| Diocesan Ask | \$ 97,379 | - | \$ 97,379 | 5% |
| Music | \$ 151,612 | \$ 78,804 | \$ 230,416 | 13% |
| Youth and Children | \$ 90,723 | \$ 51,438 | \$ 142,161 | 8% |
| Outreach & Social Justice | \$ 1,689 | \$ 104,159 | \$ 105,848 | 6% |
| All Other Programs | \$ 14,728 | \$ 64,431 | \$ 79,159 | 4% |
| Total Expenditures | \$ 944,137 | \$ 877,064 | \$1,821,201 | 100% |

As always, we are very grateful for your support of St. Peter's and its many ministries and programs. We expect to finish 2023 in a healthy financial condition and excited for 2024.

Staff Reports

Associate Rector: The Reverend Amanda C. Stephenson

As the Associate Rector, I share liturgical and pastoral responsibilities with our Rector, Deacon, and Affiliated Clergy. I also oversee three ministry areas: Adult Formation, Congregational Engagement, and Fellowship. 2023 has been an exciting year in each of these ministry areas. It has been wonderful to embrace the fullness of our programming and fellowship, and to welcome new people into the parish. There is an energy and excitement at St. Peter's right now that is absolutely wonderful.

It has been a joy to learn alongside you all as we have continued to grow and expand our Adult Formation offerings, both in person and online. Formation is a broad term that encompasses more than just classes or small groups, but I'd like to highlight those more traditional forms of formation here. In person, we have our Adult Forum and Sacred Ground. In Sacred Ground, Fr. Murdock Smith and Joanne Jenkins lead a small group through the history and impact of racism and white supremacy here in the US. To date, 23 parishioners and seven clergy and staff have taken the course. In addition to these two in-person offerings, we also offer online formation opportunities as well: Sunday Party of Readers led by Deje McGavran, Monday Night Bible Study led by Ruth Woodend, Education for Ministry led by Fr. Murdock Smith, Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion led by Ruth Woodend, and Wednesday Night Bible Study led by myself. Through formation, members of St. Peter's not only learn and grow in their faith, they also build community and support one another.

Congregational Engagement continues to play an important role in welcoming visitors and newcomers into our Parish. This group connects with each visitor who turns in a connect card, follows up with each new member, hosts events for newcomers, helps with our annual Ministry Fair, and leads Parish House tours and Church and Garden tours. This year we hosted a Newcomer Luncheon which was a wonderful opportunity to connect newcomers with lay leadership in the parish. The Congregational Engagement Team continues to think creatively about how to help connect parishioners and visitors with our various ministries.

Our Fellowship ministry had a lot going on this year! We have weekly Holy Chow and Coffee Hour, as well as a number of special events scattered throughout the year. Highlights of the year include our first Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper since 2020, our fabulous Parish Retreat at Montreat Conference Center in March, our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, multiple Mint Museum tours led by Brian Gallagher, and our Parish-wide Outing to the Charlotte Knights Baseball Game this summer. Our 20s30s group has also been staying active this year with a variety of outings around Charlotte as we have built and deepened relationships with one another and explored all that our city has to offer. I am so grateful for the many, many people who have volunteered their time and participated in our wonderful fellowship this year.

This year has felt like living into the full expression of who we are as St. Peter's Episcopal Church. This is a vibrant and unique church community with energy and passion, and I am truly honored to be your Associate Rector. I look forward to all that this next year will bring!

Advent Blessings,

The Reverend Amanda Stephenson, *Associate Rector*

Deacon: The Reverend Deacon Robin O. Sands

St. Peter's has a long and storied history of Social Justice and Outreach ministries that continues to thrive, contribute, and serve in our community. Both ministries focus on initiatives identified in our Strategic Plan and due to the efforts and gifts of many, those initiatives continue to flourish.

Social Justice and Outreach Committees have worked together to offer opportunities to create sustainable change, equity and dignity for the most vulnerable by seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and advocating for justice and peace.

These ministries provide opportunities for members of our parish to learn more about the needs in our community, advocate for the voiceless, and serve the least among us. This work is truly the fruit of the commitment that our parish has made in sharing the many gifts we have been given.

The St. Peter's Endowment provides annual financial support based on the Endowment's investment performance and amounts are determined by the Endowment Trustees. St. Peter's shares this abundance with various ministry partners throughout Charlotte. The Outreach and Social Justice Committee met with many of the grant applicants this year and is thrilled to be able to support not only our better known partners but also partners in ministry that are new to St. Peter's. Evidence of living into our call to give back to God what is God's so that through our gifts the love of God can become a tangible reality in our world.

In 2023, St. Peter's continues to partner with several organizations in the greater Charlotte area not only to provide financial support but to be the hands and feet of Jesus—volunteering with Room In the Inn, For the Struggle, Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Samaritan House and others as the parish focuses its current efforts on housing and hunger related needs in Charlotte. St. Peter's also serves in other ways by collecting food to help stock the Emergency Food Pantry at Galilee, stock the shelves at Loaves and Fishes and provide toiletry items for The White Beard Project as well as preparing bagged lunches for our neighbors at Roof Above.

We invite you to prayerfully consider joining our team and examine what role you may play in bringing forth our mission and vision to nurture a community of courageous followers of Jesus and to inspire love of God and love of neighbor as we continue to be a place of unconditional welcome and a beacon of God's love in the heart of Charlotte.

The Reverend Deacon Robin O. Sands

Membership: Michael Talbert, Clergy Assistant

Once again, this year staff and clergy have made a concerted effort to scrub the database more regularly, which has resulted in membership reactivations and deactivations, and merging of duplicate profiles. As of November 2023, St. Peter's has 979 active adult, youth, and child members (978 in 2022), representing 449 households (457 in 2022). During 2023 we have added 27 new members to the parish, including 17 transfers out, 15 baptisms, 16 confirmations/receptions, 3 weddings, and 10 burials. On October 21, 2023, at the Bishop's Visitation, 14 candidates were presented for confirmation, 2 for reception, and 2 for reaffirmation.

Allison Elrod, Director of Stewardship

At St. Peter's, the word Stewardship is a very holistic term that means far more than just sharing financial resources. It also means sharing time, expertise, creativity, leadership, and presence. Money too, as we raise the funds we need to take care of our historic building, compensate our clergy and staff, fund our incredible music program, teach and encourage our children and youth, shelter our homeless neighbors, and so much more.

In August of this year, members of the Stewardship Committee gathered with Ministry Leaders to spend a day talking about our collective spiritual gifts. Led by Ginny Brien, we identified core spiritual gifts and which of them seem particularly important for our ministries. Among them, caregiving, apostleship, faith, hospitality, healing, and giving rose to the top. An accurate snapshot, I think, of how we use our gifts to nurture this unique community of faith.

Last April we welcomed Charlotte business legends Harvey Gantt and Hugh McColl to St. Peter's to inaugurate the Williamson Lecture Series. In a conversation about legacy moderated by Kristin Hills Bradberry, Mr. Gantt and Mr. McColl offered a long view on the people, institutions, and events that have shaped our region, and how one generation can create well-being for generations to come. Named for Bill and Pat Williamson and their family, this annual lecture series will focus on one topic of community interest, and bring speakers from across the country to share in the conversation. In 2024 our speaker will be the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop.

Our Outreach and Social Justice teams help us understand how we can use our abundance to address the needs of the broader community. This includes the grants we make to partner organizations, which totaled \$60,000 to

twenty organizations in 2023. We also hosted a second annual luncheon for our grant applicants, inviting them to share a meal and their stories with us. This has led to new opportunities for giving time, including packing meals for Seniors at For the Struggle, feeding guests at Samaritan House, and family activities at The Galilee Center.

Much of this good work is made possible by the St. Peter's Endowment, which provides annual resources that fund these grants, special projects, and critical needs. Our endowment has been built over the decades by planned gifts - bequests and memorials - and is managed by our Endowment Committee. If you would like to know how you and your family can make a planned future gift to the St. Peter's Endowment, I'd be happy to talk with you. We recognize parishioners who have made planned gifts as members of our 1834 Legacy Society.

Finally, our Annual Giving Campaign goal this year is 275 pledges. Every pledge counts equally toward helping us reach this goal. Thank you to the more than 200 households who have already pledged this year. If you are not among them, please consider this important aspect of stewardship and make your pledge today. Your new vestry needs this important planning tool as they begin their work in 2024.

Thank you for letting me share in your ministries and fellowship, and for all the ways you help me think about being a good steward of God's gifts in my own life.

Children's Formation: Anna Hurdle, Director of Children's Formation

Children come to us as a rain of souls, a richness and a promise which can always be fulfilled but which needs the help of our efforts for its fulfillment. Do not think that because the child cannot understand in the same way that we adults understand, that it is useless for them to participate in our religious practice. The child's unconscious absorbs divine powers while the conscious reasoning of the adult is only human. Protect in their development those natural energies implanted in the souls of children by the guiding hand of God. —Dr. Maria Montessori (1952)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been and remains our primary method of Christian formation for children age 3-12 at St. Peter's for thirty years. Parishioners have often shared that there is a connection of family and of baptismal promise between our youngest ones and the elders of the Body of Christ, present at St. Peter's. Often folks look forward to watching the children enter into the nave at the Sign of Peace. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is at the heart of our children and family ministry.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children that is rooted in the Bible, the liturgies of the church and the educational principles of Dr. Maria Montessori. According to our late presiding bishop, the Most Reverend Frank Griswold III, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has shaped and formed both children and adults and drawn them, in a living way, into the mystery of Christ as that mystery is experienced in the life and worship of the church, particularly the Eucharistic. This formation year we are averaging 20 children each week. Five families have joined us this fall.

As Director of Children's Formation, my primary role is to oversee the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Katie Nelson, alumna of the atrium and now catechist, is our vestry liaison. We collaborate on all things children and families.

In 2023, we offered formation to children and families through our Sunday formation. Additionally I work alongside the clergy with baptismal preparation for candidates and their families and sponsors. This year we have performed fifteen baptisms.

Our catechists are:

Toddler: Kendra Evans and nursery staff

3-6 years: Chris Zulick, Mary Gray-Reeve, Nikki Moore, Avery Teichman, Jenee Thorsell

6-9 years: Susan Dosier Keller, Matt Sharp, Magen Hung

9-12 years: Katie Nelson, Betty Little and Vera Greene

Substitutes: Jenny Whitley, James Owens

These catechists are truly called to formation and we give thanks for their vocation.

Our nursery caregivers are employees of SPEC. Currently we have four caregivers on staff with Kendra Evans being our lead caregiver. Child care is offered each Sunday, 8:15-12:15. We have seen a steady increase in usage over the past year.

Our annual nativity pageant will take place on Christmas eve at the 4:00 liturgy. It is not too late to sign up. We will be offering the Solemn Communion meditation series during Lent and Easter, culminating on Good Shepherd Sunday. In 2023 five children participated, two of whom were baptized. Again this past year the “blessing of the backpacks” coincided with Formation Sunday. Children and their backpacks were blessed at both services. They received a bookbag tag as a reminder of their blessing.

A children’s library is located in the lobby. Crayons and paper are available as well. A parent resource lending area is located adjacent to the nursery.

In addition to working in the atria and with the catechists, we have increased additional formation offerings for children and families. This fall, we offered an All Hallow’s Eve celebration and a St. Nicholas lunch and party. Both events were well attended. Looking ahead to 2024, we plan to add formation events for parents and offer more training for adults to join us in the atrium.

Please let me know if you would like more information on our children’s ministries and or if you would like to join our formation community.

It is a pleasure to serve with the staff at St. Peter’s. I am so grateful to our entire team of committed adults who serve our children with love and grace. Thank you all for your support of your parish children, for protecting their spirit, and for upholding the baptismal promises you made on their behalf.

Youth Formation: Lyn Holt, Director of Youth Formation

St. Peter’s youth leaders have taught our youth the Journey to Adulthood curriculum for about 30 years providing almost 200 youth with excellent lessons about faith, spirituality, the Episcopal faith and the Bible. And as importantly, we work to provide a safe and loving faith community to help each of them navigate increasingly difficult times. This curriculum supports them as they test limits, explore outcomes, value themselves as people of God, and learn the importance of service. We remain grateful for the support of the parish in providing resources and creating an environment as we strive to keep teens involved and engaged.

Highlights from the 2022-2023 program year:

- 2022 Summer High School Mission Trip: Eight of St. Peter’s high school youth and 3 leaders joined together with four teens and their two leaders from St. Francis, Greensboro for a friendship, cultural learning and mission trip with our Diocesan Companion Diocese of Costa Rica. We enjoyed meetings, dinners and working together with Costa Rican Episcopalians in Limón, San Jose and Rio Hondo. This wonderful life changing trip was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends in Costa Rica, from Greensboro and among ourselves.
- Youth Pilgrimage 2023 to Rome, Assisi & Milan (rising 11th and 12th graders): These thirteen pilgrims and their leaders were deeply affected by this journey, beginning 1-1/2 years ago, when they began the pilgrimage process. They grew spiritually, grew closer to God, and made the time to nurture relationships with each other, their leaders and Mother Amanda. They studied about the saints and important places of our Christian heritage. These teens will always appreciate St. Peter’s for helping to make this life-changing experience possible.
- HUGS Camp 2023 (a Diocesan summer camp for differently-abled people): seven of our high school youth spent a week in service to and friendship with a buddy at camp. This is a deeply loving, spiritual and life-changing experience our teens truly enjoy. St. Peter’s also has five adult members – Kari Wilson and Sarah Geer (nurses), Mike Hoffman, Lauren Holt, and Lyn Holt-who serve on staff year after year. Many St. Peter’s helper campers, become collegiate HUGS counselors and Mia King has been a favorite camper for 10 years.
- Beach Retreat: Our annual Labor Day retreat is an opportunity to bind the group together for all 6th-12th graders. We hope this opportunity to travel together gives our youth the opportunity to become fast friends and encourages regular participation in formation and other events. We worship together, have fun and learn!

- Journey to Adulthood classes meet every Sunday through the school year. The three classes are: Rite 13 (7th & 8th grades), J2A (9th & 10th), and YAC/4Ward Class (11th & 12th). We encourage parents to participate in parent meetings, parent socials, and adult formation.

We serve as:

- Acolytes: Most of our youth serve the parish as Acolytes.

St. Peter's adult youth volunteers (lay and professional) are Diocesan leaders:

- Mike Hoffman is one of four co-coordinators for HUGS Camp and serves the Diocese as chair of the Diocesan Campus Ministry Commission and is a member of the UNC Charlotte Campus Ministry Board.
- Lyn Holt serves as a Safe Church trainer, leads workshops for Diocesan youth conferences, serves as one of the four co-coordinator of HUGS Camp, and Chair of the UNC Charlotte Campus Ministry Board.

We are deeply grateful for the ministry of our devoted adult leaders, who are teachers, guides, and friends to our youth: Rite 13 Class: Aubrey Gilleran and Julie Warner, J2A Class: John Frederick, Mary Gotschall, and Kari Wilson; and YAC/4Ward Class: Michael Beaumont, Elsie Erneston, and Harris Holt. We are also very grateful for Elsie Erneston's service as Acolyte Coordinator and Mike Hoffman's service as Acolyte Trainer.

Music Department: Elizabeth Lenti, Director of Music and Artistic Director of Charlotte Choir School, in residence at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

For most of the past year, in both the parish music program and at Charlotte Choir School, we spent our time talking about and preparing for trips to England. The MasterSingers of Charlotte Choir School had been scheduled for a residency at Wells Cathedral since just after their return from Durham in 2019. St. Peter's Choir had been on the calendar at Ely Cathedral for July of 2021, but ended up having to reschedule their trip due to the pandemic.

Both trips happened in July, with the MasterSingers singing at Wells the first week, and St. Peter's Choir at Ely the following. There is much to celebrate about both trips: beautiful singing from both choirs, wonderful excursions around two very different parts of England, and a chance for both groups to grow both musically and as choir communities. And we are all especially grateful to Andrew Pester, who was tasked with the incredible undertaking of playing twelve Evensong services and two morning Eucharists in the span of two weeks!

While we are grateful that both of these trips were able to take place this summer, we are also committed to each choir having their own trip in separate years going forward. St. Peter's Choir's next residency will take place in the summer of 2026 at Exeter Cathedral, and the MasterSingers will return to Wells in July of 2027.

In addition to our England tours, the Boys and Girls Tour Choirs of Charlotte Choir School embarked on their first full domestic tour since 2019. Using Sewanee as a home base, we sang concerts in Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Nashville and enjoyed touring various sites around Tennessee.

Since our return from our summer tours, things haven't slowed down much at all. At Charlotte Choir School, we started the year with Choir Camp and MasterSingers Retreat, leading up to our annual Fall Concert in October. On the heels of their time in England, the MasterSingers sang one of the most beloved of all British anthems, Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. This piece, at just under 20 minutes, is one of the bigger projects our talented teenagers have taken on in recent years. We also welcomed a new Town Choir Director, Dr. Hanna Lee, and said farewell to Emily Mason, who relocated to Chicago this past summer.

St. Peter's Choir welcomed several new members this fall and continues its great work of providing music every week for our Sunday worship. We had a wonderful and productive retreat in Valle Crucis just before Thanksgiving, and sang for Lessons and Carols on December 3, a highlight every year for the choir. We are particularly looking forward to a Lenten Choir Concert on Sunday, March 17 at 5:00 p.m. The choir will be singing Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* as well as *Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence* (Four Penitential Motets) by Francis Poulenc for this special musical offering, which will serve as a fundraiser for our next England residency.

Most of the parish will remember Center City Concerts, the non-profit concert series that was founded at St. Peter's in 2013. Like many organizations, CCC was interrupted by the pandemic, but I am thrilled to share that we will be relaunching the series in 2024 under a new name, Seventh Street Concerts, and under the leadership of its first Artistic and Executive Director, Kristin Olson. We will be sharing much more information in the coming weeks about the series and about Kristin, as well as a series of concerts that is planned for the spring. Stay tuned! And finally, I want to offer my thanks to the parish for all that it does to support our musical life here at St. Peter's. It is ever a blessing to do this work in the midst of a congregation that so deeply appreciates and values music and its important role in our worship and parish life.

Vestry Ministry Area Reports

Congregational Engagement: Mary Virginia Woodall, Vestry Liaison

The purpose of the Congregational Engagement Team is to plan and organize opportunities for members of the parish to engage with each other and other members of the parish.

In 2023 we continued to track newcomers to the parish—those who have been completing the Connect cards as well as those who have recently joined the parish as members.

Newcomer coffees continued early in 2023 as a way for newcomers to converse in a more personal way with vestry members and clergy.

Parish house, church and garden tours were offered as well and were attended by newcomers and current parishioners as a way to get to know more about our facilities.

In September, we assisted with the Ministry Fair. Representatives of the various ministries of the parish were available to answer questions and recruit new members.

Our most successful event was the luncheon held in November honoring newcomers who were joined by clergy, vestry and other representatives of the parish.

We welcome those who may be interested in working with this ministry. Contact Mother Amanda Stephenson (astephenon@st-peters.org) for more information.

Fellowship & Parish Life: Ginny Brien, Vestry Liaison

St. Peter's provided many opportunities for fellowship in 2023. Hospitality continued to be a hallmark of our community, starting with the welcome newcomers receive from ushers and continuing with the exchange of the peace and the invitation to join others for breakfast after the early service or coffee hour after the 11:00 service.

A special thank you to Harris Holt for coordinating Holy Chow and Coffee Hour, and to the many volunteers who provide refreshments and help serve. Both ministries give people a way to connect after worship and get to know each other better. The parish hosted a special Coffee Hour on August 6th to celebrate Jacob's return from his Sabbatical.

Other social events included an outing to a Knights game, three tours of the Randolph Mint Museum led by Brian Gallagher, a volunteer appreciation lunch in April, a newcomer's luncheon in November, and Pub Theology, a monthly dinner conversation at Sir Edmund Haley's led by the Reverend Keith Lane.

Churchgoers who are 55+ met monthly for the Senior Class Luncheon at different restaurants around town. The 20s30s group gathered monthly for First Sunday Brunch and joined in outings to Festival in the Park, a Walking Ghost Tour of uptown Charlotte, River Jam at the Whitewater Center, and other seasonal events. 69 people participated in this year's Parish Retreat that was held at Montreat, our first time at that location.

Fellowship is also an integral part of other ministries. Father Keith Lane and parishioner Dan Busch continued to host a monthly Chronic Care Support Group for caregivers and people with chronic illnesses. In June the Choir host-

ed a brunch fundraiser and Hymn Sing to support their summer residency in England. The Youth hosted two fundraisers for their Pilgrimage: Luigi's Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction in May and Shrimp and Suds in September. Book and Bible studies provided other opportunities for fellowship throughout the year. These groups met primarily by Zoom, making them accessible to people who don't drive or who live a long distance from St. Peter's. Two Bible study groups met regularly, on Monday and Wednesday nights. Ruth Woodend led a weekly discussion on books about spirituality and religious traditions and Deje McGavern led the monthly Sunday Party of Readers, exploring books on the theme Belonging: A Call to Community.

Outreach: Elsie Erneston, Vestry Liaison

Following the 2020 Covid pandemic, our world has had to make many adjustments to our new environment. Imagine the changes our area Outreach partners have had to face over the last couple of years. As St. Peter's has come back to life, we also have been challenged by Charlotte's new social needs landscape. Led by Patricia Massey Hoke, the St. Peter's Outreach Committee (Allison Elrod, Mary Gotshall, Jill Owens, Lyn Lakin, Ruth Woodend, Charmaine Welch, Robin Sands, Bert Miano, and myself) has devoted their time and energy into learning about the changing social needs in our city and meeting the old and new landscape of the agencies stepping up to meet those needs.

In reaction to these changing and increasing needs, our Outreach Community Grant allocations also underwent changes, adding and/or increasing funding toward several smaller, more focus-driven agencies that struggle for funding, as opposed to the larger, more established groups that are the recipients of strong corporate backing. With a \$60,000 budget, St. Peter's awarded grants to the following Outreach Partners: Samaritan House, Galilee Ministries, For the Struggle, Augustine Literacy Project, La Escuelita Weekday School, Wayfinders, Time Out Youth, Niner United, Greenspan Center Certification Program, Charlotte Choir School, Latin American Coalition, Thompson Child and Family Focus, Habitat for Humanity, Roof Above, Charlotte Family Housing, Supportive Housing Communities, Democracy NC, RAIN, Loves and Fishes/Friendship Trays and Crisis Assistance Ministry.

In addition to funding, many of these agencies look to us as their partners - to be God's hands by the giving of our time, our skills, and our love to those in need in our city. Please take a moment and check out the Outreach board in the lobby or speak to any member of the Outreach Committee to learn where you can "plug in."

Pastoral Care: Doug Hutto, Vestry Liaison and John Hall, Pastoral Care Team Member

The Pastoral Care Team, in support of and under the leadership of our talented clergy, provide spiritual, emotional, and practical support during those times when the changes in life may leave us feeling alone, helpless, or overwhelmed. Although as you'll see below, a wide variety of pastoral care ministries are offered by St. Peter's, please don't feel like you should leave caring to the "professionals." Indeed, we encourage all parishioners to look to the list of those parishioners being prayed for in the Service Leaflet and reach out to those to whom they may feel called.

To access any of the ministries listed below, please contact the Rev. Jacob Pierce or any other member of the clergy. If you feel called to volunteer your time or talent, please contact either Fr. Pierce+ or Mo. Stephenson+.

1. All Souls Guild: Members of the All Souls Guild provide a simple reception to loved ones at the time of the funeral or interment (volunteers coordinated by Elise Cathey) and ongoing support for the first year of their loss (volunteers coordinated by Hope Westerfield).
2. Card Writing: Member of the Pastoral Care Team write cards to parishioners who are ill, hospitalized or have suffered a loss of a loved one (volunteers coordinated by Hope Westerfield).
3. Casserole Ministry: From time to time, parishioners benefit from a meal being delivered to their home from the parish. This ministry involves preparing meals that can be frozen at St. Peter's and delivered on an as needed basis (volunteers coordinated by Pat Markel).

4. St. Luke's Guild (Chronic Illness & Caregiver Support Group): This group meets once a month and is co-facilitated by clergy and parishioners. Through prayerful listening and sharing we encourage one another to live each day fully with gratitude and grit (coordinated by The Rev. Keith Lane and Dan Busch).
5. Guild of the Christ Child: Working with our Children's Formation team, this Guild supports families welcoming new children in their life through birth or adoption. The guild works with clergy to offer the family a Blessing in preparation to receive the child and a prayer of thanksgiving after the child arrives during our liturgies. In addition, the guild organizes meal delivery after the child arrives and supports the family in other ways as needed (volunteers coordinated by Phyllis Ferguson).
6. Healing Ministry of Intercessory Prayer: After the Eucharist at the 11:00 a.m. service, those in need of prayer for healing of mind, body or spirit are invited to pray confidentially with a commissioned healing minister. For more information about how to become a commissioned healing minister, contact the Fr. Pierce+.
7. Eucharistic Visitors: Commissioned Eucharistic Visitors are sent after each service to share Holy Communion with those who are hospitalized, homebound, or for other reason unable to attend church (volunteers coordinated by Steve White).
8. Prayer Shawl Ministry: This ministry is open to anyone who knits or would like to learn to knit. Shawls and other items knitted by the group are blessed by a priest and delivered to those in need of a physical reminder of the Church's prayer (volunteers coordinated by Linda Smith).

The Pastoral Care Ministry Team includes Neil Broncaccio, Elise Cathey, Phyllis Ferguson, John Hall, Pat Markel, Hope Westerfield, and Steve White.

Social Justice: Charmaine Welch, Vestry Liaison

The Social Justice Ministry (SJC) has been dedicated to sharing information, organizing social justice events, and inspiring calls to action. In 2023, the SJC focused primarily on the theme of Racial Justice and Reconciliation. One notable initiative was the introduction of Sacred Ground at St. Peter's, a film and readings-based dialogue series centered around race and faith. Facilitated by Father Murdock and parishioner Joanne Jenkins. Each cohort comprised of eleven 3.5 hour bi-weekly sessions. Sacred Ground is about becoming beloved community and a pilgrimage for reconciliation and redemption.

The Sacred Ground sessions garnered a significant turnout and left a profound impact on participants. It served as a sanctuary for introspection, profound spiritual growth, and a transformative path towards healing and reconciliation. Attendees likened the experience to a pilgrimage, where individuals with shared values courageously delved into uncharted territory, all the while finding solace in their belief that God was guiding their steps.

"Sacred Ground was a time of self-reflection and deep spiritual historical learning. It was a pilgrimage of likeminded parishioners, vulnerably traveling into the unknown, but confidently knowing God was with us through a time of healing and reconciliation. We were blessed to have Father Murdock and Joanne Jenkins to be our guides." — Faith Hamilton, Sacred Ground Alumni, Session 1, SPEC Parishioner

Father Murdock and Joanne Jenkins were praised for their guiding role in this transformative experience.

Continuing with the focus on Race and Reconciliation, SPC hosted *Stirring The Ashes*, a personal documentary featuring Jimmie Lee Kirkpatrick and De Kirkpatrick, classmates from the Myers Park High School Class of 1966. Their candid conversation addressed the discomfort surrounding slavery and reflected on the impact it has had on their lives. During a presentation on September 28, the gentlemen shared their personal experiences with ancestry and the lessons they have learned from their reckoning with the enslavement of one ancestor by the ancestor of the other. The event included a screening of a film clip from their documentary, followed by insightful comments from De and Jimmie.

The SJC remains committed to raising awareness among congregational members and encouraging deeper personal involvement from SPEC members, celebrating our diverse interests and talents. While looking ahead to 2024, the ministry is reflective and prayerful about the future of social justice outreach. We acknowledge the

inseparable connection between outreach and social justice, recognizing that collaboration and alignment are essential to delivering impactful and robust programming.

The SJC continues to focus on its pillars, which include Affordable Housing and Economic Disparity, Racial Justice and Reconciliation, Assuring Democracy and Voting Rights, Immigrant and Refugee Support, Gender Equality and LGBTQ+ Inclusion, and Ecojustice. Activities surrounding these pillars are responsive and cyclical, addressing current needs, events, and interests.

As the SJC reimagines and reengages with its mission, they warmly invite others interested in social justice matters, rooted in scripture and the church's traditions, to join their circle of engagement.

Worship & Music: Will Burton-Edwards, Vestry Liaison

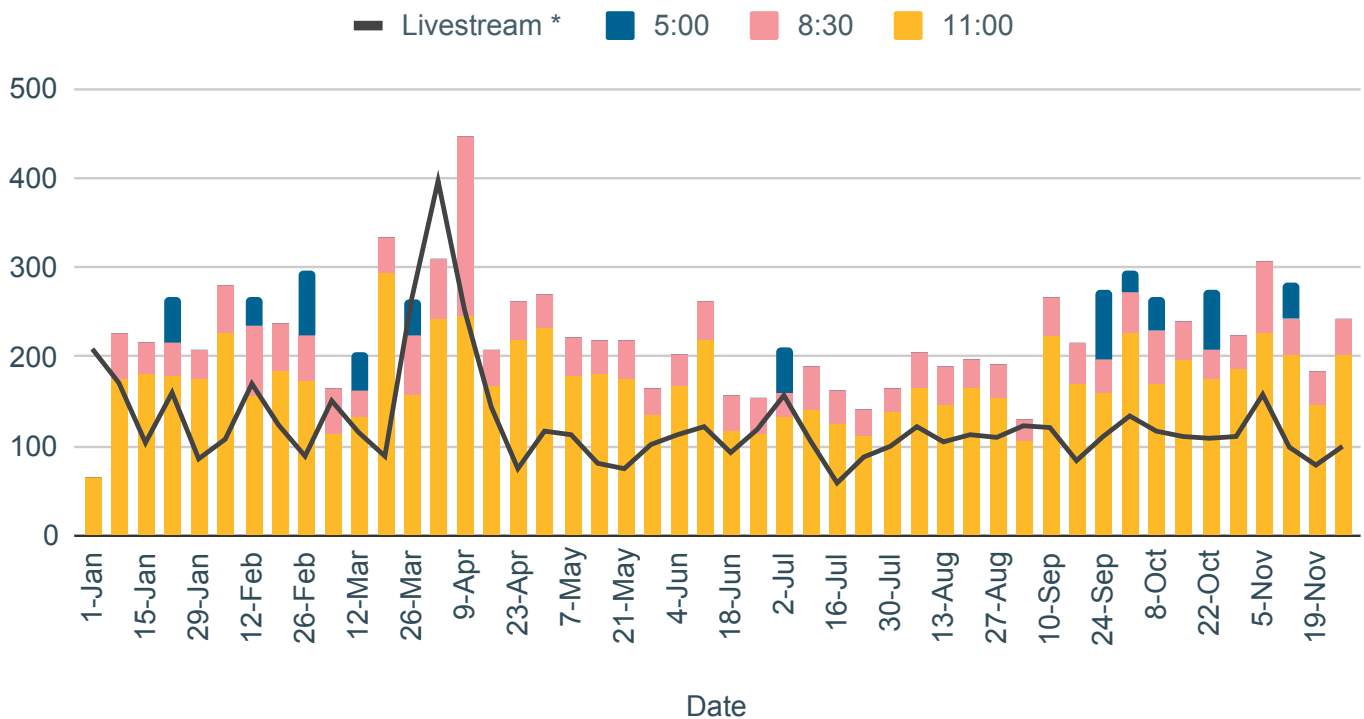
Worship and Music are at the heart of what we do at St. Peter's. The psalmist commands us to "sing joyfully unto God, our strength," and to "worship the Lord with gladness." This is precisely what we do on Sunday mornings. Though this year has brought many sorrows, we continue to shout for joy in the singing of hymns, the praying of prayers, and the breaking of bread.

The invitation to the Holy Eucharist comes from God. No baptized person can be turned away from the table, for God's enduring love is present at the feast. However, the placement of the altar and kneeling rail, on a raised platform four steps off of the nave floor, make the table inaccessible to all who are invited. The renovation in 2010 was originally slated to address this by means of an accessibility ramp, but, due to budgetary constraints, it was never installed. This year we began the process of rethinking our worship space and, knowing that some construction work is necessary in the area, prayerfully considering the imagery in the chancel. This fall, Andi Stephenson helped lead a series of "listening sessions" to gather congregational input. This is a continuing conversation, and no firm decisions have been made.

This summer, the choir flew to England for a residency at Ely Cathedral. Choral residencies in the summertime are such gifts to everyone involved: the cathedral choir gets a summer holiday, the visiting choir gets the opportunity to sing in an acoustically stunning place, and the cathedral's regular attendees get to hear a fresh set of voices. Though a rare opportunity and a gift, a residency involves a tremendous amount of work. The choir sang a service of Choral Evensong every weekday and two services on Sunday. Also this summer, Father Jacob stepped away for a sabbatical. In his absence Senior Warden Steve Bentley became the ecclesial authority of the parish while Mother Amanda and the Reverend Sally Johnston led worship and day-to-day operations.

Sunday attendance at in-person worship services has increased significantly since last year. Average attendance at the 11:00 a.m. Rite II service was 142 in 2022 compared to 173 in 2023. This is an increase of over 20%: a triumph in an era of declining church attendance. Average attendance at the Rite I service at 8:30 a.m. increased from 40 in 2022 to 45 in 2023. But no metric increased more than livestream viewership. While it is difficult to assign meaning to the average "views" per week from our YouTube page, last year's weekly average was 82. This year that number rose over 50% to 126!

2023 Sunday Attendance



St. Peter’s Endowment and Planned Giving

Endowment: Kristin Hills Bradberry, Chair, Endowment Board of Trustees

In 1955 some farsighted Parishioners established The St. Peter’s Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, Inc. to provide a way for people to leave a legacy to our Church through planned gifts during and after their lifetime. The mission is to support St. Peters Church and the Board works to increase the Endowment through Planned Gifts and appreciation of the investments. Over the last 65 years the Endowment has been critical to enhancing the work of the Parish in outreach, capital improvements and in the two Capital Campaigns – Miracle on 7th Street and Knocking on Heavens Door.

This past year was active in both grants and attention to our investments. Once again, it is important to note that the success of the investments is in large part because of the oversight of Bill Williamson and Rick Gross and to the members of the Finance/Investment Committee: Sam Bowles, Sam Gardner, Jim Green, Brian Simpson and Bill Williamson.

In 2023, a task force appointed by the Chair of the Endowment sent out a Request for Proposal to several firms regarding management of both our endowment and the Shannonhouse Fund. After thorough review of all proposals and interviews of the finalists, the task force recommended to the Board that assets be moved to Foundation For The Carolinas. The Board affirmed this recommendation, and the assets will be moved at the end of 2023.

The value of the Endowment 12/31/22 was \$4,779,172. The Endowment also manages the Shannonhouse Fund valued at year end at \$387,140. In 2022, 10 scholarships were awarded totaling \$20,000. Grantees represented a wide range of Colleges and Universities in North Carolina. Special thanks to Dan Woodall, who coordinates with the Rector the Student Fund scholarship awards.

The 2023 Endowment grants were as follows

- Capital Improvement needs \$95,000
- Outreach and Social Justice Grants to the Community \$60,000
- Endowment and planned giving administrative assistance \$5,000
- Audit, Lock Box and CEEP dues \$5,000

- Parish Development/Stewardship Officer \$45,000

Total granted \$210,000.

In addition to the above grants, the Endowment continues to support the Williamson Lectures in honor of Pat and Bill Williamson, in the amount of \$20,000 per year.

The 2023 Trustees of the Endowment appointed by the Vestry are Kristin Hills Bradberry, Sam Bowles, Marcus Clarke, Laura Wellman, Bill Williamson, Dan Woodall, and Father Jacob Pierce, Ex-Officio.

Planned Giving: Steve Bentley, Chair, Planned Giving Committee

Planned Giving refers to the thoughtful designation of a financial gift that will be made at some future date and offers a way for individuals to ensure that St. Peter's legacy will be preserved for generations to come.

The Planned Giving Committee was established in 2002 to provide information to parishioners who may be interested in including St. Peter's in their estate plans and to increase the number of planned gifts to the St. Peter's Endowment. Earnings from the Endowment provide resources to St. Peter's Episcopal Church for funding community outreach grants to organizations such as Samaritan House, Galilee Ministries, Augustine Literacy Project, La Escuelita Weekday School and Time Out Youth, and to supplement the budget for the upkeep and costly maintenance on our cherished church buildings or other extraordinary parish needs. People who pledge a planned gift become members of the 1834 Legacy Society, named for the year Episcopalians first organized for worship in Charlotte. Legacy Society members are honored by having their names engraved on a leaf for the tree located in the Parish House lobby. This year Legacy Society members were invited to a reception preceding the inaugural Williamson Lecture.

During the past year, we have revived the work of the Planned Giving Committee by adding new members and making contact with parishioners who may be interested in designating a planned gift. In 2023, the 1834 Legacy Society welcomed 5 new members, bringing the total to 180 individuals who have remembered, or committed to remember, St. Peter's through planned gifts. There are currently 128 living members of the 1834 Legacy Society representing 90 pledging households.

Planned Giving Committee members are Steve Bentley, Chair; Kristen Hills Bradberry, Abigail Cudabac, Irma Hoffman, Jim Shannonhouse; Bill Williamson; and Jacob Pierce, Rector, *ex officio*.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

A parish in the Diocese of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Samuel Sewall Rodman III *Bishop Diocesan*

The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson *Assistant Bishop*

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Jacob E. Pierce *Rector*

The Reverend Amanda C. Stephenson *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Deacon Robin O. Sands *Deacon*

Forrest Brown *Facilities Manager*

Rob Burlington *Assistant Choirmaster*

Leigh Dixon *Parish Administrator*

Allison Elrod *Director of Stewardship*

James Gary *Facilities Assistant*

Lyn Holt *Director of Youth Formation*

Anna Hurdle *Director of Children's Formation*

Elizabeth Lenti *Director of Music and Organist*

Andrew Pester *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

Marty Reep *Sunday Front Desk*

Trina Sanders *Facilities Assistant*

Michael Talbert *Clergy Assistant*

Affiliated Clergy

The Right Reverend Mary Gray-Reeves; the Reverend Stuart H. Hoke, ThD;

the Reverend Sally V. Johnston; the Reverend Keith C. Lane;

the Reverend L. Murdock Smith, PhD; the Reverend A. Donald Wiesner.

Office Volunteers

Candace Armstrong, Bob Atkins, Sue Coonen, Kathy Cress, Diana Gibbs, Sue Martin, Phyllis Ferguson

The Vestry and Ministry Areas

Class of 2023 Mary Gotschall (Finance and Clerk),

Ann Miano (Junior Warden),

Katie Nelson (Parents and Families),

Matt Sharp (Buildings and Grounds),

Class of 2024 Will Burton-Edwards (Worship and Music),

Doug Hutto (Pastoral Care),

Charmaine Welch (Social Justice),

Mary Virginia Woodall (Congregational Engagement).

Class of 2025 Steve Bentley (Senior Warden),

Ginny Brien (Fellowship and Parish Life),

Elsie Erneston (Outreach),

Paul Keller (Stewardship)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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