



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Essex Fells, New Jersey

Annual Meeting
January 29, 2017
&
Annual Reports
2016

Interim Rector's Report

My early impressions that St. Peter's, at the core, is fundamentally a strong and healthy parish have only been strengthened in my five months with you! Yes, the parish faces significant challenges—most especially financially—as we seek to increase our pledging and properly balance our budget, but I am heartened, again and again, by the devotion and dedication of people in this parish to a wide variety of ministries. In August, I walked into a vibrant, functioning parish sustained by a host of devoted parish volunteers and paid staff.

For starters, our paid staff has been a joy to work with. I know from heading a small interfaith educational organization for 32, with a staff of five at its peak, how the pace of record-keeping, communication, publication, bookkeeping and all the facets of administration remain largely invisible to the larger community, but are the healthy skeleton of any organization. Eileen Andersen, our Parish Secretary has a dozen or more hats to wear, our Buildings and Grounds person Toby West is on hand to keep track of our three buildings, and DJ Posey has updated our financial records and upgraded them to “best practices” standards.

Our volunteer staff—Sue Negrotto with Health and Healing, Vince Corso as Pastoral Assistant, Dana Leach with Church School, Pat Sheeleigh with Publicity, and Pat Aliotta as Pledge Secretary—**are faithful day in and day out.** Our lay Health and Healing group makes an amazing number of pastoral calls, hospital and shut-in visits, enhanced by altar flowers for the sick and shut-in, parishioner-knitted prayer shawls, and Angel Food in times of need. Finally, it is all-too-easy to take for granted the week-by-week appearance of Altar Guild, Acolytes, the OpShop staff and the ongoing life of our Nursery School. Both the “inreach and outreach” of this congregation are impressive. Parishioners speak to me regularly of the welcome they've received here as newcomers, and how important our worship and life is to them.

My emphasis has been to work with Vestry and Wardens to move ahead toward the choosing of new priestly leadership, to encourage Staff, to stimulate adult Christian education (the “Omega” Course in the Fall and during late Epiphany), to provide pastoral support and counseling when called upon, and to continue Fr. Anthony's emphasis on spiritual practice (the twice-monthly *Lectio Divina* meetings and our Wednesday Healing Eucharist).

Challenges lie ahead. Interim periods often see a drop in income, and St. Peter's can't afford that this time. We must demonstrate to the Diocese our ability to support a full-time Rector—which has always been possible with our resources—by strengthening our income streams, most crucially our Pledge Goal for 2017. Part-time Interim though I may be, I am here to support all of those who have the responsibility of leading the parish toward its next era of leadership and service. It is a great strength that I work with so many people devoted to helping St. Peter's be the thriving, welcoming community.

Yours faithfully,

The Rev. Robert Corin Morris, D.D., *Interim Rector*

OpShop Ministry

The OpShop ministry is a non-profit resale shop at St. Peter's Church. Proceeds benefit St. Peter's Church, the David St. George Fund, and several community outreach programs. The shop offers for sale new and gently used clothing, jewelry, home goods, vintage collectibles, art, and small furniture at bargain prices. The OpShop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays year-round with a break in August.

A heartfelt thank you to the parishioners and neighbors of St. Peter's for their generous donations to this ministry. Twenty volunteers from the parish and surrounding communities provide their time and talents to run the shop.

Proceeds from OpShop Benefited the Following Organizations in 2016

\$33,000 - St. Peter's Episcopal Church Essex Fells

\$20,000 - David St. George Fund for distribution to a dozen local charities

\$1,334.50 - Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure for Breast Cancer

\$1,221.50 - Community Food Bank of New Jersey

\$854 - Grow It Green Morristown town garden

\$527.25 - St. Peter's Youth Mission Trip

\$501.25 - St. Jude's Children's Hospital

\$160 - St. Peter's Fair gift basket donation

\$90 - Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon child sponsorship

\$0 Rector's Discretionary Fund - not applicable since the church does not have a rector in 2016

The OpShop raised money for these vestry-approved charities thru special sale days. The OpShop also provides clothing and home goods to Family Intervention Services, Vietnam Veterans Association, and local families in need. The OpShop contribution allotted for Rector's Discretionary Fund was given to St. Peter's Church since we did not have a Rector in 2016.

Note to our fellow parishioners, we need your help carrying bags from the OpShop's storage shed into the shop. The OpShop is open Saturdays from 10am-2pm and Thursdays from 1pm-4pm. Even 30 minutes of helping can make a difference to our church.

Submitted by Lynn Livingston cjmlynn@gmail.com

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild plays a very critical role in our worship. We prepare the sanctuary for services, including setting God's table each week for Holy Communion; and preparing for baptisms. We have the pleasure of decorating the altar and church for Advent, Christmas, and Easter.

In 2016 our teams supported over 200 services in the chapel and church. We also welcomed new member Annetta Benedict!

The Altar Guild is a wonderful group of dedicated, faithful volunteers. We are very proud of them and proud to serve with them. We would love to see new faces join our ministry in 2017. If you feel called to serve this vital and cherished ministry, please contact us.

The Altar Guild would like to again gratefully acknowledge Bob Rame and his family for their gift in Nan's memory. The chapel sacristy renovation not only looks beautiful, but is far more functional. As of 2016, the chapel finally has hot running water! Nan would be pleased, to say the least. Thank you Bob! And many thanks to Toby West for his time and energy in seeing the project through fruition. This would not have been possible without Toby.

Faithfully submitted,

St Peter's Altar Guild Directors

Lisa Beland ([201.410.1842](tel:201.410.1842))

Karen Mosher ([973.768.2519](tel:973.768.2519))

Trish McCabe ([973.769.0387](tel:973.769.0387))

Music Ministry Annual Report for January 2017

Chancel Choir membership has declined due to illness, attrition, and budgetary cuts.

Bell Choir membership has remained at 6 players with occasional guest ringers.

Children's Choir has grown to 9 members largely due to their own recruiting skills.

In-house Choir Camp for Children's Choir met the last week of August in preparation for the current liturgical year.

Combined choirs have consistently supported all worship services and liturgies

Three choristers participated in either RSCM choir camp or other summer music courses in July 2016. John participated in courses at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA, Pacific Northwest in Portland, Oregon and Newport, Rhode Island.

Music Ministry has hosted several student performances throughout the year with participants from NJ Youth Symphony and Caldwell University. The next student recital will be in June, 2017.

Knadya O'Kelly graciously donated an Altenburg baby grand piano in loving memory of her husband. The piano resides in the newly refurbished parlor.

Several choir members joined by numerous parishioners presented a carol-sing at Crane's Mill on Sunday, December 4, 2016 as part of the ongoing Music Ministry/Health and Healing outreach program.

David St. George Outreach

It was another great year for the David St. George Committee! We had \$35,050 to disburse. \$15,050 was interest from the fund and an amazing \$20,000 from the OpShop! We had 13 grant requests this year, 12 of were awarded grants, one, although a worthy organization, has outgrown the small amounts the fund distributes. We also allocated funds to Christine's Kitchen Food Pantry who did not submit a formal application. The committee felt it important to support our own outreach as well, so with this in mind donated to the rectors' discretionary fund and to the SPY mission trip.

I'd like to thank committee members, Nathalia Bernardo, Tamara Bross, June Cowell, Mitch Goodrich, Bunny Jenkins, Fred Jenkins, Lynn Livingston (OpShop), Evan McLaughlin (vestry), Joe Simko & Jennifer Vonderahe. It was a thoughtful, intelligent, caring and respectful group!

We used the following guide (mission) to help us in our decisions: *"The David St. George Outreach Endowment Committee is an outreach committee of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Essex Fells, NJ. Its purpose is to distribute funds to organizations or groups, within the communities of St. Peter's and the Diocese of Newark, who seek to assist struggling individuals with food, shelter, education and/or support in hopes that they may one day be able to support and care for themselves. The distributed funds will be given in response to grant requests, submitted by these organizations, after prayerful consideration, discussion and investigation by the committee members. The aim of the committee is to not only assist individuals in need, but to focus on smaller organizations or projects for whom our limited resources would have the most impact."*

The funds were distributed as follows:

The Apostle's House \$4,000

The Caldwell Dept of Human Service \$3,000 (\$2,000 of which will be in Jack's Foodtown gift cards)

CASA for Children of Essex County \$2,500

Cedar Hill Community Development Corp \$3,500
Newark School of Theology \$540
North Porch \$2,000
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church \$1,000
St. Peter's Haven \$3,000
St. Peter's Morristown, The Afterschool on South \$3,500
Senior Resource Center \$1,000
Toni's Kitchen \$4,000
Wynona's House \$3,000

Special distributions:

Christine's Kitchen, Food Pantry \$500
Rector's Discretionary Fund \$1,000
SPY Mission Trip \$1,000

Total Distributed: \$33, 540

(\$1,510 re-invested in David St. George fund to help with its continued growth.)

*Special thanks to the OpShop and its wonderful volunteers! Remember to encourage friends and family to donate to the OpShop, shop at the OpShop and, if possible, donate time to the OpShop. The David St. George fund is able to help so many more as direct result of funds raised right in our own basement! I wish all could read the applications we receive to truly understand the people St. Peter's is able to help through David St. George...children's after school programs, homeless, hungry, abused, those trying to better themselves, and those just trying to get by.... It is a special gift and blessing to be part of this group!

Dana Leach

Sunday School

Our numbers in Sunday School are identical to last year with an average of 22 children each Sunday during unit 1. Our biggest class continues to be the 1st-3rd grade with an average of 10 in class each week. 4th-6th grade attendance is slightly effected this year by 6th graders joining the ranks of the acolytes. We also, on occasion, have attendance slightly effected by the exciting growth of the Children's Choir.

The wonderful and dedicated teachers have been Jennifer Jackson, Jasmine Barbour and Dana Leach for unit 1 and Serena Watkinson, Emily Blake, Sarah Blake and Mary Beth Weber for unit 2. I was thrilled during unit 1 to have Emily Blake and Sarah Blake greet for PreK-K & 1st-3rd grade respectively. They are two of our dedicated teens who have been through the Godly Play program themselves and are now giving back. After greeting during unit 1 they agreed to co-teach the 1st-3rd grade for unit 2. We are also blessed to have Katie Bulter, another young teen, greet for unit 2 in the PreK-K class assisting Serena Watkinson. Unit 3, PreK-K will be taught by Michelle Spell and 1st- 3rd by Dana Leach. I am still working on finding a teacher for 4th-6th grade for unit 3.

Sunday School continues to be a special & safe place for our children to explore and discover their faith.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Leach

Family Church

In its 2nd year Family Church continues to grow and is going really well. On the 2nd Sunday of the month during the 10:00 am service the children participate as lectors, ushers and element bearers. We also introduced the roll of Priest's Assistant (a youth who shadowed Fr. Anthony). The Priest's Assistant was a fun new roll the older children enjoyed, but we are taking a break from it as more of the older children now serve on the altar as acolytes. The children who participate in Family Church are enthusiastic and clearly take their roles seriously. The readers in particular have been so good my heart nearly explodes with pride! Family Church also includes a children's sermon and time for the children gather around the altar to watch as communion is prepared. We continue to receive positive feedback from children, parents and even parishioners not associated with the young participants.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Leach

HEALTH AND HEALING

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Annual Report 2016

The "Health Cabinet" is a committee of parishioners who work in conjunction with the Rector to promote the well-being of the whole person...Body, Mind and Spirit. They provide a caring network for our church community through a wide variety of programs, services, and personal support. This year has been one of transition as there was the gradual shifting of responsibilities of the Coordinator from Sally Munson to Susan Negrotto. Sally established the foundation for the Health and Healing Cabinet over 18 years ago growing it from parish nursing to over 7 ministries that serve the family of St. Peter's and beyond. Her energy, enthusiasm and dedication cannot be duplicated and we are grateful for all she done for St. Peter's. She will continue her work as Parish Nurse when she returns from her hiatus in Florida.

HEALTH CABINET-2016

Rev. Susan Negrotto, Coordinator Health and Healing Ministries

Sally Munson, RN, Parish Nurse, Outgoing Coordinator Health & Healing Ministries

Rev. Robert C. Morris, DD, interim Rector, Spiritual Advisor

Rev. Anthony Puca, former Assistant Rector, Spiritual Advisor

Rev. Barrie Bates, former Interim Rector, Spiritual Advisor

Carolyn Westcott, Administrative Coordinator, Health Cabinet

Kathy McLaughlin, Coordinator, Prayer Chain, Pastoral Visit Board
Serena Watkinson, Co-Coordinator, Angel Food
Maggie Wohltmann, Co-Coordinator, Angel Food
Gail Marentette, Coordinator, Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dana Leach, Member at Large, Mini Prayer Shawls, Liaison to Young Families
Esther Pivarnik, Member at Large
Pat Sheeleigh, Member at Large
Knadya O'Kelley, Member at Large
Gloria Kelley, Member at Large Emeritus

Health & Healing Ministries: Susan Negrotto & Sally Munson, Co-Coordiators

- Health and Healing cabinet members commissioned for ministry by Fr. Morris at the 10am service on Nov 27th. Sally was recognized for her many years as coordinator of the Cabinet with flowers. She will be Honored by the Health Cabinet in the future.
- Chaired Health Cabinet meetings on Sept 25th and Nov 27th and Lay Pastoral Callers and LEVs meetings on Feb 7th and Oct 23rd.
- Visited hospital, nursing homes and homes to provide spiritual support and Communion.
- Communications for Onward/EBlast
- Coordinated special programs for parish as described in Program section
- Recruited and trained news pastoral Callers and LEV

Parish Nursing: Sally Munson, RN

- Acted as advocate, medical resource and general support for parishioners
- VBS Camp Nurse - August 1st-5th
- Held blood pressure screening – Oct 2nd
- Updated medical equipment supplies, ordered pads for defibrillator.

Programs

- **Fun and Fellowship Evening**, Jan 6th and May in Upper Room. Dana Leach coordinated mini prayer shawl “work” and fellowship night. Knitters & people (including Fr. Anthony and Little A3) learned how to knit little prayer shawls, creating a tangible presence of St. Peter's caring. Those who don't knit offered friendship and moral support.
- **Caregiver Support Group**, Jan. 13th, March 9th and May 11th in Upper Room. Coordinated by Susan Negrotto and Fr. Barrie to give support, encouragement and spiritual guidance to those with caregiving needs. While attendance was low,

those who participated learned from each other..

- **Coffee Hour**, Sept. 11th. Health and Healing members hosted a welcome back coffee hour for the parish.
- **Prayer Shawl Get-Together at Sally Munson's**, Oct 11th. Sally hosted a wonderful evening of knitting and sharing at her home assisted by Dana Leach. Well attended, Fr. Morris was present supporting our ministry.
- **"Making the Holidays Meaningful and Manageable"** Nov.15th in Church. Presented by Vince Corso, MDiv,, LCSW-R designed for those experiencing loss. Sally Munson assisted at 2 sessions that were offered at 1 and 7 pm. Even though not well attended, St. Peter's provided support and caring to someone in need.
- **Cooking for Angel Food**, Nov. 19th, St. Peter's Kitchen. Serena Watkinson and Maggie Wohltmann coordinated a cooking day to outfit and replenish meals for parishioners in need. Thank you for thinking and carrying out a great idea!
- **9th Annual Caroling at Crane's Mill**, Dec. 4th. Health and Healing partnered with John Pivarnik and the Choir, and parish families with small children to make our annual caroling trip to 4 different settings at Crane's Mill. Health and Healing hosted a pizza coffee hour before caroling to fortify the troops. Many thanks to all those who spread a little sunshine. Our parishioners who are residents greatly appreciated the visits.

Lay Pastoral Callers and Eucharistic Visitors- Susan Negrotto, Coordinator

- A dedicated team of Pastoral Callers visited in a variety of settings to offer companionship and an opportunity to remain part of the parish family. Thank you to our pastoral callers : Nancy Connor, Dana Leach, Mary Beth Weber, Judy Himes, Leslie Young, Pam Bayard, and Carolyn Faloni.
- Commissioned Lay Eucharistic Visitors brought the sacrament of Holy Communion, provided the spiritual connection and celebration of the Gospel to members of our parish who were unable to attend worship. Thank you to our LEVs Lisa Grider, Lisa Beland and sub Chris Corso for this beautiful ministry.
- New Pastoral Callers Leslie Young and Pam Bayard and LEV Lisa Beland were trained and mentored.
- Over 240 pastoral calls by our faithful Callers were logged this year!
- Pastoral Care remains a high priority at St. Peter's. Please speak with Father Morris or Susan Negrotto if you are interested in serving in this rewarding ministry.

Administrative Chair- Carolyn Westcott

- Health and Healing is supported by able assistant Carolyn Westcott who sends needed correspondence to members alerting them to meetings, programs special Announcements.
- Takes minutes, writes up and sends final copy to members after H& H meetings

“Angel Food” Meal Ministry- Serena Watkinson & Maggie Wohltmann, Co-coordinators

- This ministry of “tender loving care” consists of preparing soups, simple meals and Sweets and delivering to those ill, convalescing or going through a crisis.
- “Angel Food” has their own freezer. Please contact Serena(973-731-2879) or Maggie(973-769-8318) if you would like to prepare food or deliver. Also let them know if there is a person who would be a good recipient.
- A successful parish cooking day was held and will be continued as the need occurs.

Prayer Chain Ministry- Kathy McLaughlin, Coordinator

- Approximately 30 parishioners gather together in spirit to support those in need and to witness, as a community of faith, the power of prayer.
- Prayer chain members are given the option of being part of an e-mail or telephone Chain. Call Kathy (973-403-8614) if you are interested in joining our group.

“Franny’s Shawls”- Gail Marentette, Coordinator

- Franny’s Shawls is a very special pastoral outreach ministry under the direction of Gail Marentette. Volunteers knit shawls, blankets or mini-prayer shawls and offer prayers for those hospitalized, undergoing treatment or home bound. The ministry is named in honor of Gail’s sister, Franny who devoted her life to giving to others.
- Please call Gail Marentette (973-731-1104) if you are interested in this work. Many thanks to Gail, Marge Kisala and Dana Leach(mini shawls)for all their work.

Many thanks to everyone who makes all these ministries so successful. And special thanks to Sally Munson for initiating the ministry and spearheading it with enthusiasm and dedication!

Rev. Susan Negrotto

Coordinator, Health and Healing Ministries

2016 Annual Report

(respectfully submitted by Christine Corso, January 2017)

I provide volunteer support for Saint Peter's technical communications, including the following:

Saint Peter's web site

Ongoing:

- Regularly update website pages and News & Media page to promote special events, reflect staff changes, and provide information
- Regularly update News pages to provide access to current issues of *The Onward and Life at Saint Peter's*
- Regularly update Sermons page to display recent sermons

In 2016:

- Added links to Donation page (QR code), and YouTube channel
- Provided general background and technical information to Patricia & Michael Aliotta as they work to design a new look for the site

Life at Saint Peter's

Ongoing:

- Design and distribute weekly e-blast with input from Saint Peter's staff and ministries
- Maintain and organize contact lists containing 700 email addresses
- Send a weekly e-blast (newsletter) to 266 unique email addresses
- Send emails on request to promote the OpShop to their mailing list of 250 contacts
- Send special emails to distribute information and promote events

Social Media

Ongoing:

- Maintain our Saint Peter's Facebook page to keep parishioners updated in a timely manner, share photos of events, and provide an additional online presence for Saint Peter's
- Record sermons weekly and post to YouTube for viewing and inclusion on our web site Sermons page
- Maintain our Amazon Associates and Amazon Smiles programs, which earned over \$1000 in 2016

Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS, "Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love" ran from August 1st through 5th and was directed by Christine and Julia Corso with a planning team that included Fr. Anthony, Dana Leach, Serena Watkinson, and Maggie Wohltmann. Our beautiful theme decorations were designed by Jan Kamper.

We welcomed 73 campers from Saint Peter's parish and nursery school as well as the surrounding West Essex community for a week of faith-filled activities. Our efforts were made possible through the work of almost 60 volunteers, including members of SPY, church staff, and community members.

The fee was \$50 per camper (less for multiple children per family), and several campers were awarded scholarships based on financial need.

Each camper received a daily snack and rotated through activity stations, including Bible Stories, Crafts, Music, Recreation, and Science. The week brought together our parish community—including SPY and church staff—to create a safe, welcoming, educational, and fun environment for our campers as well as all the volunteers.

VBS families donated food items, school supplies, and books to benefit the Caldwell Food Pantry and Apostle's House.

VBS plays a crucial role in welcoming new families into the Saint Peter's community, and we continue to be in contact with our VBS families, most recently to invite them to our Christmas services, and also to join Sunday School at the beginning of the program year. We thank all who helped make VBS possible this year, and look forward to the future of this important ministry at Saint Peter's.

Church Statistics

Marriages – 3

Baptisms - 11

Deaths - 6