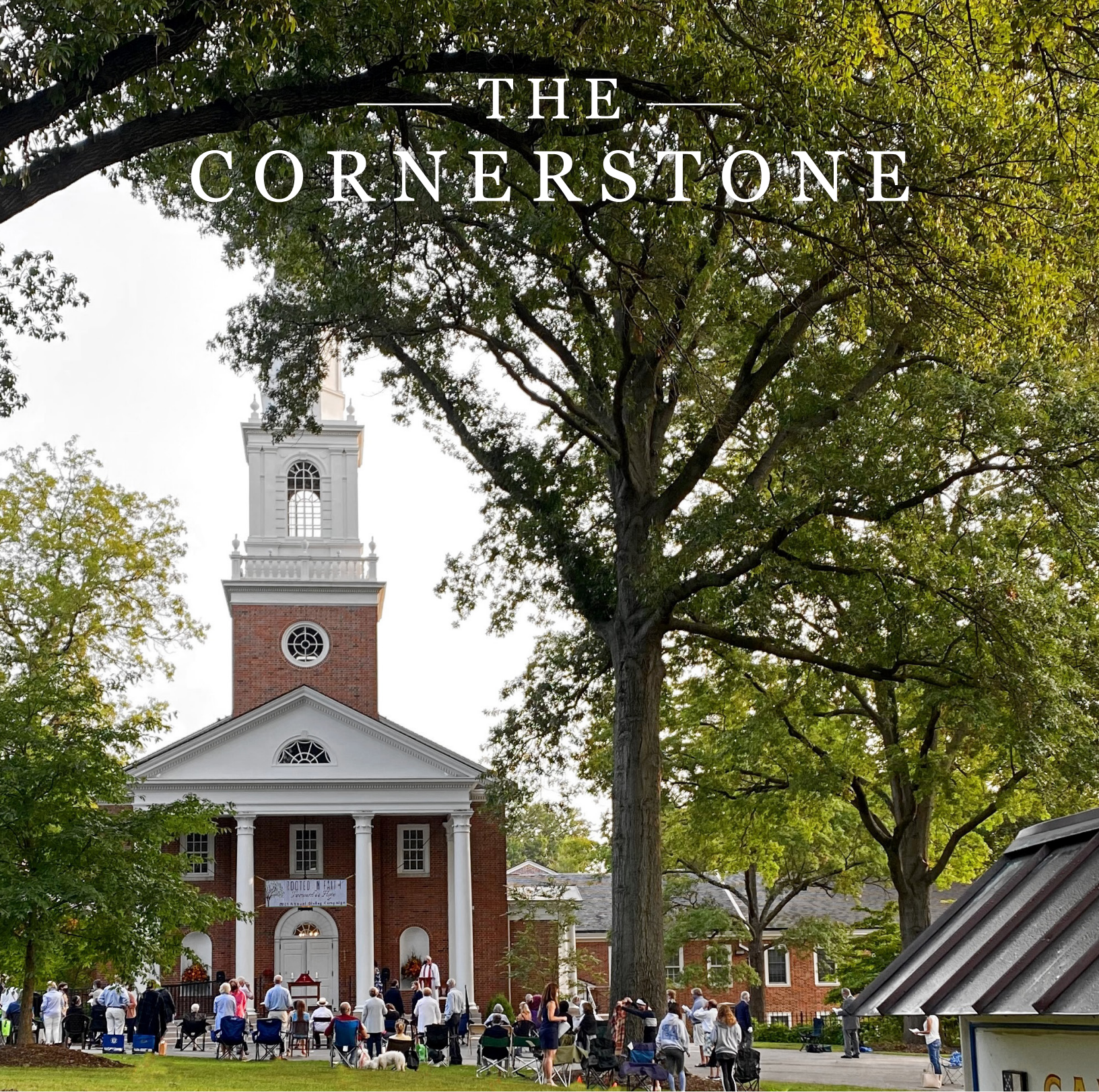


THE CORNERSTONE



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EST. 1868

ROOTED IN FAITH
Forward in Hope

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8:00
9:15



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COMMUNITY DURING COVID

OUR FAITH-FILLED RESPONSE

On March 11, 2020, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, issued a statement supporting suspension of in-person gatherings for public worship in response to the first wave of COVID-19 in the United States. Eight months on, the St. Louis area is experiencing a third wave of the pandemic. St. Peter's has responded to the historic challenges to being church posed by the pandemic in creative, loving, and faithful ways. Since March, we have been gathering online for worship, fellowship, and formation. Since July, the main sanctuary has been open for personal devotion every week. For the last two months, we have been gathering in-person on our campus to celebrate Holy Eucharist, share coffee and conversation, bless backpacks and animals, and celebrate St. Peter's Day. And small outdoor gatherings of families to celebrate baptisms, weddings, and the lives of loved ones who have died have taken place.

In all of these efforts, St. Peter's has been guided by the work of our Reopening Steering Group, made up of vestry members, parish physicians, staff, and clergy. In the face of ever-changing variables, this group has kept before it the constant goal of resuming in-person gatherings at the corner of Warson and Ladue, in a manner that responsibly protects the health of parishioners, staff and clergy. This has meant keeping a constant watch on pandemic statistics, in light of guidelines and criteria outlined by our Diocesan Bishop, and drawing on the experience and expertise of the physicians in the group in determining when and how to gather together.

The work of reopening will continue into 2021, as our country works to conquer the threats posed by COVID-19. Know that the Reopening Steering Group is committed to helping St. Peter's serve the needs and desires of all parishioners during these times when we cannot yet fully reopen to resume church life as it was prior to the pandemic. We will get there! Slowly, but surely . . . and safely, with God's help. In the meantime, we continue to be the church, and gathering together and being here for one another, in creative, loving and faithful ways. Thanks be to God!

Jeanie Davis, Senior Warden

Mike Newport, Vestry Member

Brig Buettner, M.D.

Sarah Fouke, M.D.

Katherine Mathews, M.D.

Angela Mahan, Administrator/Chief of Staff

The Rev. Kelly Carlson, Associate Rector

The Rev. Rob Voyle, Interim Rector

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD, SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY SHALL RISE UP AND SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY SHALL RUN, AND NOT BE WEARY; AND THEY SHALL WALK, AND NOT GROW TIRED.

ISAIAH 40:31



The Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle
Interim Rector

To the People of St. Peter's,

Waiting, waiting, waiting. As I look back over this year it seems that we as a nation have been waiting for this accursed pandemic to be over. We want to get on with our lives! But in so many ways it is simply not safe.

Here at St. Peter's beyond the pandemic, we are also waiting -- waiting for a new rector, waiting to see what will be. Waiting, waiting, waiting...

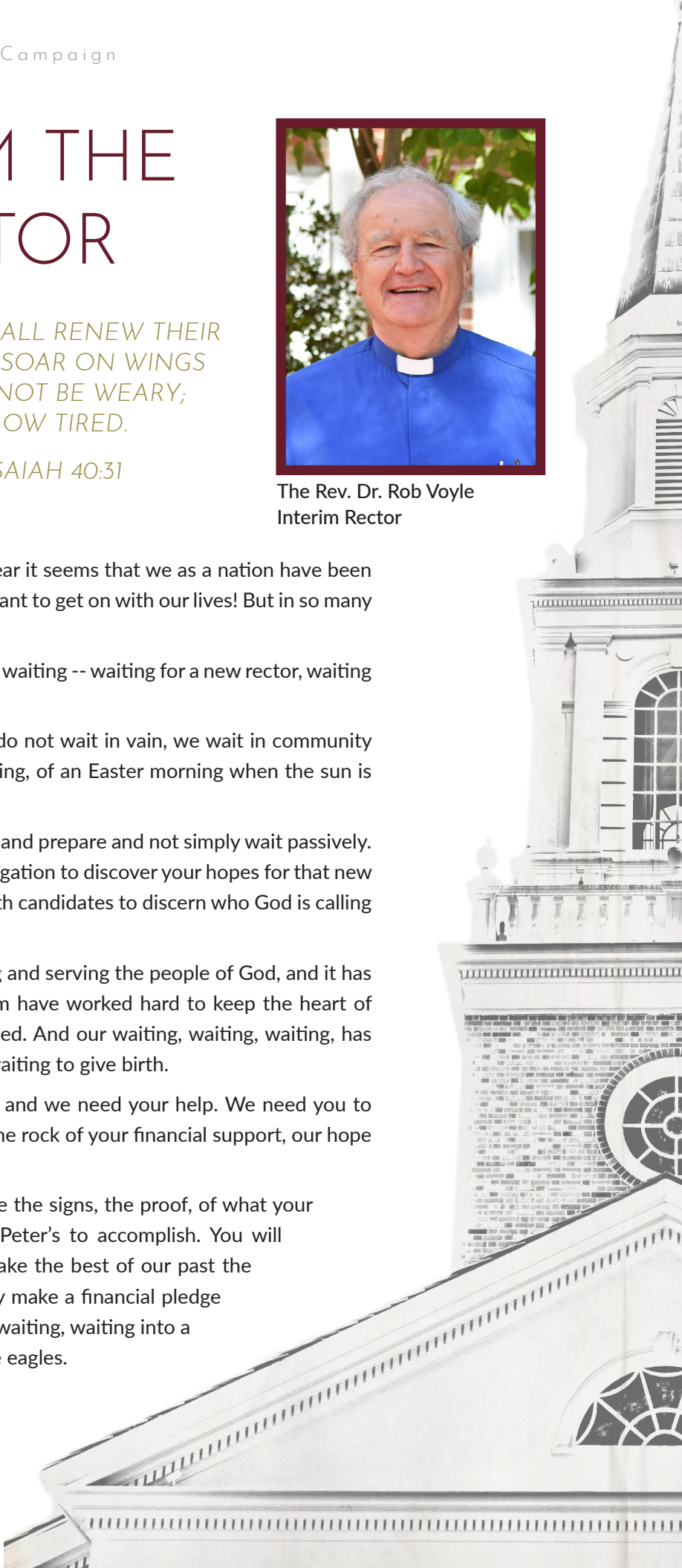
As the people of God called St. Peter's, Ladue, we do not wait in vain, we wait in community upon the Lord, we wait in hope of a new day dawning, of an Easter morning when the sun is shining and the tomb is empty and we are alive!

The hope of that new Easter day inspires us to work and prepare and not simply wait passively. Our Search Committee has engaged with the congregation to discover your hopes for that new day and is now hard at work preparing to engage with candidates to discern who God is calling to be your new rector.

Our staff has had to learn a whole new way of being and serving the people of God, and it has been inspiring to see their creativity. Each of them have worked hard to keep the heart of St. Peter's open while our buildings have been closed. And our waiting, waiting, waiting, has become filled with hope like an expectant mother waiting to give birth.

A new day is dawning at St. Peter's, an Easter day, and we need your help. We need you to share in that new day financially, because without the rock of your financial support, our hope is like the sand of passing dreams.

Throughout the pages of this magazine, you will see the signs, the proof, of what your financial support in the past has empowered St. Peter's to accomplish. You will also see the glimmers of what lies ahead, as we make the best of our past the foundation for our future. I invite you to prayerfully make a financial pledge for 2021, so that together we can turn our waiting, waiting, waiting into a new day when we will rise up and soar on wings like eagles.



CALLING OUR NEXT RECTOR

AN UPDATE FROM OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

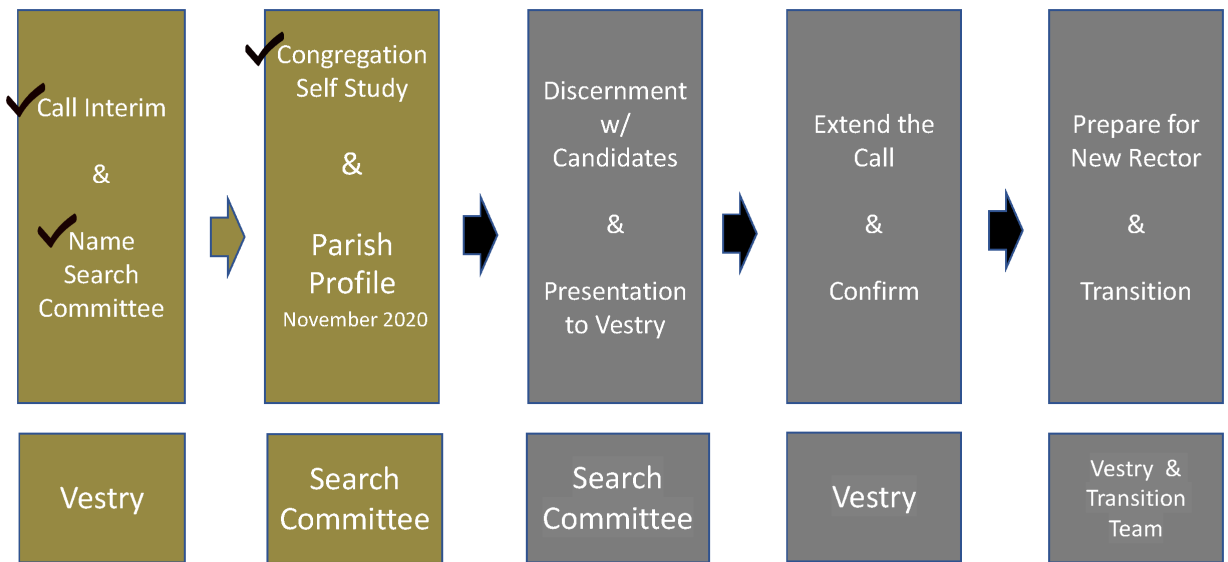
WHERE ARE WE?

The pandemic has had a way of creating unanticipated challenges to the timely completion of projects and goals the world over, including calling a new rector! But your Search Committee has been working diligently over the last seven months, and today . . .

We move forward in faith and hope.

Thanks to great participation from parishioners, the Search Committee completed the congregation self-study portion of the search process. Nearly 200 individuals participated in the Holy Cow! survey and another 100+ shared their thoughts in "Holy Conversations." Your feedback was essential to be able to create a parish profile that allows prospective candidates to see who we are, where we came from, where we hope to go, and what we seek in our next rector. This profile is in its final phase of completion and will then be submitted for approval.

Once approved, the profile will be published on our website and the committee will begin collecting resumes of candidates.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

After publication of the parish profile, please share it widely!

We thank you for your continued prayers and steadfastness as we eagerly move towards calling our new rector.

COMING TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

How is a church to worship God with thanks and praise when a pandemic forces it to shut its doors? It relies on its Director of Communications to take a crash course in online gathering technologies and videography (kudos Jacquelyn!) and then it gets CREATIVE!

Indeed, ever since its Lenten introduction, our Sunday service of Spiritual Communion has been a spirit-filled online experience, thanks to the faithful and generous participation of so many:

- Lectors (and parishioners of all ages!) sharing lessons, leading us in prayer, and joyfully responding to the Peace and Dismissal;
- Choir members singing acapella our praise to God, and David thoughtfully choosing hymns and anthems from St. Peter's library of recorded choral music;
- Clergy giving their all to the oddity of preaching to a little dot of a camera;
- Jacquelyn taking all the disparate pieces and creating a cohesive worship service, on paper and video "tape"; and
- Parishioners and friends worshipping God together by tuning to St. Peter's YouTube page, whether at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday or any time throughout the week!

We also worship together "live" online. If ever you find your spirits low on a Sunday morning at 10:15, remind yourself that age is just a number and join the joyful chaos that is Children's Chapel via zoom! Looking for a way to begin each day in conversation with God? Join the weekday services of Morning Prayer at 8:00 on Facebook Live, or use the new St. Peter's "Prayer From the Rock" at whatever time is best for you. Go to: <https://www.dofot.org/?specstl>.

And, at long last, patience was rewarded in September with the return of in-person worship – the celebration of Holy Eucharist on the front porch! To be "face-to-face" even with our faces masked and remaining socially distanced (sometimes in mittens and hats!), gives a special joy to worship and deepens our gratitude for gifts we no longer take for granted. Thank you for continuing to make reservations to attend in-person worship!



True to almost all plans made during this pandemic, our worship plans are subject to change. St. Peter's Reopening Steering Group is committed to serving the spiritual and pastoral needs of the parish in ways that safeguard the health and safety of parishioners, staff, clergy and their families. In consultation with Bishop Johnson, we pay close attention to markers of the pandemic's presence in St. Louis County and reassess our plans in response to updated information. The best place to find the latest worship updates remains Friday's News from the Rock; if you do not have access to the internet, please let us know by leaving a voicemail message at the church office. Also, everyone who has made a reservation to attend a worship service will be contacted if plans for that particular service change.

Living in the midst of a worldwide pandemic can make a lot of life feel uncertain. But some things we know for sure:

Even when we are apart, God makes us one.

Even when we cannot receive Holy Communion, God continues to feed us with the love of Christ.

Even when we feel utterly alone, we are a beloved part of the body of Christ called "St. Peter's Church" and the love of God is with us.

Even when all feels uncertain, there is always reason to gather together to worship God with thanks and praise, be it in traditional or new and creative ways.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly +

The Reverend Kelly Carlson
Associate Rector



A LETTER FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Now as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, and overflowing with gratitude.

Colossians 2:6-7



VESTRY

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Jerry Wille - gwille@hotmail.com

Dear fellow parishioners,

The pandemic has challenged our perception of normal. Practices proven to decrease the risk of virus transmission have significantly altered how we can live our daily lives, including how we can be a community of faith, finding spiritual sustenance, and serving God.

Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle opened our recent Vestry meeting asking us to reflect on what has worked well at St. Peter's over the past six months. During this challenging and unexpected time of COVID 19, our list was long!

Parishioners, lay staff, and clergy have worked hard over the last eight months to respond to this unprecedented situation, whether in finding ways to worship on Sunday, providing a vacation bible school experience for your children, or supporting you with pastoral assistance. We have been committed to providing a safe environment for all our parishioners, even as we recognize that changing circumstances require our continued flexibility.

It has been wonderful seeing those of you who have attended our outdoor worship services and coffees in the garden. I look forward to a time in the future where we may all be together again in our beloved sanctuary. As the weather changes, and we can hopefully move indoors safely, we will live-stream our services with newly enhanced audio-visual capabilities. These upgrades will also improve sound recordings. I have missed hearing St. Peter's Choir singing each Sunday. Having listened recently to the choir's new CD, *Longing for Home*, I was deeply moved and uplifted. I imagine you all will be too! What an amazing gift of music and faith!

As we kick off our stewardship campaign, your gift to St. Peter's will help ensure a stable financial position, as we continue to gather as a community of faith. Your support is especially needed now, as we look forward to welcoming a new rector in the coming year. Candidates will look critically for a balanced budget, a financially stable parish, a supportive congregation, and funds available to do the work we call them to do.

Whatever challenges we face, the spirit of St. Peter's is strong, and in the coming months, our parish community will withstand this test.

On behalf of the Vestry, our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

In Peace,

Jeanie



Jeanie Davis
Senior Warden

THE SAME PATH TO HEAVEN

BY DAVID SINDEN, ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

After I graduated from college, I worked at an Episcopal camp in upstate New York for several summers.¹ One year, we wanted to use our outdoor chapel, a beautiful shady spot overlooking a pond, but we realized that no one had cut the grass that year. The grass in front of the stone altar had been growing all summer, and it was very long.

We met there anyway, and that service of Holy Communion was one of the most memorable I have experienced. As campers and counselors came forward to receive Communion, we wove a wide circle in the grass, first toward the altar, and then away.

What emerged was an outward and visible sign that I have long remembered. When we worship, we offer and present unto God, “our selves, our souls and bodies.” That day, bent blades bore witness to our bodies’ path and our souls’ transformation: our community’s intersection with God’s grace.

In this time of pandemic, our bodies weave strange, socially distanced paths. We are engaging with our church and our faith online and outside. But even while we do so, our souls long to take the well-worn path to our church’s altar.

“How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” Right now, singing cannot happen the same way as before.

But the Psalms also command us, “Sing a new song unto the Lord.” So even if our bodies remain distant, our souls seek harmony with God and one another. We are called to tread a new path.

This year we will continue offering Music for Meditation from the organ on Sundays. Young people, including our returning Choristers, are invited to Songs and Stories, a chorister training program that will take place online. The Parish Choir will record new virtual offerings for various services. And all year long, we will celebrate 30 years of Choral Evensong at St. Peter’s with the Living Tradition series.

In the circular path of that outdoor chapel, I saw evidence of a congregation coming to worship. I know that God still calls us to worship him, even if our paths don’t quite cross for a while. But we are still called to sing a new song on this journey of faith. So, let us rejoice in knowing there are hidden paths for all of us woven by the saints and by our God.

*Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern given;
while the long cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heaven.*

– Isaac Watts; Hymn 253, st. 4

¹Director of Music Emeritus Bill Aitken was once the organist at this same summer camp, Lake Delaware Boys’ Camp in Delhi, New York.

DURING THIS TIME WHEN WE CANNOT MAKE MUSIC IN CONVENTIONAL WAYS, THE ST. PETER'S MUSICIANS ARE FINDING NEW WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER AND TO THEIR MINISTRY. ALONG THE WAY, WE HOPE TO SING NEW SONGS AND EXPLORE OUR LIVING TRADITION OF MUSIC AND LITURGY.

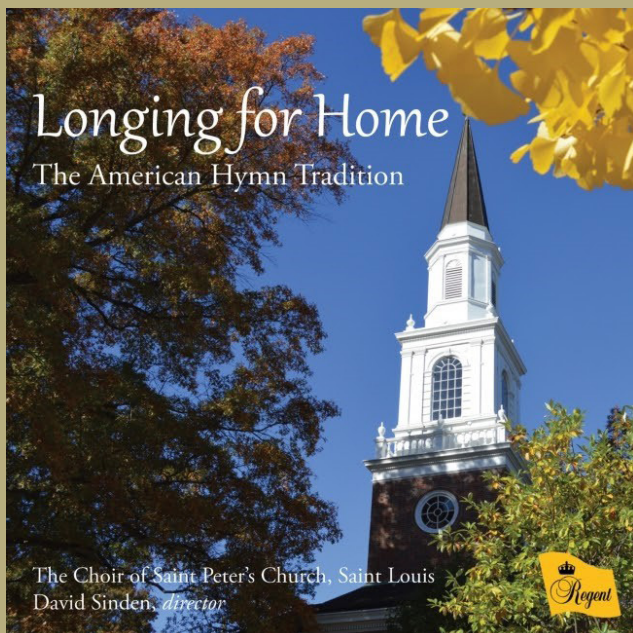
In March of 2020, just before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, St. Peter's Church celebrated a milestone: 30 years of regular services of Choral Evensong.

We had hoped to celebrate this anniversary with a festive series of Choral Evensong services in the 2020/21 season. But with in-person worship and singing off the table for the foreseeable future, we begin this series in a new way: a virtual celebration of music and liturgy at St. Peter's that we're calling Living Tradition. This series includes music, online liturgical offerings, and conversations about our tradition of music and worship with a special emphasis on Evensong.

LIVING TRADITION: MUSIC AND LITURGY AT ST. PETER'S

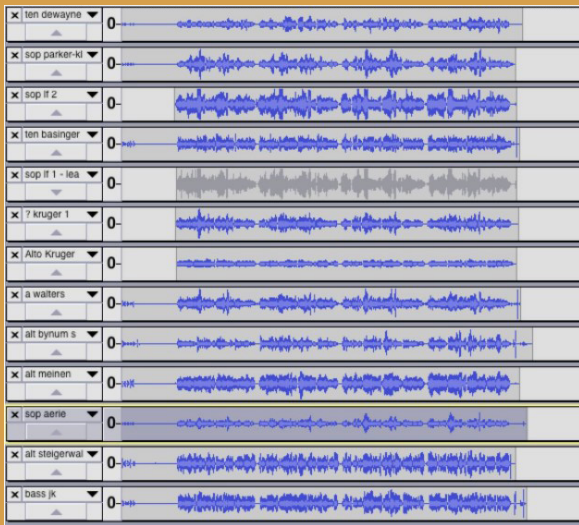


LONGING FOR HOME



On Thursday, October 1, St. Peter's held a virtual CD release party for *Longing for Home*, the St. Peter's Choir's new recording with Regent Records. *Longing for Home* is a recording of different hymn texts set to music by American composers, many of whom are still living. At the party, we welcomed many of the composers of music on the disc, including Dale Adelman (Atlanta, Ga.), Frank Boles (Indianapolis, Ind.), David Hurd (via video message from Yonkers, N.Y.), Robert Lehman (who was visiting Chautauqua, N.Y.), William Bradley Roberts (Richmond, Va.), Martha Shaffer (St. Louis, Mo.), and David Ashley White (Houston, Tex.). We were also very pleased to welcome Scott Roberts, former Assistant Organist at St. Peter's, who played the organ accompaniments on the recording. At the party, David Sinden announced that a generous donor has purchased copies of *Longing for Home* for all St. Peter's parishioners who would like one.

VIRTUAL CHOIR



The St. Peter's Choir has been dispersed since early March, but they continue to explore new ways to make music virtually. The process of recording separately involves a lot of coordination, and some technical know-how from all involved. Using this technique, the choir has recorded familiar anthems and new compositions written specifically for this method of music-making. One such recording was made expressly for the Ordination of Bishop Deon Johnson in June.

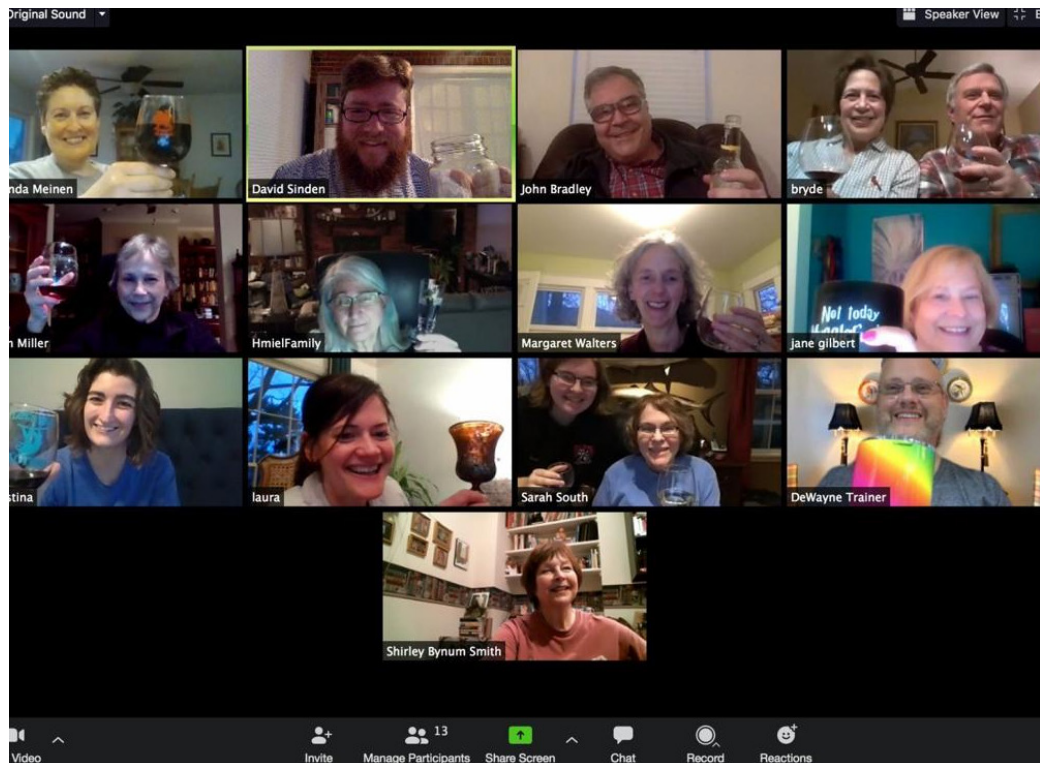
SONGS AND STORIES



The youngest members of the St. Peter's Choir are the St. Peter's Choristers. Choristers-in-training are called Probationers. When our regular schedule was suspended in March, the Choir Room was hosting a total of 2 hours and 45 minutes of rehearsals for Choristers and Probationers weekly. This year, our virtual chorister training program for all ages is called Songs and Stories (<http://songsandstories.online>). Through stories from the bible, stories of the saints, we are learning about our roots of faith. Through hymns and other pieces of music old and new we are singing our hope-filled Christian story. Even our choir mascot, Scrawny MacNugget is lending a hand – or, should we say a wing? – with this project!

ZOOM CHOIR GATHERING

From the very first Thursday night that they were unable to rehearse in the Choir Room, David Sinden has hosted a weekly hangout for the St. Peter's Choir on Zoom. They were even mentioned in an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in April ("The rise of the Zoom happy hour: St. Louisans move their social lives online," by Aisha Sultan). These hangouts are continuing weekly until in-person rehearsals resume.

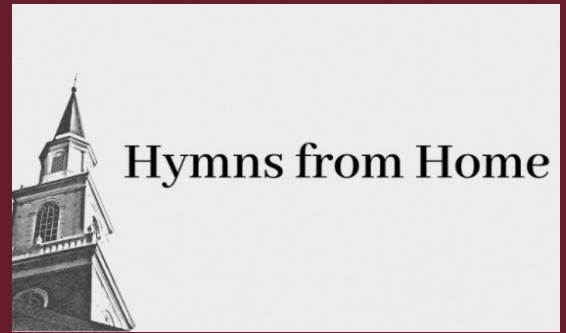


CHOIR TEA



Members of the Choir gathered for a socially-distanced afternoon tea on a sunny day in September.

Photo courtesy of Jane Gilbert.



St. Peter's is a church that loves to sing. On Sunday mornings, we begin and end our worship by joining our voices together in song. Until choral and congregational singing can return, we are offering Hymns from Home. These newly recorded videos on YouTube are made at the request of St. Peter's parishioners. Each video includes a single hymn, played on the St. Peter's organ, and the words on-screen for you to sing along from home.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

When the St. Peter's staff were permitted to return to the church building in July, David Sinden was glad to discover that our Mander organ in the church was in excellent form. Within a few weeks, we began a weekly music series on Sunday mornings called Music for Meditation. These 25-minute programs were offered while the church was open for personal prayer. We plan to continue offering music like this, and we look forward to making it available online as well.



CHILDREN & YOUTH



WELCOME, ANNIE!

On August 1st, St. Peter's parishioner Annie Knapp began serving as our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Annie came to this position after five years of teaching math and science at MICDS. She holds teaching certifications in grades 5-9 science and grades 9-12 biology. Annie is a member of St. Peter's Young Adult group and enjoys hanging out with her dogs, staying active, and coaching field hockey.

Having worked with children and youth ranging in age from 4 to 18, Annie is excited to serve the youngest members of St. Peter's and nurture their faith in God. As she begins work at a most challenging time for children and youth ministries, Annie brings a joyful spirit and enthusiasm to the wonder-filled mission of walking on journeys of faith with our children and youth.



Throughout the summer and into the fall, Children's Chapel has continued to be a big hit among St. Peter's Families - even on Zoom! Join us each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. to hear the bible stories for the day during a fifteen-minute worship service.

Christian Education is going to feel different this fall and winter as children are invited to explore their faith in new ways. The Sunday School classroom will be brought to families via "Learning at Home Kits." Families who wish to participate will receive a kit each month to complete at their own pace. Each kit will focus on one theme and will contain crafts, games, Bible stories, and other screen-free activities. These kits are designed to be something the whole family can enjoy!

St. Peter's Youth Group contains individuals with a wide variety of talents, interests, and opinions. The main goal for St. Peter's Youth this year is to build and maintain relationships. Annie has created an Instagram page specifically for SPEC Youth. This account will be used to highlight students' achievements, post about social events, volunteer opportunities and much more.

FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM:
@SPECYOUTH

A DIFFERENT KIND OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



A CALL TO MINISTRY

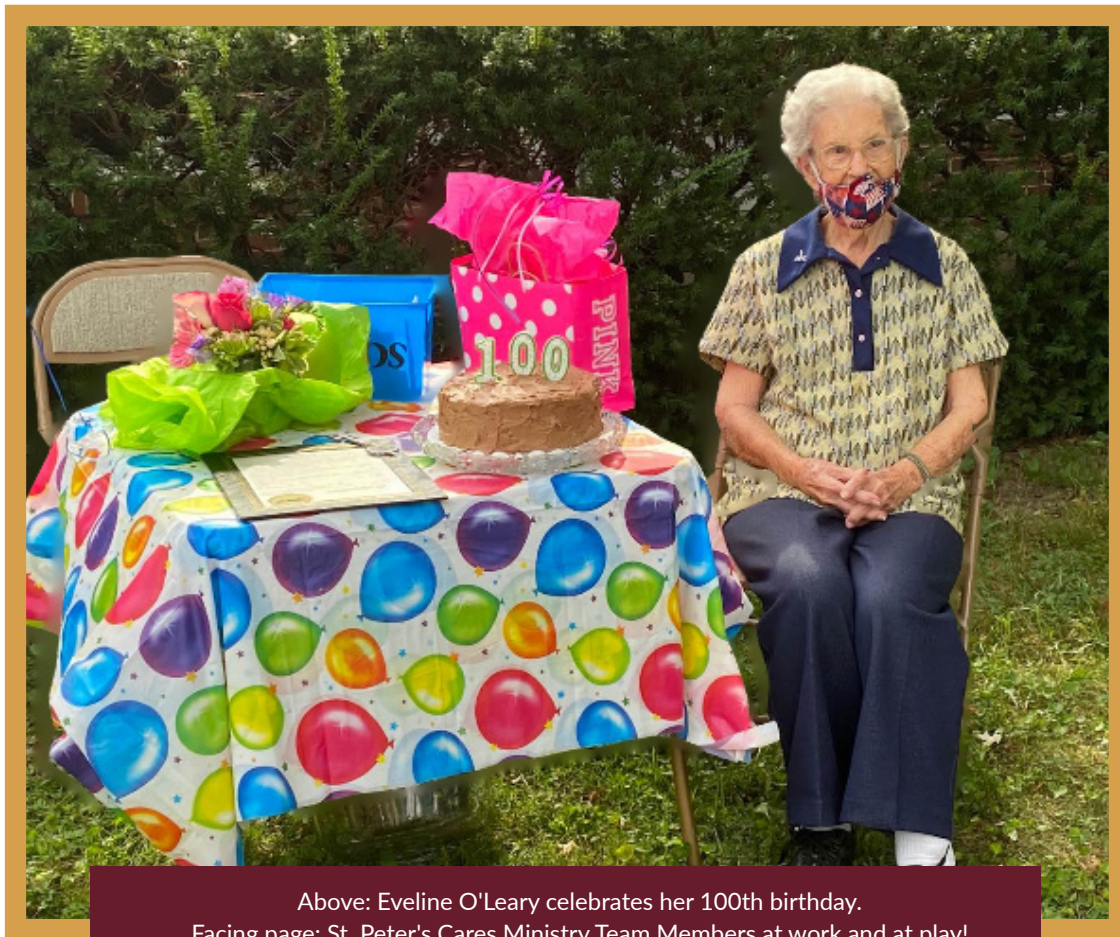
This summer Shug Goodlow officially began her service at St. Peter's as an intern. Shug was a postulant for Holy Orders at that time and her internship was part of her formation on the journey toward ordination. Shug came to us from Christ Church Cathedral where she worshipped for more than 25 years with her wife Doris. Shug was actively engaged in the worship life, mission and ministry of the Cathedral where she most recently served as Head Verger and Acolyte Master. She has been involved in Cathedral and diocesan governance for many years and is the immediate past president of the Standing Committee. She was elected a deputy to General Convention at the last diocesan convention. She is also a licensed preacher in the diocese.

Shug was recently granted Candidacy for the Priesthood by Bishop Deon Johnson. She will be ordained as a Transitional Deacon on January 23, 2021. She will then be ordained a priest about six months later.

Deacons in the Episcopal Church are called to a "special ministry of servanthood directly under the bishop. They are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely." A deacon is to "interpret to the church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world." (BCP p. 543). In addition to those ordained permanent deacons, there are also "transitional deacons" who are ordained a deacon as a preliminary step toward ordination as a priest. This practice is required by the canons of the Episcopal Church.

Shug is involved in community theatre and is passionate about movies; she has seen *The Godfather* 190 times! She also enjoys trivia and knows all kinds of useless information. She loves to cook and particularly enjoys baking. Shug and her wife Doris are residents of Kirkwood. They have two daughters, Simone and Monica, and a granddaughter, Khloe, who is a sophomore at Temple University. Their son Edward was called home by the ancestors and is the family's guardian angel.

Shug and Doris are very much enjoying parish life and ministry at St. Peter's as Shug continues to discern her call to the priesthood. You can find her officiating Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings and participating in many aspects of worship on Sunday mornings, whether serving as a lector, preaching, leading Children's Chapel, or participating in Coffee with the Rector. She is also involved in the important work of Anti-Racism both at St. Peter's and in the diocese. Shug can be reached at shugg@stpetersepiscopal.org.



Above: Eveline O'Leary celebrates her 100th birthday.
Facing page: St. Peter's Cares Ministry Team Members at work and at play!

In an episode of Law and Order, former Assistant D.A. Jamie Ross is in a tough spot – the ethics committee is considering charges that could mean her disbarment – when her former boss, Executive Assistant D.A. Jack McCoy offers her this observation: “Life’s a funny old dog. . . .”

So far, the year 2020 has confirmed Jack’s wisdom – we have discovered first-hand just how funny an old dog life can be! We find ourselves living in a way none of us ever anticipated. All of us are isolated from our “normal” routines of school, work, family, service, worship, play. . . . Everything feels less certain, more complicated.

What is our response, as followers of Jesus Christ, when life shows itself to be a funny old dog, tilting our world at steep, uninvited and disconcerting angles? A priest and brother of the Society of St. John the Evangelist whose words regularly offer me wisdom, Br. David Vryhof, offered an answer in reference to the pandemic that has stuck with me:

“What do we, as people of faith, have to offer our neighbors and colleagues in such demanding times? We are called to be people of hope, whose trust in God gives them the resilience to pick themselves up when they’ve fallen or been pushed down, and to continue to answer the call. We must be like sturdy trees, able to stand their ground in the face of violent winds because their roots reach deep into the soil from which comes their food and their strength.”

2020 is a year when many of us have had to dig deep, to draw from the faith upon which we have built our lives. Connecting with the steadfast love of God, the love that against all odds brought life from death in Jesus Christ, is what makes us a people of hope in 2020.

And the wonderful gift of being a part of the community of faith we call St. Peter's Episcopal Church is that we can be hope for one another. That is what pastoral care has been all about this year.

- Parishioners staying in touch with one another in the St. Peter's Caring Circles.
- Parishioners, led by our St. Peter's Cares Shepherds, writing notes to our "mostly at home" and other parishioners, reminding them that their church loves them in the midst of isolation.
- Hand delivery of Forward Day by Day booklets, wrapped in parish greetings, to many isolated by the pandemic.
- Finding novel ways to celebrate the love of Christ in parish families, with weddings and baptisms on the front steps of the church and in the Laird Garden.
- Parishioner-led parades and other socially-distanced celebrations of milestone birthdays this summer (happy 100th Eveline!).
- Clergy walking with families through times of loss and grief when our "normal" traditions of mourning and supporting one another are unavailable to us.
- Clergy beginning to make in-person pastoral visits, as hospitals and other facilities slowly relax their prohibitions against visitors.
- And the tireless service of the St. Peter's Cares Ministry Team members in praying, providing meals, and (yes!) providing transportation in the midst of a pandemic, with Shepherds Frances Gay and Nancy Grimes faithfully responding to every parishioner's request.

A huge THANK YOU to all of St. Peter's pastoral care providers. As 2020 continues, and turns into 2021, we will continue to share hope with one another, reaching out with love and caring when the funny old dog of life leaves someone in need of that gift.

If you would like to share the gift of hope by joining a St. Peter's Cares ministry team, writing notes, or calling parishioners who find themselves isolated by the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, please get in touch with me at kcarlson@stpetersepiscopal.org.

And if ever you find yourself searching for that gift of hope because it feels like your world has tilted a bit too sharply, please reach out to me, Joseph, or Rob. We are here for you.

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Kelly Carlson
Associate Rector





THY KINGDOM COME: ST. PETER'S ANTI-RACISM WORK

The past summer has been one of great sadness for all of us as we watched our nation struggle with systemic racism, its ripple effects felt throughout society. Long before George Floyd's death in May, generations of St. Louisans had worked diligently and faithfully to address these issues and build bridges across racial and socioeconomic lines; that work has intensified in 2020. In my time among you as one of your priests, I have asked myself, "What role can the community of St. Peter's play in addressing the racism in St. Louis city and county, and in our larger American society?"

Our community needs to continue to build on the work we have been doing, to develop a more profound knowledge and understanding of our nation's racial history and how that racism has impacted our city and county. Addressing racism needs to fundamentally focus on two distinct and interrelated areas: understanding, which will open the door for meaningful and deep reconciliation, and justice, which will flow out of a heart made tender and longing for thy kingdom come. To this end, St. Peter's has formed an 11-member anti-racism core group, divided into two teams: inward-facing (understanding) and outward-facing (justice).

INWARD-FACING

The inward-facing team focuses primarily on helping parishioners understand structural racism in our community and how white privilege permeates the way we live in society. This small group of people has dedicated themselves to creating conversation groups and book studies that will help us to open our minds and our hearts. A study of the book and film *Just Mercy* was its first offering.

OUTWARD-FACING

The outward-facing team's work is engaged in ministry that will allow St. Peter's to offer our time, talent, treasure, and sweat equity toward building justice in our community.

In conjunction with the Outreach Committee, this team has begun conversations with the Tabernacle Community Development Corporation (TCDC), an organization created in 2010 in the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood. TCDC provides a variety of benevolent resources to the community, allowing the organization to build loyal and trusting relationships with neighborhood residents, local law enforcement, government officials, and neighboring non-profits.

St. Peter's has a rich history of reaching out. Now is the time to use our community's talents and resources to continue to build a legacy of supporting justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

Beloved, this is the work of anti-racism. Beloved, this is love in action. Beloved, this is compassion in motion. Beloved, this is the work of building the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. It is slow work, holy work, and it is indeed worth it!

ST. PETER'S ANTI-RACISM GROUP SEEKS TO
DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOP A
PARISH RESPONSE TO RACIAL INEQUITY.

With love,

Fr. JWW

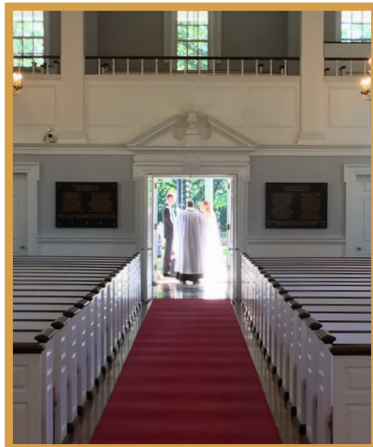
REIMAGINING

SACRAMENTS DURING COVID

BAPTISM



WEDDINGS



CONFIRMATION

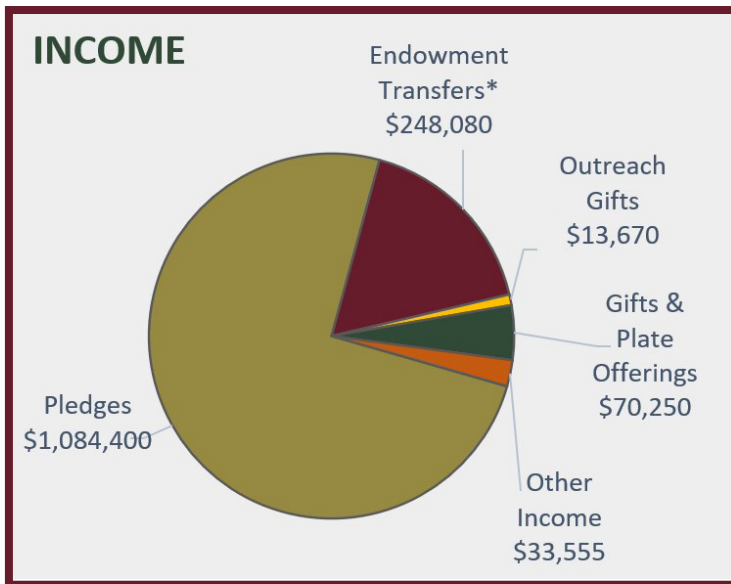




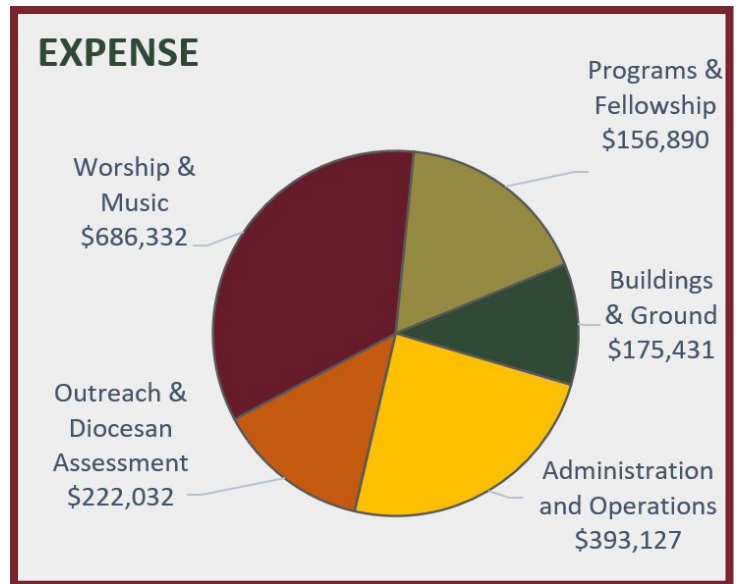
ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BY THE

2020 FINANCIAL FORECAST

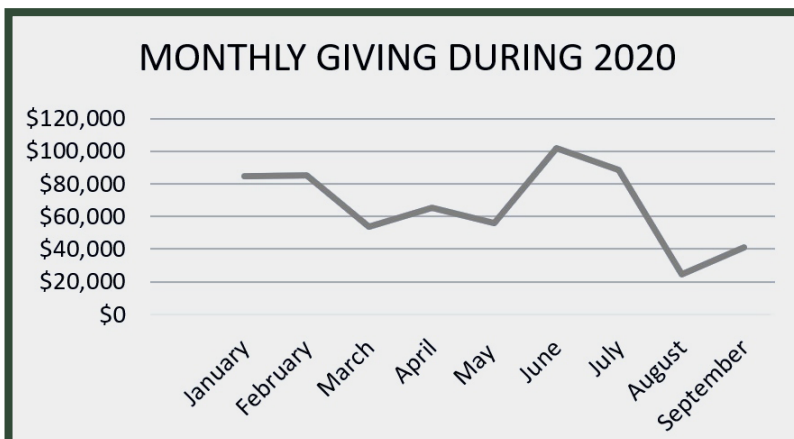


*Endowment transfers include General, Aitken, Columbarium, Wetzel, and Zacher funds.



*Expenses are inclusive of payroll, benefits, and related items.

Due to the pandemic and subsequent closure of our buildings and campus, 2020 has been a challenging year. During the first quarter, the 2020 financial forecast was revised to more accurately reflect anticipated income and expenses. Funds from the Cares Act PPP (Payroll Protection Program) in the amount of \$227,600 allowed us to help manage the gap. We are optimistic that the PPP loan will be forgiven in full in 2021.



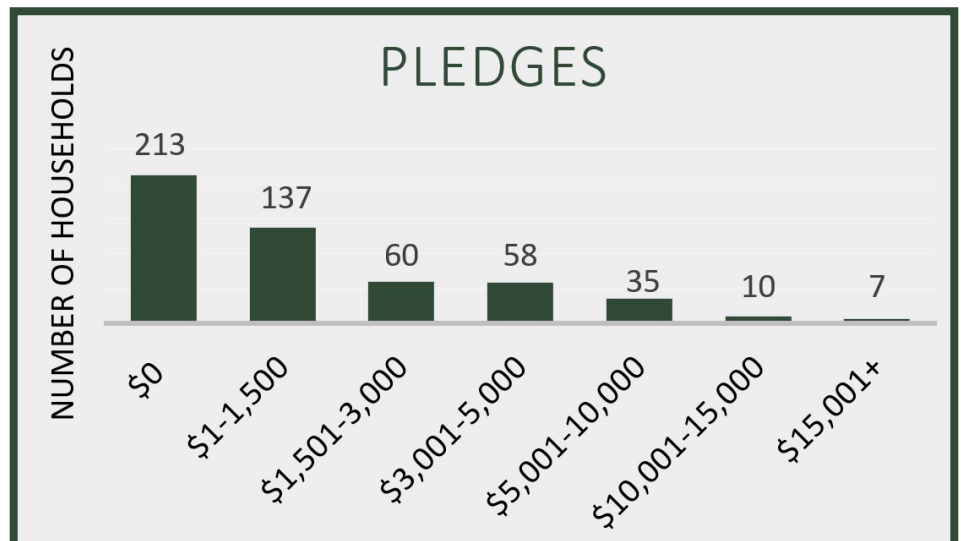
Thank you to all who continue to support the work of our parish through their pledge!

NUMBERS

ENDOWMENT UPDATE (as of 8/31/2020)			
FUND NAME	Balance 1/01/2020	Net Change	Balance 8/31/2020
General	\$ 3,449,496	\$ 81,778	\$ 3,531,274
Aitken	\$ 229,682	\$ 1,942	\$ 231,624
Columbarium	\$ 261,016	\$ 14,605	\$ 275,621
Leschen	\$ 193,869	\$ 9,799	\$ 203,668
Wetzel	\$ 462,906	\$ 34,761	\$ 497,667
Zacher	\$ 147,125	\$ 5,017	\$ 152,142
Stock Gift	\$ -	\$ 2,706	\$ 2,706
TOTAL	\$ 4,744,094	\$ 150,608	\$ 4,894,702

2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS

\$1,400,000 GOAL
\$1,097,030 PLEDGES YTD
312 PLEDGES
 (60% OF HOUSEHOLDS)
 AVERAGE PLEDGE \$3,516
 MEDIAN PLEDGE \$2,000



2021

ROOTED IN FAITH

Forward in Hope

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

During these past months of changes and challenges, I often reflected on all this congregation has experienced. Your generosity continues to be inspiring and impactful. I ask that you join me, embracing faith and hope for our next chapter and continuing your support for the financial needs of our parish. The 2021 Stewardship Campaign may well be one of our most important to date.

Forward in hope. Next year, we will call our new rector. We will continue to creatively offer forms of virtual worship to reach our homebound parishioners and those who travel. We will pray for health in our world so that our doors will be open. We hope that soon we will be welcoming new families with the same spirit and joy that we have always known.

The collective mission of St. Peter's is challenging without a financial lifeline. We must provide a secure financial foundation for our next rector. We must continue to grow, doing more to reach out to all in our community. Raising the funds necessary to meet operating costs is essential. We must give generously so that beyond our fixed costs, we are able to continue our work through our outreach ministries as well as look ahead to continued improvements and updates to our campus.

Along with all members of the Vestry, I have prayerfully made a 2021 pledge, confident in the future of St. Peter's. We cannot know what lies ahead of us, but we remain confident in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love. Our parish needs us all now more than ever.

With gratitude,

Laurie



Laurie Haffenreffer
Stewardship Committee Chair

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19

This year's annual giving theme, *Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope*, reminds us that our financial support in the form of a pledge to the operating budget is an essential component of our ability to carry out the ministry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. 2021 promises to be a year of hopeful transition as we anticipate the arrival of a new rector. Potential candidates will look critically for a balanced budget, a financially stable parish, and funds available to do the work we call them to do.

Please consider blessing St. Peter's with an increased pledge this coming year.

**2021
STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN GOAL:
\$1,400,000**

WAYS TO GIVE



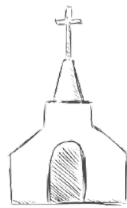
ONLINE

give at
stpeterseiscopal.org



MAIL

110 N. Warson Rd.
St. Louis, MO
63124



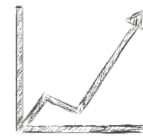
AT CHURCH

drop your gift
in the Sunday
offering



BY PHONE

text the letters
SPECSTL to
73256



STOCK

...and other
giving options:
contact Janet
Rouse in the
church office

St. Peter's is blessed with God's grace and love. We use all we have to make a difference in God's name.

Giving is an expression of gratitude. It comes from a place of love and faith, a place of responsibility, and a place of trust in God and God's wisdom.

Through collective generosity, the difference St. Peter's can make in the lives of our parishioners and our neighbors can grow in strength and in magnitude.

FACILITIES: IMPROVING SIGHT & SOUND

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

1 Corinthians 3:10

Although the church office and campus have been closed during the pandemic, we have utilized this opportunity to work on several projects which are highlighted below. Maintaining our building and grounds is a priority. Special thanks to Vestry member Jerry Wille who heads up this task, along with other committee members: Maureen Bahn, Keith Boris, Matt Bouchard, James Edgerton, Jimmy Grimmett, Lynn Hedrick, Chris Knight, Tony Randazzo, and Bud Wilson.



SANCTUARY

Audiovisual enhancements are in the works within the sanctuary. The AVID Group, Inc., a local installation company, has been hired to upgrade the sound system and microphones. Cameras are also being installed which will allow us the ability to live stream worship services in the very near future.



INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING

All trim and soffits around the guttering are being freshly painted on the church's exterior. Facilities guru Jerry Wille has been working to paint interior hallways, the lobby, and a few areas within the church office. An elusive leak in the office lobby has been fixed and the water-damaged wall has been repaired.



COLUMBARIUM & EXTERIOR STAIRWELL

To preserve the columbarium, tuckpointing repairs have been made to mortar joints and broken bricks have been replaced. Additionally, deteriorated areas within the exterior stairwell leading to the lower parking lot have been fixed.

GROUNDS

In June, several parishioners cleaned the grounds and weeded garden beds. Two large trees that have fallen during windstorms have been removed.



Please know that your dollars are being utilized wisely to restore and retain the beauty of St. Peter's!

WITH AN OPEN HEART:

A REFLECTION FROM ROB OF GRATITUDE FOR THE ST. PETER'S STAFF



Though our church buildings have been closed, the hearts of your clergy and staff have remained open – as have their minds, their attitudes, and their willingness to do everything possible to keep St. Peter's thriving. As many of you can attest, this time of pandemic has not been easy on work environments. I know it has been the toughest year of my 40 years of ordained ministry. Personally, I am beyond grateful for the incredible staff of St. Peter's who have worked tirelessly over the past 8 months to bring a new type of church to you. I offer my heart-filled thanks, along with what I've grown to appreciate about each of them...

ASSOCIATE PRIEST

KELLY



In Kelly, I have found a priest who will walk with you, through whatever life has thrown you into. In the midst of these crazy pandemic times she has offered pastoral care, conducted funerals and been the pastoral connection for many. I also deeply appreciate her attention to detail, the organization of our worship services, and her oversight of the myriad details we have needed to pay attention to so that we can safely return to in-person worship.

In Shug, unlike many interns who are at the beginning of their journey of faith, I found a person who has walked and argued with Jesus for many years. She brings a wealth of experience as a leading lay person at the Cathedral and who chaired the Standing Committee as the diocese called our new Bishop Deon. She has quickly connected with staff and parishioners in our forums and worship and I am delighted we at St. Peter's have had the opportunity to walk with her as she discerns her call to the priesthood.

INTERN

SHUG



In Joseph, I have found a priest who loves to create beauty and hospitable spaces that reflect the image of God and where people can find transformation. I am also deeply appreciative of his shepherding of St. Peter's anti-racism initiatives. I have long been offended by the inequities and injustice of our country especially along racial lines but I will sadly confess to largely being a guilty bystander, and the work of the core group and the ability to share in that work with Joseph is a personal light for me in the midst of a very dark night.

ASSOCIATE PRIEST

JOSEPH



ANGELA



CHIEF OF STAFF & ADMINISTRATOR

In Angela, I have found a newcomer to the staff, who began just before I did. She started in a position that in some ways we are having to make up as we quickly entered into these pandemic days and limitations. What I am discovering is that Angela is becoming the glue of St. Peter's infrastructure, coordinating the practical daily operations of running a large space and staff as far as churches are concerned. Like Darlene, she takes an enormous burden off the rector and other staff members tasked with leading the ministries of the church.

In David, I have found that rare breed of church musicians who combine a deep theological understanding, a personal spiritual life, and incredible musicianship. When integrated, as David does, we have a true servant of transcendence and we are taken to those moments when we sense or glimpse the presence and beauty of God. In many ways the pandemic has radically compromised the music ministry of St. Peter's. On the other hand, David's creativity and the singing of the service music by choir members has continually anchored me in our online Sunday worship.

ORGANIST &
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

DAVID



ANNIE



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S &
YOUTH MINISTRY

In Annie, I have found an energetic and creative new comer to our staff who takes over the leadership of our children and youth ministries. Of all the ministries I can imagine, working with children in these times of pandemic is the most challenging, as many parents can attest. She has not only had the challenge of getting to know a new job, but has risen to the challenges of ministry in times of pandemic with a creative flair. Pay attention or you may just get flocked...

In Darlene, I have found someone who loves yoga. I think that is very cool, because she brings a peace and calm to our accounting that I deeply appreciate. It is an enormous blessing to me personally and to the parish to have Darlene's calm and competent presence managing our finances. More than being one less thing to worry about, it offers me as your priest the opportunity to focus my attention on preaching, teaching, praying, caring, the very things I felt called and ordained to do.

FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR

DARLENE



TONY

SEXTON

In Tony, I have found the man behind the scenes setting up, taking down and cleaning. While his work has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, I am grateful to Tony for his flexibility and his work of cleaning and sanitizing the nave so that we make these spaces available for private devotions and preparing for our in-person Sunday worship.

LISA

DIRECTOR OF PLAYGROUP

In Lisa, I have found a person with a passion for children and their development. Sadly the pandemic has required us to close the Playgroup for the time being, but we look forward to the day when we can reopen it and the children can continue to grow in the creative and nurturing community that Lisa and her staff create.

JANET



DIRECTOR OF
STEWARDSHIP & PARISH LIFE

In Janet, I have found a tireless sustainer and nourisher of St. Peter's life, who has a deep concern for our financial stewardship so that we can grow and share that life with one another. To borrow a Biblical image, wherever two or more St. Peter's folk are gathered together, Janet will be there, or at least has been there in the background organizing.

In Jacquelyn, I have found an open-hearted and creative person who loves to restore old furniture, which speaks of her ability to see the beauty in things that on the surface may not show it. I think as a parish we have seen her creative soul at work as she weaves simple photos into a montage that gladdens our hearts and connects us to our community in our online worship services. I also am impressed by her capacity to confront a technical challenge and learn. At the beginning of the pandemic she rapidly learned the art of video editing and streaming so that we seamlessly migrated from in-person worship to virtual worship.

JACQUELYN

DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS





ST. PETER'S OUTREACH

FROM THE ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS' BREAKFAST TO FLOCKING YOUR NEIGHBORS' YARD WITH FLAMINGOS, PARISHIONERS HAVE FOUND WAYS TO STAY ENGAGED AND HELP THE GREATER ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

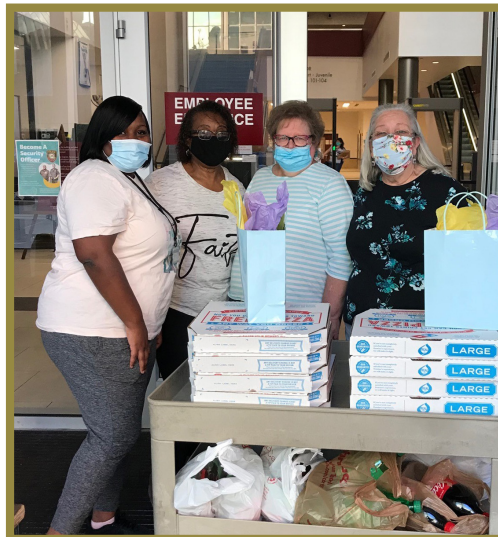
Parishioners gather with Bill Gilbert and Fr. Joseph for one of Urban League's big grocery giveaways this summer.

Different scenes of our flocks of flamingos. Proceeds for this fundraiser went to STL organization Best Buddies.

Ladies from the Woman's Guild deliver pizza and gifts for the Episcopal City Mission birthday party.

Parishioners dropping off pre-made breakfasts at the local fire and police stations for September's First Responders' Breakfast.

Jim and Bill Gilbert along with other parishioners prepare meals for the Sunday Hot Lunch to serve at Trinity CWE.





ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
110 N. WARSON ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63124



ROOTED IN FAITH
Forward in Hope