

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

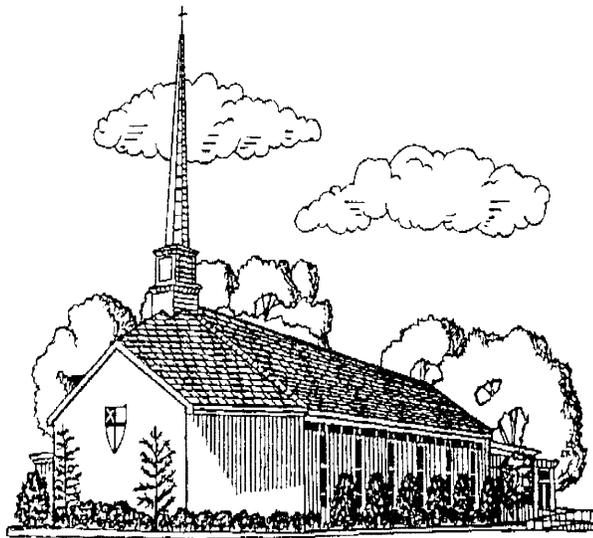
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller, D.Min., Rector
The Reverend Canon Ronald G. Albury, Priest Associate
The Reverend Helen M. Orlando, Deacon

Lisa Miner, Parish Administrator
Sue Legnani, Christian Education Director
Matt Smith, Music Director
Howard I. Black, 3rd, Treasurer
Mark Cantarella, Sexton
Maureen Joos, Loren Manni, Parish Nurses

Saint Peter's Church is a blessed community of faith, grounded in the power of God's transforming love, where Jesus Christ welcomes all to abundant life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we follow Him in prayer and praise, study and service.

2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

October 2, at 11:30 am

AGENDA

- Opening Prayers..... The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller, D.Min., Rector
- Report of the Nominating Committee Debbie Banecker
- Nominations from the Floor
- Appointment of Tellers and Distribution of Ballots Rector
- Declaration of Open Polls (*1/2 hour*)..... Rector
- Brunch – Williams Hall
- Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2015 Parish Meeting Barbara Kelly
- Ministry Reports Vestry members
- Deacon’s Report.....The Rev. Helen M. Orlando, Deacon
- Remarks by the WardensDebbie Banecker, Jennifer Buzby
- Old Business Rector
- New Business..... Rector
- Announcement of Election Results..... Rector
- Rector’s ThanksRector
- Miscellaneous.....
- Adjournment of Annual Meeting
- Closing Prayers.....The Rev. Helen M. Orlando, Deacon

Financial Meeting to take place Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 9:00 AM

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

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Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominations - 2016

The Nominating Committee for 2016 included Ben Jones, Jennifer Buzby, Andrew Larue, Chris Mc Crum and Debbie Banecker.

The following nominations were made by members of the parish and the Nominating Committee. They are listed below.

Warden, two year term: Jennifer Buzby

Vestry members: three - three year terms and Barbara Kelly, John Colaianni and Lisa Taylor.

Vestrymembers: one – two year term: Beckie McCammitt.

Delegates to Burlington Convocation: (6 & 6 alternates) Mike Orlando

Deputies to Diocesan Convention: (3 & 3 alternates) Mike Orlando

Endowment Board, two - three year term: Marty Banecker, Fran Mitchell

Candidate Biographies

For Vestry

Beckie McCammitt

My name is Beckie McCammitt, and I am 24 years old. I was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church in Merchantville, and became a member here at St. Peter's when I was about 4 years old. I graduated from Cherokee High School in 2010, after which I enrolled in a 3-3 year program with Muhlenberg College and Thomas Jefferson University. I received my Doctorate of Physical Therapy in August 2016 from Jefferson. I am currently seeking a position in pediatric physical therapy, possibly within a large hospital such as Nemours or Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Throughout my years at St. Peter's, I have been involved in a variety of activities, ministries, and programs. I attended Sunday School from 4 years old through high school, and was confirmed in 2005. I spent my teenage years at the church attending youth group, the Bishop's Ball, several Diocesan youth events, attending and then helping to teach Vacation Bible School, and being involved in St. Paul's Soup Kitchen in Camden, which I continue to do each month. I have been blessed to be a part of several different mission trips through the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, including two trips to Mississippi to help rebuild homes affected from Hurricane Katrina, and a trip to Ecuador to teach Vacation Bible School and build churches in remote villages. More recently, I organized the Crop Walk in 2015, assisted with Christmas Pageants, and just began teaching Sunday School for 1-3 grades this year. I enjoy utilizing my talents to serve God in any way I am able, and hope to use my talents as a member of the Vestry!

**2015 Annual Parish Meeting
September 27, 2015**

Fr. Don opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the nave at the conclusion of the 10:15 service. Nominations from the floor: Steve Haines, Leslie Haines, and Cindy Cullen for Burlington County Convocation.

Appointment of Teller and Distribution of Ballots: Fr. Don.

Polls opened at 11:40. Parishioners proceeded to Williams Hall after the dismissal.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Senior Warden Debbie Banecker presented the report and thanked current vestry members for their service.

Vestry Nominations:

- Warden, 2-year term: Debbie Banecker
- Vestry members, 3-year term: Andrew LaRue, Christopher McCrum, Lee Heine
- Vestry member, 1-year term: Mandy Hunter
- Delegates to Burlington County Convocation, 1-year term: Ben Jones, Betty Jones, Jim Beard, Danielle Colaianni, Sue Legnani, and Cynthia Sosnowski.
- Deputies to the Diocesan Convention, 1-year term: Daryl Albury, Mike Krug, Gena Krug, Mike Orlando, Jamieson Smith, Cynthia Sosnowski.

Nominating Committee report unanimously approved.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the 2014 minutes of the October 5, 2014 annual meeting unanimously approved. Minutes unanimously approved.

Attendee Remarks

Russ Carvin spoke about the recent church closings in Delran and Hammonton. He recommended that St. Peter's obtain the names and addresses of Hammonton parishioners and send them a letter of invitation.

Deacon's Report: The Rev. Helen M. Orlando

Dcn. Helen referred to her report in the Annual Report and provided updates on the MDG Committee and Episcopal Relief and Development, which have raised \$18,000 to help support Redemption School in the diocese of Haiti. Fr. Chery has been transferred. Dcn. Helen and Fr. Don will work with his replacement to maintain our relationship. Episcopal Church's MDG project expired and is replaced by Sustainable Goals. Dcn. Helen shared a quote from Archbishop Desmond Tutu regarding Jesus' compassion and pastoral care.

Remarks by the Warden: Debbie Banecker

Debbie spoke about the importance of being a giver. She encouraged parishioners to consider joining the vestry as a way of enhancing their experience at St. Peter's. Debbie noted that folks should not hesitate to join if the job seems daunting because vestry members work together as a team. Debbie thanked outgoing vestry members Joe Dinoto (stewardship), Laurel Smith (parish life), and Cindy Cullen (evangelism).

Polls closed at 12:25.

Election Results:

- Warden, 2-year term: Debbie Banecker
- Vestry members, 3-year term: Andrew LaRue, Christopher McCrum, Lee Heine
- Vestry member, 1-year term: Mandy Hunter
- Delegates to Burlington County Convocation, 1-year term: Ben Jones, Betty Jones, Jim Beard, Danielle Colaianni, Sue Legnani, and Cynthia Sosnowski. *Alternates:* Steve Haines, Leslie Haines, and Cindy Cullen.

- Deputies to the Diocesan Convention, 1-year term: Mike Krug, Gena Krug, Cynthia Sosnowski. *Alternates*: Daryl Albury, Mike Orlando, and Jamieson Smith.

New Business

Fr. Don thanked Michelle Scarpulla for her work as newsletter editor and photographer.

Fr. Don presented a 15-minute video explaining the Way of St. Paul Christian formation program offered by the diocese. Fr. Don would like to form a 6- to 10-member committee and begin the program in spring 2016. He asked the congregation to pray about their participation. Ken Montgomery asked about any age restrictions and opportunities for J2A member. Fr. Don noted J2A members and graduates will be included. Sue Legnani endorsed the program. Debbie asked Lisa Minernd to email parishioners the hyperlink to the Way of St. Paul website.

Fr. Don explained he expects to retire in July 2018. He hopes the Way of St. Paul program will strengthen the parish for future growth.

Rector's Thanks

Fr. Don began by thanking Lynn for all she does and for her love and encouragement of his ministry to St. Peter's. He expressed his appreciation to the following parishioners:

- Wardens and vestry by name, for hard work and for maintaining a good balance between fundraising and ministry. Outgoing members Joe, Cindy, and Laurel for their dedication.
- Dcn. Helen for devotion to her ministry, especially our relationship with Redemption School.
- Lisa Minernd for excellent work and a smile for everyone.
- Eleanor Meyer (retiring in November) for bringing joy to the music ministry.
- Sue Legnani for leading the Christian education council and for writing the 2015 VBS program.
- Mark Cantarella, who has added light outdoor work to his duties as sexton.
- Howard Black for his service as treasurer.
- Jeff Moore for his leadership of the annual golf outing, and for all of the time and effort involved in successfully executing this important event.
- Sunday school teachers, St. Paul's breakfast program volunteers, Altar Guild, Caps and Laps, nursery volunteers, ushers, acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, newsletter and office volunteers, coffee hour hosts.
- Everyone who helped prepare and clean up after the Annual Meeting breakfast.
- Fr. Sosnowski and Fr. Ron for their ministry to St. Peter's.

Attendee Remarks

Lynn thanked John Colaianni and everyone involved in repairing the rectory bathrooms.

Eleanor endorsed Russ' suggestion that we extend an invitation to the church in Hammonton and recommended we also include Delran.

Dcn. Helen suggested we all thank Fr. Don.

Conclusion

A motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:57.

Closing prayers.

PARISH STATISTICS FOR JANUARY – AUGUST 2016

COMPARED TO JANUARY – AUGUST 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist	148	147
Baptism	7	8
Marriages	2	2
Burials	7	11
Prayer Book Offices	65	77
Confirmed	12	0
Total Sunday Attendance (<i>includes Saturday service</i>)	5,562	4,834
Total Attendance at All Services	7,093	7,018
81 Private Communions (as of 8/31/15)		
Active Households as of 9/28/15	270	
Includes 7 new families		
Active Households as of 9/28/16	265	
Includes 8 new families		

CLERGY/STAFF REPORTS

REPORT OF THE RECTOR - THE REV. CANON DONALD J. MULLER, D.MIN.

Saint Peter's Church is a blessed community of faith, grounded in the power of God's transforming love, where Jesus Christ welcomes all to abundant life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we follow Him in prayer and praise, study and service.

We don't tend to spend much time holding up the "Mission Statement" that we all approved many years ago. It sets before us what God is doing: blessing our congregation, recognizing God's love that transforms us, Jesus' welcome of all to abundant life. It also holds up for us the empowering of the Holy Spirit so that we follow Him in prayer and praise, study and service.

PRAYER I can't tell you how often I hear someone say "I can't get through the whole intercessory prayer list in one sitting." That is not a bad thing. Actually, it is a wonderful thing, so many people believe in the power of prayer and want us to pray for them or someone they know. It is not just those on the Prayer Chain, or the Order of St. Luke members, it is also many parishioners who take their bulletins home on Sunday, and pray through the prayer list. That prayer list is also read completely through at every Wednesday Healing Service, Morning Prayer, and the Advent/Lenten Morning Prayer and Evening Prayers Services. Of course, prayer is a major part of our Saturday and Sunday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. It is prayer at the beginning and ending of every Vestry Meeting, at the bed side of those who are in the hospital or nursing home.

PRAISE In the Fall of 2015, our long time, beloved Organist/Choir Director Eleanor Meyer decided to step off the organ bench. We celebrated her years of devotion, and thanked her for helping to lead our praises of God. Roberta Price stepped in on the piano for a little bit as we searched for someone to help lead our praises. Matt Smith just happened to have come from Illinois to work on a Masters Degree at Westminster Choir College. It seems God was leading us to each other. Matt's enthusiasm, knowledge, and talent have built upon Eleanor's legacy. We have praised God week by week and on special days: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Names, Epiphany, Holy Week, and more. There are more people involved in leading worship than you can imagine: acolytes, altar guild, choir, clergy, Eucharistic ministers, intercessors, lectors, musicians, and ushers. We joined our Methodist and Presbyterian friends in a Good Friday Service at Medford United Methodist Church.

STUDY In January, your Vestry was facing a difficult decision. The budget was out of balance, more expenses than pledges and other income. The only lines in the budget that could be cut to bring it into balance was the position of Christian Formation Director. We knew that to do so was going counter to our mission and where we believed God was calling us. Before eliminating the position we decided to bring the issue to the congregation. Announcements were made and letters sent to ask the congregation to help. YOU DID! You made it very clear that Christian Formation is one of the key aspects of our life together in Christ. THANK YOU! We have a thriving Christian Formation program thanks to Sue Legnani's leadership and the numerous adults who give of their time and talents for the children God has brought us. We have also had numerous adult study opportunities: Sunday mornings on Transforming Questions; Wednesday Bible Study on Matthew; and the Lenten Weekday evening and Sunday morning Growing a Rule of Life.

SERVICE In 2013 I received "The Kitchen of Hope Community Service & Leadership Award." I was shocked and bewildered. It really was an honor for all of St. Peter's then and continues to be today: Fill a Back Pack for children going back to school through Oaks

Integrated Services; Thanksgiving and Easter food baskets for the Christian Caring Center; Valentines for Weisman's Children's Hospital and Rehab.; gifts to Episcopal Relief and Development; Christmas gifts to children of the Virtua Early Intervention program and the Christian Caring Center; ongoing food collection for the Christian Caring Center; Project Interaction at St. Paul's Breakfast Program in Camden along with taking clothing; monies raised and prayers said for Redemption School in Gonaives, Haiti; Seneca High School Coat Drive; Calendar, Greeting Cards, and Note Cards for residents of the Evergreens and Care One; Child Fund for Jobs and Rubino; Migrant Farm Workers Clothing Drive; CROP WALK; Caps and Laps lap blankets, prayer shawls, newly baptized caps and blankets; our Blue Christmas Service; and so much more. I am in awe of how God has blessed us and drawn us to follow Him in the world. We are not done yet. We cannot rest on our laurels.

There are challenges facing us as there are with most Churches. God has a mission in the world and we are his church to help in that mission.

We are blessed with dedicated staff: Deacon Helen, Lisa Miner, Matt Smith, Sue Legnani, Mark Cantarella, Howard Black III, and our parish nurses Maureen Joos and Loren Manni. St. Peter's is blessed by the many parishioners who actively minister in Christ's name, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller, Rector

REPORT OF THE DEACON – THE REV. HELEN M ORLANDO, DEACON

You get closer to Christ by coming closer to each other. As Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me."

So you begin...I begin. I picked up one person – maybe if I didn't pick up that one person. I wouldn't have picked up 42,000.

The whole work is only a drop in the ocean. But if I didn't put a drop in, the ocean would be one drop less.

*Same thing for you
Same thing for your family
Same thing in the church where you go*

Just begin...one, one, one.

Mother Teresa

+ + +

Fifteen years ago, I wrote my first "Report of the Deacon" for St. Peter's. Since that time, much has changed, but many of my routine responsibilities remain the same. So, before I launch into the typical "here is what I did last year" report mode, I invite you to take some time reading over the words of Mother Teresa quoted above. If you read no further, you will miss knowing that I serve (for example) as the present secretary of Burlington Convocation, but you will know what I am about and how I see my role at St. Peter's. It is really quite simple: I am here to encourage you to "pick up" at least one person and add "a drop" of compassion to the ocean. And, I am here to help you do so. In all areas where my areas of service are by choice, I have done my best to serve in ways that support that role.

I have spent most of my time during this past year chairing and working with your International Outreach Team (formerly, MDG Team), which currently is leading St. Peter's in service to the students, faculty, and staff of Redemption School, Haiti. The Team also supports the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. My involvement with this work at St. Peter's has led me increase my activity as an active member of our diocesan Global Goals Task Force, after having played rather a passive role during the years when family responsibilities prevented me from making most meetings. Of course, the most exciting parts of my involvement with our International Outreach Team during the past year have been the success of our first International Fair Trade Gift Market held on November 14, 2015, and the chance to visit Haiti in early April, along with our Christian Education Director, Sue Legnani. Please see the report of the International Outreach Team for my report of our experiences there.

My regular responsibilities include serving as deacon at two services each weekend and at all special services, contributing to the monthly newsletter, preaching on a semi-regular basis, crafting the weekly Prayers of the People, coordinating the Prayer Vine, welcoming visiting priests, and recruiting, training and supervising our Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and Worship Leaders. Welcome to Jillian Floyd, who joined the ranks of our Eucharistic Ministers this year; Mark Kaczarowski, new Worship Leader; and Marilyn Flagler, new lector at St. Peter's. All give freely of their time to serve God and his church at St. Peter's alongside their more experienced peers.

In my "free time" I serve as a clergy deputy to Diocesan Convention, clergy delegate to and secretary of Burlington Convocation, and do my best to attend the many special fellowship and educational events provided by our diocese. For years, I have served as your United Thank Offering coordinator. Hats off to Abby Floyd, just beginning her second year in this new role. Thank you, Abby.

I thank God for the great joy I experience when carrying Holy Communion to those unable to be with us at church services, sharing in your joys and sorrows, sending the newly-baptized out to "shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father," and sending all of you out at the end of each celebration of the Holy Eucharist to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." We do that best by "picking up" even just one.

Just begin...one, one, one.

Faithfully,
Deacon Helen

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN – DEBBIE BANECKER

Becoming connected to St. Peter's increases your spirituality, closeness with God, and can be very rewarding. Being involved with a ministry helps to forge relationships with parishioners, usually benefitting you more than St. Peter's. As a Vestry member, I have spoken to many members in hopes that they would be willing to join the Vestry. I have to tell you that the response I get most is "I don't have the time." This response perplexes me as I always thought that you put God first in your life, then your family, and last your job. The current Vestry members have full time jobs, families, and are also active in more than one ministry at St. Peter's. We make the time for St. Peter's.

Some of my best times have been working with fellow Vestry members planning a church function – the end of August ice-cream social was a fun time for parishioners of all ages. I cherish my relationships with my fellow choir members. Although I have an instrumental musical background, St. Peter's choir is the only choir I have ever been in. My fellow EM's are

also a fun group. We laugh at our mishaps on the altar. One time we had 5 EM's (more than one EM volunteered to substitute for someone) and I robed, then unrobed, then came back to the altar in my choir robe for communion. I'll never forget the time when my chalice was empty and I refilled it with the wine which was blessed for those parishioners receiving the sacrament at home. And not to mention reading some of the Old Testament names correctly. Thank goodness, Mike Orlando was a Classics major in college and can help me with the pronunciations. Won't you join the Vestry or another ministry in the future?

We've had another productive year at St. Peter's. Please take the time to read and reflect on the Vestry reports to the congregation in this Annual Report.

Your Vestry has been continuously hard at work finding ways to reduce the deficit in our budget. Several fundraisers have significantly improved our financial status: Christine Adler's Twenty-One Demonstration, Designer Bag Bingo, and Run & Pray 5K. Of course, our Annual Golf Outing, headed by Jeff Moore, continues to be our biggest fundraiser. Continue to support upcoming fundraisers and events.

Our facilities have improved with work such as, replacing the roof shingles over Moore Chapel, rectory repair and construction, painting in the Narthex and the vast improvement with weeding and landscaping in the Memorial Garden.

Continuing our outreach, we have successfully opened our doors to outside groups: MOMS Club, the Tabernacle Church, AA, NA, Big Band Express, Boy Scouts, and the Rutgers Summer Reading Program.

I would like to thank the outgoing Vestry members, Mandy Hunter and Marty Banecker, for their hard work and efforts in making St. Peter's a community for worship, fellowship, and growth. Thank you to our new Vestry members for volunteering to be leaders of our church.

In life, there is always a "Give and Take." Some of us at St. Peter's are givers, some are takers and some give and take. I would like to see everyone give back to St. Peter's by joining the Vestry or one of the many ministries we have to offer. You will find increased spirituality, peace, and satisfaction in your daily lives. Please pray about how you can make a difference at St. Peter's.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Banecker

VESTRY REPORTS

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – ANDREW LaRUE

I want to thank all of our parishioners who participated in our Stewardship Campaign this past year by completing their pledge card and supporting St. Peter's. Your participation in our Stewardship Campaign enabled the Vestry to make a budget and plan and organized the various parish activities over the past year. We look forward to a successful year and to increase our pledge commitments from last year.

Stewardship is not just making a financial pledge on Consecration Sunday; it is a combination of our treasure, time and talent.

I am very excited this year being part of the Vestry as the Stewardship Chairperson. We will be using the familiar Consecration Sunday program for this year's Stewardship Campaign. "It's Coming, November 6, 2016."

Finally, I would like to thank all who helped and participated in this year's Ice Cream Social, it was great success. This was my first year on the Vestry and it has been challenging and rewarding. I look forward to a successful year in stewardship for St. Peter's.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew LaRue

REPORT OF FUNDRAISING – MIKE KRUG

The vestry coordinated two fundraising efforts in 2016. The first fundraiser was Designer Bag Bingo and was a huge success that raised over \$6,000. The next fundraiser was the Run & Pray 5K which broke even. I also wanted to thank the Moore Family for their dedication to the Golf Outing which supports many ministries at St. Peter's.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Krug

REPORT OF PROPERTY AND GROUNDS - MARTY BANECKER

The property and grounds of St Peter's are looked after by a member of the Vestry and numerous parishioners who assist he/she with bigger jobs. We also get proposals for lawn cutting, snow removal, and big jobs that require a professional. We recently had a new roof installed on the Moore Chapel to replace the forty year old worn out shingles. We made sure that the roof was done by a reputable contractor at the agreed price and time. We also had two new baths installed in the rectory when it was discovered that a small water leak had destroyed the subfloors in both areas. As with any property, timely maintenance is critical. We try to fix the little things before they become big fixes.

Work on the church grounds is ongoing but we always have a clean-up day in the spring to pull weeds and spread mulch. For the past two years we have concentrated our efforts on renewing the Memorial Garden with new plantings and a power wash of the gazebo and fence. Special thanks to Joe Santangelo for painting the railing and Lisa Miner for weeding and sprucing up the Memorial Garden.

If you would like to help work on the grounds or would like to work to beautify a certain area, contact me at mbanecker@comcast.com or 609-953-0624 and we'll be most appreciative of your efforts. Thanks so much for all of your efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Banecker

REPORT OF PARISH LIFE – MANDY HUNTER

This year, I was the vestry member in charge of Parish life. February 2016 was a busy month for us. On Tuesday, February 9, 2016, St. Peter's hosted its annual Pancake Supper. Judging by the sign-up sheets and the cash box at the end of the night it looks like we had approximately 55 guests and made around \$310. We had many people help cook in the kitchen and the children did a wonderful job seating guests and taking their orders. That money will be useful for youth

programs. That weekend, on Saturday, February 13, 2016, we had approximately 20 diners take part in the annual Spaghetti Dinner. Participants joined in fellowship and enjoyed a meal in Williams Hall. The Pine Barrens Quartet visited again and serenaded the guests with lovely romantic acapella music. It was a nice evening.

Following these events was the Agape Meal on March 24th. We had a good amount of participants for the holy meal. Finally, the Parish Picnic saw about 85 people participate and a fun outdoor “coffee hour”.

Coffee hour saw a decent amount of volunteers and forming a committee to help recruit volunteers for the future year is a goal. Without the help of Bev Scollay, coffee hour would not be possible. She has kept the kitchen inventory stocked and has cleaned it up very nicely. Numerous vestry members have also helped with the cooking and cleaning during the big events. Without these members, these activities would not be possible. I am very grateful for the help given for these events. Lisa Minerd has also done a huge service by making sure all the events are advertised and that we can find all the supplies needed for big events.

Respectfully submitted,
Mandelle Hunter

REPORT ON COMMUNITY MINISTRIES – BARBARA KELLY

The disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?” — Matt 15:33

This verse from Matthew’s Gospel speaks to just one of the many outreach missions of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. Our congregation is always ready to minister to the needs of our brothers and sisters in South Jersey and beyond. Under the leadership of many talented people, St. Peter’s has established an extensive outreach program, providing life-enhancing and life-saving assistance to needy and deserving people.

Our local ministries provide food, clothing, school supplies, and spiritual assistance to hundreds of individuals and families in Burlington County and surrounding areas. St. Peter’s is one of the strongest supporters of the **Christian Caring Center** in Browns Mills, NJ, which serves the hungry and homeless. Thanks to you, St. Peter’s provides a steady supply of critically needed food to the CCC pantry. The monthly collection effort is led by **Joe Kelly**. We also support the CCC’s Easter and Thanksgiving meal collections and Christmas gifts for children.

Virtua Early Intervention Christmas Adopt-a-Family, led by **Barbara LaRue**, completed its second successful year. St. Peter’s sponsors a family by combining our efforts with the CCC giving tree. Parishioners donate new toys, clothes, and personal items. Children in the program have physical, mental, and emotional disabilities and their families experience financial hardship.

The **St. Paul’s Church Breakfast Program** is a long-standing ministry. A group of St. Peter’s volunteers led by **Kelly Trimble** and **Harry Campbell**, drives to St. Paul’s the second Sunday of each month to cook a hot breakfast for Camden residents. They feed an average of 90 to 100 individuals, and sometimes as many as 120, during each visit. This ministry also provides gently used clothing. Volunteers include 10 to 20 adults and teens, providing high school students with valuable hands-on experience caring for others.

St. Peter’s Caps & Laps, a group led by **Mary Allan**, provides new, hand-stitched items to the youngest and oldest members of our community. These include caps to group newborns at local

hospitals and babies baptized at St. Peter's blankets, and prayer shawls to the sick and elderly. Caps & Laps also collects new calendars and greeting cards each year for residents at The Evergreens and CareOne. Each Christmas, Caps & Laps assembles and delivers gift bags of calendars, cards, stationery, and pens.

Operation Fill-a-Backpack benefits local children with emotional and behavioral disabilities through Oaks Integrated Care in Mt. Holly, NJ. St. Peter's Operation Fill-a-Backpack drive begins each year in August. In 2016, the large collection bin in the narthex was overflowing.

St. Peter's warm outerwear drive, led by **Danielle Colaianni**, provides gently used items donated by parishioners to the Seneca High School thrift shop. Coats, hoodies, hats, gloves, and scarves not suitable for high schoolers are delivered to St. Paul's Church, Camden.

Immigrant Worker Outreach was added in 2016. In March and April, St. Peter's donated new and gently used hats, caps, sunscreen, coolers, bedding, chairs, toys, and other items needed by seasonal workers who spend their summers on the farms in South Jersey.

Through **ChildFund International**, we provide financial assistance and friendship to Rubino in Bolivia and Jobsario in Brazil. Our annual sponsorship provides them with medical care (including immunizations), dental checkups, food, textbooks, and school supplies. Our Christmas gifts enable them to purchase much-needed items. The ChildFund project in their countries provides a school facility and teaching staff; labor and materials for capital projects, such as plumbing and electricity in community buildings; visiting healthcare workers; and adult classes in nutrition, child care, and agriculture. Please follow the Jobs' and Rubino's progress on the community ministries bulletin board in Williams Hall.

I am privileged to be involved in community ministries and am grateful to all of you for your generous support. Please contact me with comments or suggestions for additions and improvements to our programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kelly

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH TEAM – DEACON HELEN

St. Peter's International Outreach Team (previously known as the MDG Team) began in 2008 as an outgrowth of an adult study class about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Energized by what they had learned, class members and others formed a committee to fight extreme poverty in developing countries. Our first project was to make and fulfill a five-year pledge of \$3000.00 per year to support Millennium Development work in Mayange, Rwanda. My October 2013 Deacon's Bench article in St. Peter's "Good News" detailed the progress made in Mayange through our support and that of many individuals, churches, and corporations.

The same Deacon's Bench" article ended with the following words: "Work in Mayange, Rwanda and throughout the world will and must continue. The scourge of extreme poverty and its many consequences still enslave much of the world. But together, we have made a dent in the need for some of our far-off neighbors. My hope is that, as we have worked to serve those previously unknown strangers in Mayange, so many of whom were hungry, thirsty, naked and imprisoned; we have learned to see Christ in each one of them, for we are told: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Now, thanks to your continued support and enthusiasm, St. Peter's is reaching out not only financially, but

also prayerfully and personally to unite with other members of Christ's family: the students, faculty, and staff of Redemption School in Gonaives, Haiti.

"Redemption," a private Episcopal school run by the Diocese of Haiti, educates between 375-and 400 students in grades Pre-K-12 each year. In the majority of cases, students' families are able to contribute only a portion of the stated \$300.00 yearly tuition; many are able to pay nothing. St. Peter's has pledged to provide a minimum of \$2,000.00 per year to ease the necessary expense of faculty salaries. We have recently sent in the final payment towards our second year's pledge. During the past year, major funding sources for the fulfillment of our pledge have been the Sunday school offering, Advent and Lenten coin folders, donations received from the inspired "Dollar-a-Day" program, weekly sales of ShopRite Cards, and last November's International Fair Trade Gift Market. Thank you, all, for your support! We also thank the diocesan MDG Task Force (now Global Goals Task Force) for providing \$750.00 in matching funds. Looking forward, we have challenged the congregation to "Build-a-Lego School" and are in the midst of plans for St. Peter's 2nd Annual International Fair Trade Gift Market being held on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

Although fundraising is the most visible part of the International Outreach Team's work, it is only part of the companion relationship of financial support, prayer and presence that has been developing between our congregation, the students and staff of Redemption School, the congregation of the school's parent church, St. Basil the Great, and Father Joseph Tancrel Diegue, current priest-in-charge. I invite each of you to keep all of them in your personal prayers, just as we do in the daily services of Morning Prayer and in our weekly Prayers of the People.

In January 2015, the Rev. Jean Fils Chery, then priest-in-charge of Redemption School, inaugurated the personal relationship between Redemption School and St. Peter's. This past April, Sue Legnani, our Christian Education Director, and I made the first return trip to Haiti. While there, we took part in the Haiti Episcopal Connection conference in Port-au-Prince and then travelled to Gonaives, Haiti. What follows is a slightly edited copy of the summary of our trip I provided for the May 2016 Vestry meeting:

The Haiti Episcopal Connection conference was an incredibly uplifting and helpful experience. The worship was meaningful, the music (provided by the Bell Choir of St. Vincent's School for Disabled Children and the Choir of Holy Trinity Cathedral) was beautiful, and the witness of over 150 Americans and Canadians gathered with 70 Haitian clergy working together for the good of our Haitian sisters and brothers was both inspiring and hope-giving. Little by little, inch by inch, change is happening.

While I attended focus groups on Projects in the North (where Gonaives is located) and the Haiti Partnership Program, Sue attended a double-period workshop on the Educational System in Haiti. At that workshop, Sue gathered a lot of valuable information which will guide some of our future interactions with Fr. Diegue and Redemption School. Sue and I also made many personal acquaintances of some of the prime movers and shakers of the Episcopal Church now working in and/or on behalf of Haiti. I have no doubt that these contacts will prove to be very valuable. To put in a plug for Haiti: The Hotel Montana in Petion-Ville is a stunningly beautiful and well-run hotel.

After the conference, Father Diegue and his wife, Carole, kindly drove Sue and I from Port-au-Prince (site of the conference) to Gonaives (They also returned us to Port-au-Prince for our flight home.) With unexpected and much appreciated generosity, they invited us both to their home just outside of Port-au-Prince and to the rectory in Gonaives for all of our meals except

breakfast. Father Diegue was a caring and very protective host and Carol a wonderful cook and friendly hostess.

On Saturday, April 9, we visited St. Basil's Church and were guided through Redemption Institute's 60-year-old primary school building, which includes the rector's office, a self-supporting clinic, a one-year-old radio station (Redemption FM), and the school's computer room. Father Diegue introduced us to St. Basil's vestry on Saturday evening and used our time together to detail his priorities for Redemption School, which follow, in his order of priority:

- 1-Be able to pay all faculty in full and on time
- 2-Provide a cafeteria for school lunches. A room already exists, but would need to be prepared for this use. Unclear as to whether Father Diegue also wants to provide food for the lunches.
- 3-Upgrade the Primary School building. All parts (floors, walls, ceilings) of the building are made of cement block covered very roughly with more cement. Upon entering the building, both Sue and I felt as if we were entering a prison. At a minimum, floors and walls need to be smoothed and walls painted.

Sunday morning was spent worshipping with the people of Gonaives and students of Redemption School. Sue and I had a chance to speak to the congregation afterwards and to present a book of photographs of St. Peter's (thank you, Michelle Scarpulla!) and other gifts from our Sunday school students. I appreciated the opportunity to serve as Deacon for the service.

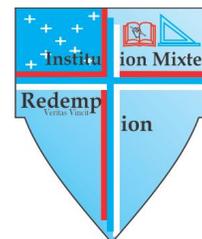
Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon

International Outreach Team members are: Mary Allan, Laurie Barbato, Ann Charles, Edie Green, Ben and Betty Jones, Sue Legnani, Tiffany Myers, Michelle Scarpulla, and Beverly Scollay.

Plan now to do your Christmas shopping at...



St. Peter's Second Annual International Fair Trade Gift Market Saturday, November 5, 9am-2pm Proceeds Benefit The Students of Redemption School, Haiti



Items for sale will be unique, handmade items provided by SERRV, an established non-profit, fair trade organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. Whether you purchase items available at our International Gift Market or place an order for special items, you will have your choice of a broad variety of merchandise from around the world. Look for stunning baskets, beautiful scarves, wall décor, dishes and serve-ware, musical instruments, children's toys,

stocking stuffers, and Christmas décor of all kinds. Foodies will welcome our fair trade coffees, teas, chocolate, and soup mixes.

Let's make this year's Gift Market even better than last year's! To volunteer your help, just fill out one of the orange volunteer forms on the narthex table or contact Deacon Helen via the church office, 856-596-6415 (home) or dcnhelen@stpetersmedford.org. Thank you.

REPORT OF THE BOY SCOUTS - Troop 26

107 Merit badges awarded to 32 scouts

19 scouts have had 24 rank advancements

2 scouts have become Eagle.

Currently have 3 Eagle Project Proposals in the works.

13 scouts went to Yawgoog summer camp in Rhode Island.

6 scouts went to Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico.

6 scouts went to Florida National High Adventure SeaBase, in the Keys.

Currently have 40 scouts registered with the troop (this includes everyone even the aged out scouts)

3 have aged out

January 2016- The Troop held its annual Court of Honor at Pine Tree campground in Tabernacle.

February- Operation Polar Bear held at Pine Hill in Berlin. Scouts participated in the Klondike Derby. A handful braved the elements and camped over. Scouts attended Scout Sunday at St Peter's.

March- The Troop traveled to Shawnee mountain for a day of skiing. They spent the night camping and on the way home stopped for a hike to Sunfish Pond.

March/April- The Troop held its annual Easter flower sale. On the 31st, they headed to Washington, DC for a 4 day weekend, taking in the sights around our Nation's capital.

May/June- The Troop was busy preparing for the two high adventure trips. The crews participated in practice hikes/swims in various locations to sharpen their skills.

July- Summer camp in RI, two weeks of hiking and camping in NM, one week of sailing in the Keys.

August- The Troop went white water rafting this month instead of it's usual June date. Attendance was low in June, so the trip was moved to August. 25 Parents and Scouts attending.

September- Back to school. The Troop just held elections for new leadership positions, electing Matt Mason it's Senior Patrol Leader. Ryan Scannell and Craig Droke were elected Assistants.

October/November/December- We plan on helping with setup, cleanup, parking, and where ever needed at the Apple Festival and The Dickens Festival. The Troop will try to squeeze in some fall camping locally one weekend.

In addition to the listed monthly events, the Troop participated in many other projects:

We held two Courts of Honor in May and September to hand out various awards and achievements.

The Troop, thanks to Scott Minchall and Ryan Scannell (Den Chief) have increased their recruitment effort, lending a hand at several Cub Scout events.

Our annual fall Scout Popcorn sale is currently underway. Monies earned are used activities and camperships.

The Troop introduced two unique Merit Badges thanks to John Scannell and Mike Kennedy. John led the Astronomy Merit Badge, which include many different nights of star gazing. Mike guided the Aviation Merit Badge, complete with a local airplane ride.

The Troop helped setup and takedown the Movies in the Park equipment each week. This encompassed 8 weeks utilizing 6 Scouts per night for a total of 48 Scouts.

We completed the line striping in the St Peter's Church parking lot last fall.

The Troop helped three young men with their Eagle Scout projects. Thomas Beitel built gardening tables for the seniors at Medford Leas. Gannon Sloves spruced up and landscaped the sign for the Public Service Building. Ryan Minshall built a containment system and moved a mountain of mulch around the playground at Mill St park.

Respectfully submitted,
George Youngkin, Scoutmaster

**REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT BOARD – FRAN MITCHELL/HOWARD BLACK,
3rd**

St. Peter's Endowment Board was established in 2008 to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds. The Endowment Fund is funded through a variety of gift vehicles; including bequests in wills, charitable remainder trusts, other trusts, life insurance policies, real estate, securities, stock, other life income gifts and other property. The Board will receive and administer these gifts in a manner faithful to loyalty and devotion to God expressed by the donors, and in accord with the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of New Jersey, and the policies of St. Peter's.

The Board is continuing the Vestry's designation of the Diocesan Trust Fund as the appropriate depository for the funds. Gifts and interest received in the past year have raised the value of the fund to \$47, 323,29.

Members of the Board and others are available to assist parishioners in matters of this regard. Gifts to the Fund can be made at any time by anyone and in whatever vehicle the donor wishes to use in conformity with the gift policy.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Mitchell, Chairman

REPORT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –SUE LEGNANI

I have started my seventh year as Director of Christian Formation at St. Peter's. Christian formation is something I feel passionate about and have been involved in for over thirty years, both as a volunteer and as a paid professional. It is my ministry to be a part of making disciples of Jesus in the work of the learning and experiences provided on Sunday morning and at other times during the year for children, youth and adults. But, I can't do it alone. It truly takes a village, or in this case, a congregation to make disciples to go into the world to tell the story of salvation to our friends and neighbors outside of the walls of the church. We are blessed to have so many volunteers who give of their time, talents and treasure to make this happen.

This past year not only did I have teachers "re-up" to teach in our Sunday School, but I had a parent, Michelle Scarpulla, volunteer to lead a youth group that used a theme called "Destination Unknown". The goal of this group was to give the youth, especially in Rite 13, a chance to build community together and to go outside of the church walls to see how their faith can be applied there. Each month they traveled to a destination that was kept secret and then revealed to them when they arrived. They were given some hints ahead of time in the form of scripture verses they had to look up. On the way to the destination a conversation was started related to the trip. Once at the site, they had a tour, activity, read scripture and prayed. This has proven to be a big success and the youth definitely look forward to what the next "Destination Unknown" will be.

Finding teachers to be with our children each Sunday in Sunday School always feels a little daunting, but God is good, and there always seem to be good volunteers that come forward. The staff also acts as the Christian Education Committee to me, and helps and provides advice for the cross generational programs we have during the year. Their faithfulness, talent, and willingness to give time out of their busy lives are a testament to their commitment to be disciples to the children and youth of our parish.

Other opportunities for our children and teens to serve our parish are serving breakfast at St. Paul's in Camden. The J2A class, as well as those who are post Confirmation, faithfully does this each month. They are led by Tiffany Myers and Dave Lusk who are both experienced leaders for this group, and bring a lot of enthusiasm and their own vibrant Christian lives to their ministry with the youth.

The Rite 13 class made the Pascal Candle for our Easter celebration. This class is led by Steve and Sheila Miller, and Anita Beard has helped with the creative efforts of making the Pascal Candle. Steve and Sheila have been with this group of youth since the kids were in first grade. They have formed a strong bond with the youth and delight in sharing in the enthusiasm of the group. We are all very grateful to Anita for her artful help with the Pascal Candle, as well as the time she takes to teach the kids about the symbolism and the important part it plays in our celebration of Easter.

The children, teachers and assistants in Pre-K through Grade 9 made lovely Valentines in February that were taken to Weisman Children's Rehab Hospital. Not only is this a fun activity, but it provides a welcome treat for the children who are patients at the hospital. Our congregation also provided other treats like coloring books, crayons, puzzles and stickers that Kelly Wu organized in a large basket and delivered before Valentine's Day. We always receive a letter thanking us for this act of kindness.

Barbara LaRue and Tina Sunlitis are our Godly Play teachers. Barb has done this for many years and brings her training in Special Education to this ministry as well. Tina is now a certified Godly Play teacher having completed the three full days of training last year. Tina Rubano,

Jenny Reeves and Jillian Floyd assisted in this class. They helped to make the children feel welcomed and to settle into the routine of the class.

You may have heard a lot of laughter and lively activity coming from the children in grades 1-3 and 4-5 on a Sunday morning. This is thanks to the teachers in these grades who all bring their enthusiasm to class with them. There have been so many great discussions, imaginative crafts and curiosity that have been encouraged during the year. Thanks to this great group of teachers: Jenn Brownlee, Debbie Worsdell, Geri Blum, Chris McCrum, Brian Miller, Kristine Adler, Ken Montgomery, Alexis Gosewisch and Nancy Shumen.

One question that I think always needs to be addressed is how do we make our faith real for our children. When St. Peter's embarked on our relationship with Redemption School in Haiti I felt it was important to try to give our children a glimpse into what the life of a Haitian child might be like. Our Vacation Bible School seemed like a good opportunity to do this. Although I never wrote a VBS program before, I found it to be not only challenging, but fun as well. Using children's story books written by Haitians about life in Haiti and other materials available on the internet I worked with our VBS volunteers to put together a five night program that brought the usual fun songs, crafts, games, stories and prayer that the kids have come to look forward to each summer. I think by the end of the week the children had a better idea of what life and faith in Haiti for children of their age is like.

The Nursery was remodeled several years ago to provide a safe and pleasant place for children up to 3 years old to play during the 10:15 service. We have had several volunteers who staff it, but not many families who use it. Please take advantage of this ministry. Thanks go to Jenny Reeves, Angela McCrum, Tina Sunlitis, Brian & Mandy Hunter and Jillian Floyd who staffed the Nursery.

A service is held in the Chapel during the beginning of the 10:15 am service for children 3 years old to second grade. Laurel Smith and Tiffany Myers lent their talents with music to make this children's *Service of the Word* more kid friendly. We all join the service in the church at the Peace.

I want to thank Loren Manni, the Vestry liaison for Christian Formation, for all of her help with the Advent Wreath workshop, Christmas Pageant and the many behind the scenes details that come along during the year. Her willingness to service a second term on the Vestry to be a part of the Christian Formation ministry is much appreciated.

Last but not least, a large part of my job is making good resources available for adults, youth and children to help them grow their faith when they are out in the world. The resources that are chosen are to help the members of St. Peter's model the Christian life for those around them. Please feel free to ask for help or resources at any time.

The Sunday School staff for 2015-2016

Godly Play: Tina Sunlitis, Barbara LaRue, Tina Rubano, Jenny Reeves, Jillian Floyd

Grades 1-3: Jennifer Brownlee, Debbie Worsdell, Geri Blum, Chris McCrum, Brian Miller

Grades 4-5: Alexis Gosewisch, Nancy Shumen, Kristine Adler, Ken Montgomery

Rite 13 (Grades 6-7): Sheila and Steve Miller

J2A (Grades 8-9): Tiffany Myers, Dave Lusk

Nursery: Jenny Reeves, Angela McCrum, Tina Sunlitis, Brian & Mandy Hunter and Jillian Floyd

Children's Chapel: Laurel Smith and Tiffany Myers

Loren Manni, Vestry liaison

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Legnani, Christian Education Director

YOUTH GROUP – MICHELLE SCARPULLA

In the fall of 2015, the youth group at St. Peter's was resurrected using the exciting curriculum "Destination Unknown." All youth in Rite 13 and J2A were invited to attend these meetings which took them to secret locations. Each month, students received an invitation in the mail that included a Bible verse which served as their clue, a list of items to bring with them, and a day and time to arrive at church. After gathering at St. Peter's, the youth would participate in an ice breaker and a name game, join together in prayer, and then load up to drive to their destination. Along the way, youth would pepper their drivers with questions about where they were going, participate in guided discussions or just sing along to the radio. Once on location, the youth would participate in whatever the location had to offer and then listen to a Bible reading, discuss the reading and share a meal or a snack. During our first year, the youth group traveled to a bonfire at Indian Acres, a dark room, the mall, a funeral parlor, a hill, a prison, and a movie. We finished the year by staying at St. Peter's and working on a community service project which resulted in cards being sent to some of our ill and home-bound parishioners and over 50 bags being assembled to be distributed to homeless in Philadelphia. It was a fun and enriching year, not only for the youth, but for the adults involved as well.

During the 2016-17 school year, the youth group will again continue to follow the Destination Unknown format. Michelle Scarpulla is the youth group leader and recruits one or two other adults each month to help chaperone, drive and lead the meetings. All parishioners are welcome to be involved—even if you aren't a parent of one of the youth group members! If you work or are affiliated with an interesting business or location, and can think of a spiritual connection, we'd love to come visit you on one of our trips. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Michelle at michellescarpulla@hotmail.com or 609-744-7089.

LETTER OF THE LIGHT MINISTRY – MICHELLE SCARPULLA

A new ministry has started at St. Peter's this fall. As a parish, we will be reaching out to parishioners who are ill or who are home-bound. In the corner of Williams Hall, notecards are available with a list of parishioners who may be in need of some cheer. Before the service or during coffee hour, please take a moment each week to jot a quick note to one of the people on the list. St. Peter's will make sure it is mailed or delivered! And if you know of someone who can use a note, please let Deacon Helen or Michelle Scarpulla know so we can add the person to the list. This may include members of the military, people who are imprisoned, young people away at college, or maybe even a parishioner who moved away. We will also accept note card and greeting card donations to be used for this ministry. Simply leave your notes on the table in Williams Hall.

Last year, I had the youth group send cards to some of our home-bound and ill parishioners and we received a thank you card back expressing how appreciated our cards were, so I saw the power of this simple gesture. I thought it would be wonderful if this were expanded to the entire parish. I hope you will join me in brightening someone's day! If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Scarpulla at michellescarpulla@hotmail.com or 609-744-7089.

WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S – MATT SMITH

After nearly a year in charge of musical leadership at the weekly services at St. Peter's, I have gained a lot of familiarity and confidence with how best to lead the choir and, by extension, lead the congregation of St. Peter's in weekly musical worship. Over the past year, the choir has grown in cohesion and in blending their unique individual voices into one choral sound. Of course, there is always more work to be done, but I am looking to expand upon the growing strength and cohesion in the choir. This coming year, I want to rely less on simpler anthems that are built on only two voice parts. Instead, I want to start tackling more thoughtful and occasionally challenging repertoire for the weekly choral anthem that regularly employs all four principal voice parts. This budding confidence can also be applied to anthems that have already been learned from years past, but instead of having the piano accompany every piece, the choir can begin to tentatively step into the realm of a cappella. Though the choir is entirely made up of volunteer, amateur musicians, I am confident that with enough foresight, planning, and practice, the choir will be able to confidently offer more thoughtful repertoire as a Choral Offertory, as a way to provide a musical summary of the readings and teachings that came before in the service.

As far as the actual makeup of the choir goes, there are some positive aspects and some things to work on. Since December, with a few exceptions, attendance at weekly Thursday night rehearsals and Sunday morning services has been steady and consistent, with an average attendance of eleven adult volunteers. This has been a great aid not only for me, so that I might better grasp their depth and range and appropriately select music, but also for the choir members too, so that they might be better acquainted with one other personally and musically. However, the choir has still seen the departure of some crucial members. One alto and one bass have ceased coming to regular rehearsals, which leaves only three regular alto choir members and one bass singer. In the coming weeks, it would be great to gain more low voices, both men and women, to round out the choir's sound in the lower register. Even one more bass and one more alto would make a difference in giving support to the choir. Hopefully, God will open our eyes to an opportunity to bring someone new within the choral family.

Regarding music, at this time I don't believe it is necessary to purchase any new anthems or sets of service music to be used in worship. The library we have on hand is more than adequate for a volunteer choir of our size, and should I need any copies of organ music for either prelude music or a reharmonization of a hymn, I can always use the resources available to me at Westminster. Right now, the focus of the choir should be trained on how best to take care of our voices and utilize them creatively, cohesively, and expressively as leaders in corporate worship.

As a supplement for the congregation to worship at St. Peter's, starting with the observance of All Saints Day, I will be periodically posting background information about certain hymns in either the monthly newsletter or, printing needs permitting, the weekly bulletin. I plan on addressing about two or three hymns per month that will hopefully help deepen the congregation's understanding and appreciation of the Episcopal hymnody. This could pertain to very well-known hymns, newer hymns, ancient hymns, 20th Century hymns, German chorales, or Anglican anthems. By referencing the Companion to the 1982 Hymnal and other secondary sources, I hope that teaching more about the hymns, the construction of melody, the origin of verses, the history of a hymn's use, and other aspects will greater enrich worship for all congregates with all levels of musical experience.

Additionally, I'm happy to report that Sue and I will be teaming up to reintroduce a musical portion of weekly Sunday School. Each week, for about 15 minutes within Sunday School, the children will gather in the Nursery for the rehearsal of a monthly anthem. Anthems will be selected by Sue and myself, and performances of these anthems will take place on the third Sunday of every month, during the Family Service. All children are encouraged to attend, and though no experience in music is needed, regular participation/attendance in music rehearsal at Sunday School is crucial. By teaching kids the fundamentals of music and how to sing in

worshiping God, we are instilling the values and principles of our musical heritage and preparing them for a fulfilling and active life of participation in congregational singing and praise.

Lastly, a note must be made about the pipe organ. Ideally, the organ would be tuned at least two more times before the Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services, once towards the end of October as the weather gets increasingly colder, and once more in the weeks immediately preceding Christmas. Also, the Octave 4' on the Great manual has a dead note on B-Flat above Middle C. Often; this creates a noticeable “gap” in harmonic texture during hymn-playing. If we could get a tuner to also address this issue and at least let us know what the problem is and how we could fix it, that would be of great help.

In conclusion, I'm looking forward to another great year of music-making with a wonderfully enthusiastic group of people as we continue to strive together for better musicianship in the worship of Almighty God and help others in the church raise their voices in praising God through the wealth of incredible sacred music made available to us through hymns and anthems.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Smith

REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD – SUZANNE CRAWFORD

“Send us out to do the work you have given us to do.” (BCP)

The dedicated members of St. Peter's Altar Guild, overseen by our Rector, prepare our church and chapel for all weekly services, as well as special services such as weddings, funerals, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and all Holy Week services. We are organized into weekly teams which are responsible for setting out the elements for the Eucharist, and caring for all vessels, linens, and other items used in worship.

Special thanks go to Rose Johnston who washes and irons all of the linens, and Anita Beard for her attention to the chapel. We sincerely appreciate all who set up the manger scene outside and green the church at Christmas, as well as our sexton, Mark Cantarella, for his invaluable assistance throughout the year.

We would love to have you join us on Altar Guild! If you have just an hour or two a month to devote to our behind the scenes ministry, you would be participating in a most important and rewarding act of service to St. Peter's. Our invitation is also extended to interested middle and high school students to serve as Junior Altar Guild members.

Most sincere thanks go to those who served faithfully on Altar Guild in 2015 – 2016: Anita Beard, Suzanne Crawford, Barbara Dane, Dottie Gaither, Alison Gregory, JoAnn Hare, Ruth Hedden, Doris Heintz, Barbara Holmes, Rose Johnston, Maureen Joos, Mark Kaczorowski, Mandy Keen, Dottie Mitchell, Josie Nealis, Ruth Pogoda.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Crawford

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – DEACON HELEN

What is the most common response to the invitation to serve as a Eucharistic Minister? Almost always, it is some version of “I am not worthy.” Did you realize that no one is worthy? We don't become Eucharistic Ministers because of our worthiness; the opportunity to serve God, the congregation and the clergy in this way comes as a gift.

The primary role of the Eucharistic Minister is to reverently serve the chalice at celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. At St. Peter's, Eucharistic Ministers also serve as lectors and/or assist the deacon or priest when the altar is being prepared. As a Eucharistic Minister, you may expect to serve approximately once a month, normally at the service you regularly attend. Monthly schedules are emailed to all Eucharistic Ministers and coordinated with other activities of those ministers. Eucharistic Ministers are also invited to serve on major Holy Days such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, during Holy Week, and Easter.

Each Eucharistic Minister is licensed by the bishop after training by Deacon Helen or designated assistant.

Current Eucharistic Ministers: Daryl Albury, Mary Allan, Carl Ausfahl, Debbie Banecker, Anita Beard, Natalie Boyle, Suzanne Crawford, Ward Davis, Jillian Floyd, Jack Hobson, Mark Kaczarowski, Andrew LaRue, Charlene Marietti, Beckie McCammitt, Dottie Mitchell, Fran Mitchell, Ken Montgomery, Ruth Pogoda, David Richards, Sue Santangelo, Eileen Sharrott, Jim Smith, Sally Smith

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon

LECTORS/INTERCESSORS – DEACON HELEN

Lectors share God's word during worship services by reading scripture aloud or leading the psalm. Lectors also serve as intercessors when leading the Prayers of the People.

At St. Peter's, all lectors serve on a rotating schedule; frequency depends on the number of available lectors. Monthly schedules are emailed to all lectors and texts of the readings and Prayers of the People are emailed in advance. We also invite our Lectors to read on major Holy Days, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, during Holy Week, and Easter. Although Lectors are not licensed, training is available from Deacon Helen, as requested.

Many lectors report that preparing their readings increases, enriches and sometimes changes their understanding of even the most familiar passages.

Current Lectors: All Eucharistic Ministers and Jillian Anderson, Laurie Barbato, James Beard, Jane Bersch, Russ Carvin, Danielle Colaianni, Marilyn Flagler, Jillian Floyd, Edie Green, Barbara LaRue, Mekayla, Mekenzie, and Mekenna Montgomery, Tiffany Myers, Mike Orlando, Scott Semmel, Mary Shone, Ellie Myers, (sub.), Caroline Warfield (sub.)

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon

WORSHIP LEADERS – DEACON HELEN

A small group gathers in the chapel as the morning sun's rays stream through stained glass. The lit candles of an Advent wreath light the darkness in preparation for Advent Evening Prayer. Men and women gather in the church to follow the centuries-old practice of experiencing the Passion of our Lord as they walk the "Stations of the Cross." God offers the grace of each of these experiences to those who serve as Worship Leaders at St. Peter's.

Worship Leaders are approved by the Rector and licensed by the Bishop to lead public worship. Training is provided by the Rector or Deacon Helen. Regular duties include the leading of Morning and/or Evening Prayer on the weekdays of Advent and Lent and can include the leading of the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent and Holy Week or the leading of the Wednesday Healing Service (without Holy Communion), in the absence of a priest. We also invite Worship Leaders to lead Morning Prayer in the chapel at 9 a.m. on any weekday.

Current Worship Leaders: Anita Beard, Suzanne Crawford, Mark Kaczorowski, Barbara Kelly, Lisa Miner, Ken Montgomery, Ruth Pogoda, Robert Spalding

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

St. Peter's Eucharistic Visitors carry Holy Communion on a regular basis to members of the congregation who are unable to attend church services due to illness or other reasons. As they bring Christ in the Sacrament and give of themselves in fellowship and loving service, most Eucharistic Visitors develop strong bonds with those whom they visit and value both blessings given and blessings received as they carry out their ministry.

Eucharistic Visitors make visits to their assigned charge(s) at least once each month, preferably on the first Sunday of the month or as soon afterward as possible. There are currently no other regularly-scheduled meetings, although annual or semi-annual meetings for prayer, sharing, and fellowship may be scheduled. Each Eucharistic Visitor is approved by the Rector and licensed by the Bishop. Training is provided by Deacon Helen.

Current Eucharistic Visitors: Mary Allan, Carl Ausfahl, Fran Cioffi, Ward Davis, Pat Lusk

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon

ST. PETER'S PRAYER VINE – DEACON HELEN

We know that we can't involve ourselves in every problem, every situation in which there is need; but we can do something. Let God weave your efforts, your gifts, your prayers into what God is already doing for that person, in that situation, in that particular place of need, and trust that somehow you can make a difference.

Brother David Vryhof, Society of Saint John the Evangelist

Each day, members of St. Peter's Prayer Vine invite God to weave their prayers into God's work, forming an invisible web of prayer, solace, and support for those who have requested prayer for healing or for the protection of those serving in the military. Prayer Vine members have no group meetings, but receive new prayer requests and updates via email (or snail mail, if email is not possible). This quiet, invisible ministry brings hope and healing to many.

Any one may request prayer for anyone by contacting Deacon Helen, the Church Office, or entering the name and need in the notebook provided on the narthex table. Prayer requests are kept on the intercessory prayer list for one month and will be removed after that time if no update has been received. Specific prayer requests and updates are kept confidential among clergy and Prayer Vine members.

Current Prayer Vine members: Anita Beard, Cindy and Joe Dinoto, Marion Goldy, Alison Gregory, Doris Heintz, Rose Johnston, Barbara Kelly, Pat Lusk, Joan McElhinney, Roberta Price, Sue Santangelo, Mary Shone, Susie Van Emburgh

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon

ACOLYTE REPORT – JACK HOBSON

The Acolytes of St. Peter’s provide the youth of the church the opportunity to participate in the worship service and serve at the altar with the clergy. In this way, the young people of our parish learn the meaning of service and strengthen their commitment to the life of the church. We invite and encourage all youth in third grade or above to join in this important ministry.

This fall we will again be holding training sessions for new and returning acolytes, and a special commissioning ceremony will take place during the Sunday service. In February, the acolytes will have the opportunity to participate in the Diocesan Acolyte Festival, and we are planning our annual acolyte recognition outing to a local amusement park at the end of the school year. Thanks to the following (and their parents) for this important service to the parish during the past year:

Elizabeth Adler
Matthew Adler
Jillian Anderson
Anthony Castiglia
Grace Castiglia
Elisabeth Cullen
Jillian Floyd
Charlotte LaRue
Daniel LaRue
Tyler McCrum
Jack Miller
Mekayla Montgomery
Mekelsey Montgomery
Mekenna Montgomery
Mekenzie Montgomery
Ellie Myers
Brooke Niessen
Devin Niessen
Chelsea Richards
Emily Richards
Mackenzie Ritter
Michael Scarpulla
Jacob Trinity
Joshua Trinity

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Hobson, Acolyte Director

USHER REPORT – LISA MINERD

St. Peter’s ushers faithfully serve at each of our Sunday morning services. As the first people a visitor meets, our ushers are the face of St. Peter’s to our many guests and newcomers. We thank

them for greeting parishioners, visitors, and newcomers alike with a smile, for handing out bulletins and inserts, and for always being willing to cope with the unforeseen emergencies that arise. The following have served as ushers from September 2015– September 2016:

7:45 a.m. Traditional Eucharist

Dick Bland, Jason Ferguson, Ruth Hedden, Maureen Joos, Josie Nealis, Dave Smith, Mark Tressel, Chris Unger.

10:15 Holy Eucharist

Marty Banecker, Jim Beard, Jane Bersch, Russ Carvin, Rob and Nancy Castiglia, Will Dovi, Kevin Edwards, Phil Flagler, Joe Kelly, Mike Krug, Caroline Warfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Miner



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING ST. ANNA CHAPTER

Daughters of the King are women and girls between the ages of seven and one hundred and seven who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We are Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God’s love throughout the world.

A Christian order is a community of men or women living under a religious rule. Because Daughters of the King accept a [Rule of Life](#), we define ourselves as an order, not an organization. Our community is found primarily in our local chapters, but it extends around the world.

We don’t just enroll as members and attend meetings. After a three-month period of study and discernment, each new member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of the Order, the [Rule of Prayer](#) and the [Rule of Service](#).

Membership in the Order is open to women at every stage of life. The diversity of different ages strengthens and enriches our adult, or senior, Daughters of the King chapters. Younger women benefit from the discipleship of experienced spiritual mentors, and older women are invigorated by the fresh faith and energy of youth. Many senior chapters help spread the Kingdom to the next generation by sponsoring and supporting a Junior Daughters of the King chapter at their churches.

Please let us know if you would be interested in learning more about The Daughter of the King, an international woman's order of prayer and study. A group of us would like to reinstate the chapter at St. Peter's Church. If you have any questions and are interested, you can find many answers on the Daughters of the King web-site at DOK.org or ask:

Contact: Liz Katt, 856-983-3831, ottnliz@gmail.com
Sally Smith, 856-651-8101, salritt55@gmail.com

PRAYER FOR ST. PETER'S ANNUAL MEETING

Almighty God,
giver of every good gift;
Look graciously on St. Peter's Church,
and so guide the hearts and minds of those
 who shall choose the new vestry members, delegates, and committee persons.
And that once chosen, they shall do all the good works you have chosen for them to do.
Lead them with wisdom;
through Jesus Christ our Savior, AMEN

An Order of Service for Noonday

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

At the end of the Psalm is said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. *Romans 5:5*

People Thanks be to God.

A meditation, silent or spoken, may follow.

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People And let our cry come to you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Free intercessions may be offered.

The service concludes as follows

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Wardens

Debbie Banecker, Senior Warden
Jennifer Buzby, Junior Warden

Vestry Members

Ben Jones, Finance
Mandy Hunter, Parish Life
Chris McCrum, New Member Development
Mike Krug, Fundraising
Andrew LaRue, Stewardship
Marty Banecker, Property and Grounds
Barbara Kelly, Community Ministries
Loren Manni, Christian Education Council Chair

Staff

Mark Cantarella, Sexton
Howard Black, III, Treasurer
Matt Smith, Music Director
Lisa Minerd, Parish Administrator
Sue Legnani, Christian Education Director
Maureen Joos, Loren Manni, Parish Nurses
The Reverend Helen M. Orlando, Deacon
The Reverend Canon Ronald G. Albury, Associate Priest
The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller, D. Min., Rector
The Right Reverend William Stokes, Bishop of New Jersey