

REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

For the Year 2022

Sunday, February 19, 2023



St. Peter's Church

**121 Church Street. Phoenixville, PA 19460
610.933.2195**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Accounting Warden's Report	6
Altar Guild	7
Deacon's Report	5
Children's Ministries.	8
Counters	9
Cristosal Mission	9
Deacon's Report	8
Daughters of the King	10
Gardens	8
Environmental Committee	11
Lectors and Chalicists	12
Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting	1
Necrology	16
New Member Ministry/Greeters	13
Property	14
Rector's Report	3
Senior Warden's Report	5
Social Media	14
St. Peter's Weekly Food Programs	16
Vestry Candidates	17

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
February 13, 2022**

The annual meeting of St. Peter's Episcopal Church was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by the Rector's Warden, Diane Hope. This meeting was held in person during the ten o'clock church service. On motion by Diane Hope and a second by Lynn Boukalik, Mona Chylack was appointed secretary to record the minutes of the meeting.

The next order of business was to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2021. Diane Hope made the motion to approve, seconded by Gary Russell and unanimously approved.

Accounting Warden Report. Frank Rothenberger told the parish members the Church had moved its accounting records from QuickBooks to the more user-friendly ChurchTrac. All the records for the year are being entered into this new accounting resource with no small effort. It is expected the process will be completed by the end of the current month after which Frank will provide a report. Frank provided comparative highlights of the stewardship campaign: Pledges for 2021 totaled \$246,733 as compared to 2022 when 62 pledges totaled \$248,886. He also mentioned that the Vestry passed a balanced budget for 2022 indicating operating income of \$327,390 and operating expenses of \$327,037. Finally, Frank provided a brief review of the balances of the various Church bank accounts. (These details can be heard by logging on the St. Peter's Church News website, Sermon Archieve, February 13, 2022.)

Capital Campaign. Mark Hammaker who has headed this campaign since its beginning in 2018, mentioned that it included such projects as a lift to access Smith Hall, refurbishing of Smith Hall, a new bathroom, heat and air conditioning in certain areas, an ADA ramp from the parking lot to the offices, and a new floor at the Prospect Street entrance. In addition, there is the hope that the windows around the cloister might be replaced depending upon remaining funds and the price quote received for the project. Another future project would be air conditioning in the sanctuary should funds remain after the present projects are completed.

Children and Youth. Mary Jo Wells reported highlights of the two programs offered for children: Godly Play for the younger group and Youth Group for the older children. Early in the Fall there was a blessing of backpacks as children returned to school. The Godly Play program was suspended for a time as a Covid surge returned but Mary Jo said they would announce spring programming early in March. Meanwhile David Brennfleck and Katy Druckenmiller keep the older children, often numbering 10 to 14, busy with such activities as ice skating, a pancake breakfast, and the sponsoring of a family for Christmas gifts. Everyone who assists with these programs was thanked for their wonderful service to the youth of the parish.

Outreach Ministries. Gary Russell addressed the group telling them the Pantry ended in December of 2021. He talked of the motivation for this outreach coming because of our baptismal covenant and because of the words of Jesus telling us to love and serve our neighbor. For many years, the

Church annually served breakfast to 4,500 to 6,000 people and offered a self-select pantry, but more recently since the start of the pandemic, there was a large decline in attendance. Gary explained that many other resources had become available to these individuals through the local school district, the Senior Center and PAC which has a large budget and is extremely well run. Because of the decline in need for our services, it was determined that we could better serve in a different way.

Music. Derek Maninfor thanked the choir and the parishioners for their participation and said he felt that the year 2021 was a year of renewal. He mentioned that a new hymnal, Lift Every Voice, is being used in addition to the familiar one and that he plans to use new types of music one Sunday each month. In addition, he asked for new members to join the group and mentioned the great loss of Retta Sparano and Harland Johnson. Finally, he said he is looking forward to the Easter season when the choir will bring joy to the people of the parish.

Senior Warden Report. Diane Hope thanked everyone for their faithfulness during the preceding year. She noted that while it was a year of “fits and starts”, the Church made good strides. Notable advances include a large confirmation class, a well-attended adult formation and the attendance of the Bishop at a service in October. Fr. Sam noted that hope is growing here, and he hopes God will continue to bless us!

Rector’s Report. Fr. Sam welcomed everyone, both new and others, to come to St. Peter’s and serve the Lord. He spoke of the commitment of the parishioners and that when he first arrived at the Church, he found it difficult to believe the things people said were happening were actually being done. But, it was true! He also spoke of the great blessing of being able to be in relationship with God.

Recognition of Shelly Brennfleck and Frank Rothenberger. Diane Hope announced that Shelly Brennfleck and Frank Rothenberger would be stepping down from their service to the Vestry of St. Peter’s Church. Each one had a list of accomplishments, and they were gratefully thanked for their years of devoted service.

Presentation of Candidates for Vestry and Convention and Deanery Delegates. The parishioners were told that biographies were available for the candidates who were nominated to fill the Vestry vacancies. Diane Hope made a motion presenting Carl Rennie and Dennis Reid to fill the Vestry vacancies. The motion was seconded by Lynn Boukalik. All present voted in favor of these candidates. Diane Hope then presented Jolie Chylack and Ray Foerester as candidates for the position of Convention and Deanery Delegates. The motion was seconded by Gary Russell and all attendees voted in favor.

Leo Guen then came forward to recognize certain individuals who had worked faithfully for the church family in the past year and presented them with gift cards. Those honored were Derrick Maninfior, Clem Young, Richard Greene, Ron Druckenmiller, Ron Gaugler, David Brennfleck, and Emma Martz. The church service then continued with The Great Thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted, *Mona Chylack*

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR - 2022
THE REV. FR SAMUEL K. NDUNGU

Grace and Peace to you and all your loved ones,

Now that 2022 has come to an end, it finally feels as if we are emerging into a new normal in which the former pandemic is not affecting all our decisions. They say it takes five years to building something, but only one year to tear it down. As the pandemic forced us to disassemble so many things, now we are involved in the step-by-step process of rebuilding much of our community life. 2022 has been a year of rebuilding, and much of the rebuilding has not been glamorous or headline-catching, but it has been necessary for the church's health.

A new year starts again. It will have its delights and joys and its horror stories and sadness's. These last few years have turned out to be far less predictable than we have been accustomed, so we tread warily into 2023. None of us saw Covid coming, or a war in Ukraine which would impact not only the people of that country but millions and millions of people around the world. We have seen political instability in our government, inflation, and many of us are not yet sure of how much all these will be costing us with our fuel and energy use.

So welcome to 2023 a year of unknowns and of great possibilities. I hope and pray that the unwelcome unknowns will not deflect us from all the good things we may discover. Sometimes the way we view a half-filled glass (the negative sees a glass half empty – the positive sees a glass half full) leads to our interpretation of how we view life. Will we just notice the bad things, or will we celebrate the good?

My faith as a Christian rest firmly on a foundation of Jesus who lived in this beautiful world with all of its hurts and pains. I see Him spending time with the hurting, the lost and the marginalized. We may ask, 'how do we know God is love' – and we answer, 'by seeing Jesus in action'. But it is more than just His earthly life which inspires me and encourages me. It is also about how he suffered, died, and rose again. Christmas and Easter. The disciples saw a glass practically empty when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, and whatever was left in the proverbial glass was finally emptied when they saw him die on a cross. These disciples knew defeat, hopelessness, fear, and abandonment. And yet, at the conclusion of the third day after his death, Easter Day, most found or soon found, he was alive. Empty glasses full.

Our average Sunday attendance during 2022 returned to nearly what it was pre- pandemic. We were able to return to a Eucharist that felt almost normal as masks slowly faded away and congregational singing returned. We did take some time in developing a plan to offer the common chalice. I hope this showed that we were, and continue to be, thoughtful in our approach in how we respond to COVID and other illnesses.

Worship is the most important aspect of our church life and it is what grounds and centers everything else we do at St. Peter's. Attending worship services regularly is, by far, the best way to be engaged at St. Peter's. It is through the Morning Prayer services, the Healing prayers, and the Eucharist that we come together as a community to pray, to seek healing for ourselves and others, and to join in sharing God's feast. I was encouraged by the participation during last year's Holy Week, Christmas, and Christmas eve. Every service was well attended and very meaningful, even when things did not go as planned.

I would love to see the number of people who attend our services continue to increase during 2023. This would not only mean a lot to me but also to those who give of their time and talent so that we might have beautiful and meaningful liturgies. Thank you to the Choir, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Ushers, greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, and all others who help with this wonderful thing we call church.

More good news is this past year we had six baptisms. We also have ten individuals who will be going through confirmation classes and over 15 families who joined our church family. Already in 2023, we have had one baptism and have had several to transfer to St. Peters' from other Episcopal Churches.

These are positive signs in the life of our parish. Let's continue this trend by opening our doors and inviting those searching for a church home into ours.

In my report last year, I pointed out some of the places I hoped we would work on for the Year 2022. Joy fills my heart as I report that we made strides in achieving them:

- We called Katie Druckenmiller as our Youth and Young adults ministries director, she continues to amaze us with her dedication, innovation and anointing for this ministry. As stated earlier we have continued to see growth in the parish and engagement in our ministries, new and old ones continue to increase.
- Last year we were blessed to have Noah Bullock and some of Cristosal directors join us for a weekend during which we had a wonderful and successful fundraiser and on Sunday Noah preached to us a very deep and intriguing sermon. The vestry met last year for a retreat, and we do have some ideas of how engage with the greater Phoenixville community and hopefully our immediate neighbors as the construction outside our Church is complete.
- We are constantly improving on our Communications and soon we will be in position to roll out a new platform to all.

Last year, in addition to all of the changes we endured and joys we shared, we experienced significant deaths of some of our beloved matriarchs and patriarchs. Those losses weigh heavily on all of us.

We could not have done everything that we have been able to do without the support and leadership of our Vestry. Thank you to everyone who served on our Vestry this past year. It was an honor to serve with you. A big thank you to Vernon Feather, Lynn Boukalik and our able vestry clerk Mona Chylak for your ministry on the Vestry. It was an honor to serve with you. Always know, you served St. Peter's during one of the most challenging times in recent history.

So, what is next for St. Peter's? As we look to the future, we might consider the following.

- **It is no surprise that more investments need to be made into our building to keep it functional, I am hoping we can at some point have AC in the Nave.**
- **The income of the parish needs diversifying beyond our pledge and rental income streams, including the growth of the church's endowment.**
- **We have many opportunities regarding outreach to the families of preschool and the development of our parish children's ministry. We will hold several multi-generational events in the Smith room.**
- **Continue empowering Lay-preachers and lay led services.**

I am excited for all we will be able to do over the next year. We have a lot to look forward to, but we also have a lot to do. With your help, we will continue to carry on doing God's work. However, the only way we can do it is if we do it together. I encourage you to regularly come to worship services, attend our formation offerings, and volunteer for one of the many ministries we have at St. Peter's. Most importantly, I encourage you to share your love of God and St. Peter's with everyone.

Serving as your Rector is an honor and privilege, and I am grateful to God and to you for the opportunity of also serving the wider Church as the Dean of Valley Forge Deanery.

Finally, as we face 2023, I offer to you the poem below which was written in 1908 by Minnie Louise Haskins, a teacher at the London School of Economics. It was picked up by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast, the year the Second World War began.

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

'God Knows'

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".*

*and he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".
So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.*

*Sincerely,
Fr. Sam.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Deacon's Report - 2022

I want to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Sam and you the people of St. Peter's for allowing me to continue my ministry among you. The Food Pantry at St. Peter's was closed and merged with Phoenixville Community Services Pantry. They greatly expanded their facilities and outreach program. St. Peter's continues to promote the weekday luncheon program where other churches use our facilities to provide lunch to those with food insecurity. We also provide a hot breakfast each Saturday for those same folks.

Lisa Scott continues to oversee the Outreach Committee and oversees the distribution of gift bags to our older members who cannot always attend church services. Hopefully we will be training members of the congregation to resume the Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry which was curtailed during the Covid Epidemic.

Bible Study for adults continues at 9:00 each Sunday from September thru June. Currently we are meeting in Deacon's office next to the Choir room. We had been studying the Letters of Paul since September and will begin a series on the meaning of Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost, which will bring us to the end of June.

Father Sam continues to include me in the preaching rotation. I love preaching and feel fortunate to bring God's word to you about once a month. My ministry also takes me to some of our folks who can no longer attend regular services with prayers and communion.

As part of my community ministry I work closely with Catagnus Funeral Home in Pottstown and Devlin, Rosmos, Kemp & Gatcha Funeral Home here in Phoenixville. Between the two I have conducted fourteen funerals this past year.

Secularly I continue to serve as the Chaplain and apparatus driver for the New Hanover Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. I also serve as President of the Firemen's Relief Association. I have been an active member with this company since its inception in 1970 and look forward to continuing to serve as long as I am able. I have also expanded my business, Joe's Frame Shop, to meet the needs of the increased number of clients and artists who seek to have custom picture framing at a reasonable cost.

Thank you all for your encouragement and support of my ministry here at St. Peter's.

Blessings, *Deacon Joe*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Annual Report of the Senior Warden - 2022

A left-over occupational hazard of mine is I still keep "old school" paper files. In thinking back over 2022, I was pleased to leaf through my file to review the accomplishments of the year. Striking to me was the

fact that we broke much new ground this year, while still maintaining all the programs and missions that have been the hallmark of our service to each other and our community. Familiar activities such as Godly Play, Coffee Hour, a New Member celebration and a visit from the leadership from Cristosal came back in person this year. New initiatives such as a re-imagined Father Fifer Room for our Youth program, establishing a chapter of the Daughters of the King, and an additional handicapped ramp for accessibility were welcome additions. Let's not forget the outpouring of joy and support during our Installation Service for Father Sam in October.

It is said that the secret to success is constancy to purpose. In fact, we echo these same sentiments during the Eucharistic Prayer at each service, praying to serve the Lord in unity, constancy, and peace. I believe that we, at St. Peter's, have fulfilled a commitment to constancy once again this year and I am grateful. Thank you to our faithful parishioners who have continued to support our missions and our church in such a wonderful and constant way.

Respectfully submitted, *Diane Hope - Senior Warden*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Accounting Report - 2022

The start of 2022 posed many accounting challenges as St. Peter's moved forward with the implementation of the newly installed ChurchTrac accounting system. Fortunately, as the year progressed, and the various aspects of the system became more familiar, we were able to use the new accounting system with increased confidence.

The past year presented several financial challenges as two significant, and unforeseen, events occurred. Early in the year a leak developed in the roof of the church causing damage to the interior of the building. The cost of the roof repairs amounted to \$5,825. Later in the year, as a result of ongoing problems with the heating system, the Property Committee arranged for an inspection of the church's boiler. As a result of this inspection, it was recommended that the boiler not be used going forward until major repairs and rebuilding were performed. This work was completed at a cost of \$13,050. Both the roof and the boiler repairs were paid for from the church's General Operating Account which, fortunately, had been built up over the years. In the Fall, we began to look at potential grant opportunities that could, hopefully, fully replenish the General Operating Account. In November 2022 a grant request was completed and forwarded to the Diocesan Board of Trustees Mission Committee. Thankfully, at year end, we were informed by Bishop Gutierrez that our request had been approved, and that St. Peter's would receive grant funding of \$18,875 to offset the drain on our General Operating Account. With the grant funding, The General Operating Account will total almost \$75,000.

Overall, with the exception of the unforeseen repair expenses, during 2022 other expenses remained in line with what had been planned. On the income side, pledge income was in line with what had been committed, and open plate giving was higher than budgeted for 2022. In 2022 there were 62 pledges committed, totaling \$248,800. As we begin 2023, as a result of new members and a good Stewardship Campaign, pledge commitments have risen to 70 pledges amounting to almost \$268,500.

In December the Vestry approved the budget for 2023. While the overall budget results in a slight deficit, it is hoped that with additional new members and families, and controlled expenditures such as savings resulting from the Property Committee mowing the Church's lawns, St Peter's will not have to revert to drawing unbudgeted funding from the General Operating Account.

Several years ago, St. Peter's established two investment funds with the Church Foundation. These funds, the Operating Account and the Building Maintenance Fund, are intended to grow and act as a means for financial resources if ever necessary. Occasionally, as unanticipated funding, such as estate gifts, etc., are received by St. Peter's, dollars are added to the Operating Fund at the Foundation. Funding for the Building Maintenance Fund, while currently on hold due to poor investment market

conditions, had previously been made monthly by depositing the building rent paid by the Clinic. During 2022 these monthly rent payments were directed to, and are maintained, in the Church's General checking account. It is hoped that during 2023 currently held funds and ongoing monthly rent payments can resume being deposited into the Building Maintenance Fund as market conditions improve. At year end 2022 the investment accounts had the following balances, Operating Account \$85,330, and Building Maintenance Fund \$88,748.

In the Fall of 2022, a new staff position was added. The new position is responsible for coordinating all activities for the youth of the parish which include Godly Play, Children's Chapel and the Youth Group. Since many of the new families at St. Peter's have children, it is hoped this new position can influence the new families, as well as current members, to inform their friends and neighbors about the good work being done with the youth, and thereby attract more new families to join the St. Peter's congregation. Finally in 2022 the Vestry approved year-end bonuses and salary increases for the staff.

Respectfully Submitted, *Dennis Reid*, Accounting Warden

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Altar Guild - 2022

Members of the Altar Guild are behind the scenes every week and more often as Holidays and special events dictate, to make our altar beautiful. We continue to work with four teams who rotate by week. Most weeks, those "teams" consist of one person doing it alone due to a shortage of volunteers.

Those teams consist of:

Ron Gaugler - Every 8:00 am service

1st Sunday: Cathy Sullens

2nd Sunday: Erica Logar or Shelly Brennleck

3rd Sunday: Anne Andrews

4th and 5th Sundays: Susan Meadows

My dear friend Pat Howse officially stepped down from her position on the Altar Guild in 2022. Pat was a dedicated member of our team for decades. We miss her wisdom and companionship. Even more so now that she is no longer with us.

Covid changed so much, as we all are painfully aware. While everything was shut down, we came in alone to clean up after Fr. Sam's zoom service. When we were able to return to church physically, many were still uncomfortable in that setting so we continued to come in after services to clean up.

It was during this time we also had two other valued members resign. Kristy Boone and Peggy Greene. I want to thank them both for all they did to continue to keep our altar prepared in the current church season and looking perfect.

As a reminder of what we do I will just mention a few of the basics. Keep in mind, we have not yet returned to pre-covid normal. We no longer bring up the wine and bread. We no longer have our acolytes. In the past, after service, we would polish the candleholders "torches" that they carry and refill the liquid paraffin. We wash the silver used for communion weekly. We then set everything up in preparation for next week's service. Other brass is done on a rotating schedule. Linens and vestments are cleaned and repaired as needed.

One of the more noticeable functions is changing the frontal with the worship season. The frontal is the lovely colored cloth that hangs down over the front of the altar and is seen by everyone. Many of these have been donated by parishioners or their families over the years. Some are extremely old and in need of repair or replacement. Anyone who wishes to make a gift in this very special part of the altar should contact me or Fr. Sam.

A few years ago, we were blessed with the gift of a full set of white for the High Altar which included a frontal, burse, veil, and banners for the lectern and pulpit from Phil and Pat Howse in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

This year we embarked on a campaign to replace the green set for “Ordinary Time” for the High Altar and the Lady Chapel Altar. The current set is old and in disrepair. We were blessed to raise \$2270.00. That amount fell a little short to purchase everything at once so we ordered the frontal for the High Altar as well as the matching veil and burse. It takes approximately 10 weeks to have it made. Hopefully, we will have it to present to the congregation after Easter when we return to “Ordinary Time”. We hope to have another campaign to raise additional funds to complete the set. The goal we need to reach for both altars is \$7137.00.

I am so grateful to all the members of the Altar Guild for your devotion and the loving care you put into making our altar beautiful. You continued on through all the changes resulting from Covid.

As with any group, we are always in need of more volunteers. We offer “on the job training”. There are no meetings to attend and the time commitment is not generally more than an hour per week once a month. If you are looking for a way to become involved in something that is not only spiritually rewarding but a privilege, as we prepare the Lord’s Table for service, you should consider joining the Altar Guild. We have a remarkable group.

We hope to welcome three new members in this spiritual journey in the next few weeks.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Meadows*– Altar Guild Directress

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Children’s Ministries - 2022

In the early Fall, the children’s ministry held our annual “blessing of the backpacks” which could be inside and part of the service this year. We also held registration and orientation for the Godly Play program. Many new and returning families registered and we currently we have about a total of 12-13 children. The numbers vary each week but we typically have anywhere from 4-13. The ages are primarily 3-10. We are not currently facilitating a children’s chapel because the ages of the children do not match that program. We will continue to evaluate that program’s need as new families attend. We continued the new tradition of having a Halloween party with costumes and trick and treating. We were finally able to have our Christmas pageant as part of the family service on Christmas eve. The children are also participating in a monthly family service and have started singing at the service with the support of the choir and Derek our organist. This has been a nice compliment to the Godly Play program and the family service.

We have also hired a coordinator for children and youth, Katie Druckenmiller who will be helping to expand and enhance the programs. This is a 15 hour position but we will also form a children and youth committee to support the position and the programs. Katie is in the process of orienting to the administrative tasks of communication, clearances, and scheduling.

Respectfully submitted, *Mary Jo Wells*– Junior Warden

Youth Group

The St. Peter’s Youth Group has been regularly meeting during the last year. Youth Group meets 1-2 times per month from September through May. Because we were still recovering from COVID, the youth group has focused on fun activities through the end of 2022. Some of these activities during the spring of 2022 included: ice skating at Center Ice, a trip to Urban Air, hikes, and a picnic with outdoor games. We regularly have 5-10 youth in attendance. Currently, we have three leaders, and parents are asked to

help with chaperone duties, preparing meals, and contributing as meeting helpers. Thank you to all of the leaders, the youth and their families, as well as all the members of the congregation who support this ministry.

The start of the 2022-2023 church school year began an intentional return to a more robust Youth Group program. We have regularly offered a variety of options to the Youth Group aged children. Once per month, the Family Service offers the youth a chance to participate in the service as Lectors, Ushers, or Acolytes. During the fall, we hosted a Halloween themed event for the Godly Play children and a pancake breakfast for the congregation. During December, we went on a trip to the movies, adopted a family for the holidays, and helped wrap all of the items from the Advent Giving Tree.

We began to re-introduce more traditional lessons back into the Youth Group beginning in January. Our first lesson focused on service to others, and our second lesson was led by Deacon Joe and taught the youth about the different parts of a Sunday service. We will be exploring curriculum options for use during Youth Group beginning in the fall of 2023.

The Youth Group leaders plan to continue offering a variety of options to youth, including regular meetings, service opportunities, fun outings, and fundraising. We are offering a service trip through ASP during the summer of 2023 and hope to offer a pilgrimage trip during the summer of 2024.

Respectfully submitted, *Dave Brennfleck, Gary Russell, Katie Druckenmiller*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Counters - 2022

The Counters Ministry is responsible for accurately counting and recording the weekly monetary contributions after the 10 o'clock Sunday service. Counting is done in the Parish Office. After balancing the recorded contributions with the monies received, all cash and checks are then immediately deposited by one of the counters at Phoenix Federal Bank & Trust on Main St.

Our counters are grouped into five teams of two unrelated parishioners to cover each Sunday of the month. The Count Teams include:

- Marva Young & Erin Hall – 1st Sunday;
- Iris Blanche & Diane Hope – 2nd Sunday;
- Marty Bloem and Lynn Schaeffer – 3rd Sunday;
- Dave Meadows and OPEN – 4th Sunday
- Iris Blanche and Marty Bloem or Dave Meadows – 5th Sunday(4x/year)

As you can see, we currently have an opening on one of the teams. If you are accurate with counting money and record keeping and can spare approximately one hour per month, please contact me. We would love to have you on one of St. Peter's count teams.

Respectfully submitted, *Dave Meadows*, Counter's Chair

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Cristosal Mission - 2022

The missions committee had been meeting monthly with focus on strengthening St. Peter's support for Cristosal by raising more awareness and energy towards financially supporting Cristosal's great work. In order to raise such awareness, the committee focused on educating and updating the parishioners about Cristosal and its' impact on spreading peace and advancing human rights in Central America. So the committee hosted a series of 3 short and fun information sessions in July, August and

September during an enhanced coffee hour serving Central American food. These sessions were well attended and seemed successful in generating more interest in St Peter's mission with Cristosal.

There was an eventful weekend of October 7th when Noah Bullock, the director of Cristosal, along with 2 other assistant directors visited St Peters. The weekend highlight was the large fundraising event that took place in St. Peter's Smith room on October 8th. This catered event was well attended with guest speaker, Noah Bullock, speaking about the present adverse human rights conditions and issues faced by the people in Central America and how Cristosal is standing with the people in solidarity to support them and see that their human rights are upheld. The missions committee was very pleased with the outcome of this event and the whole weekend visit with the Cristosal staff was very productive and enjoyed by all. The committee is thrilled to announce that there were 33 donors, of which 28 were active parishioners and with a net gain of 10 more donors – a great success! Many thanks go out to all of those who made this happen. We are very proud of being able to give this meaningful donation which will have a tremendous impact on strengthening Cristosal 's work as they confront many difficult issues in 2023. Thanks again, and we look forward to giving our passionate support to Cristosal in this next year!

Respectfully submitted, *Cindy Hammaker*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Daughters of the King - 2022



1892 was a good year...it is the year that St. Peter's *first* Chapter of The Daughters of the King was formed. The Chapter became inactive in 1896.

126 years later, the Chapter received a new Charter and five Daughters were admitted during the Sunday morning service on June 19, 2022.

The Daughters of the King is an Order for lay women in the Episcopal Church. Daughters vow to *pray daily* – for ourselves, the parish and the clergy in our journey to know Christ and to make Him known – and to *serve others* by strengthening the spiritual life of our parish and through outreach to our local community. We wear a cross inscribed in Latin – *Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine* – which means 'With heart, mind and spirit, uphold and bear the cross.' At the bottom are the letters FHS – 'For His Sake'. We wear the cross as a reminder of our vows and of our commitment to Christ and His church.

Our Chapter meets twice a month – at the first meeting we have Bible Study and a short discussion of activities we are planning; our second meeting is a book study.

In November we offered a Quiet Morning for parishioners led by Fr. Chaz Howard, Episcopal Chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania. Fr. Chaz used art as a means of reflecting on stories in scripture: the Annunciation, the Prodigal Son and Jesus' invitation to Rest for the weary and burdened. Some of our time that morning was spent in silence and the greater part spent in sharing thoughts and learning from some of the artists in the group. We concluded our fellowship with a light lunch. It is our plan to offer at least two Quiet Days each year to the Parish – during Advent and Lent.

We will also be offering a Book Study Group that will gather on Saturday mornings throughout the year. We met for the first time in January and discussed Karen Wright Marsh's book '*Vintage Saints and Sinners*'. A serious, but sometimes funny, look at 25 vintage and modern-day Christians and why they may be called Saints.

If you are interested in learning more about the Daughters of the King please speak to Fr. Sam or to one of the Daughters: Jolie Chylack, Mona Chylack, Lisa Scott, Vernet Spence-Brown, Karen Reid

FHS, *Karen Reid*, President

Gardens - 2022

We had an abundantly successful 2022 gardening year, with a consistent team of 4 members, collaborating with the Environmental and Men's/Property ministries for the major new initiative of the year, the Pollinator Garden.

Throughout the year, the team of Leo Guen, Karen Reid, Robert Gauthier, and newcomer Kelly Smythe enjoyed each other's company while maintaining and improving St. Peter's Church gardens, usually Saturday mornings mid-March through November. We also thank Shawhan Fox for his help and enthusiasm throughout the year.

After the Environmental ministry in February proposed the idea of a Pollinator Garden at St. Peter's, on May 14th we joined forces with members of the Men's/Property and Environmental ministries to dig up the rubber-mulched border area along the parking lot fence and plant 40 perennials in 6 inches of newly-laid topsoil. Details in: [Pollinator news article](#) and [Pollinator autumn update](#).

At our January planning lunch, we discussed potential redesign and renovation of the Cloister Garden to provide easy year-round access for children and parishioners, including an area for Godly Play classes and sunny seating for flora-loving peace seekers.

Respectfully submitted, *Leo Guen*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Environmental Committee - 2022

2022 marked a season of churchwide and community partnerships for the Environmental Ministry Team at Saint Peters. When this committee was formed, Cindy Hammaker had penned the words "Better Together" on signs for our cleanup projects. Upon reflection, this certainly seems to be the case for the year 2022.

The committee began the year by taking a field trip to nearby Ursinus College for an environmental brainstorming conference hosted by students there. The workshop aimed to partner the college and community groups in effort to generate ideas for local sustainable communities. An idea to install a pollinator garden at Saint Peters was conceived as a result of session. This project came to fruition thanks to leadership from Leo Guen, Karen Reid and David Brennfleck who reside on the Garden, Property and Environmental Ministry teams.

In early spring, Amy Atlee resumed monthly outdoor Qigong classes on the west lawn of church. These continued during summer and early fall of 2022. When weather became cooler in mid-fall, the classes were moved indoors to Saint Margaret's Chapel. Every month, sessions draw more church and community members. The classes are a blessing – encouraging connectivity between our spirit, the earth and heaven.

In April, Dan Spraklin offered a program introducing his company Somax to our congregation and those who attended from our community. His company has launched America's first hydrothermal carbonization water treatment system right here in Phoenixville. The groundbreaking operation known as PXVNEO (Phoenixville New Energy Optimization) is a move to improve the Borough's largest energy user into an eventual energy producer. This is a revolutionary environmental pursuit and we were happy and fortunate to showcase it!

Several cleanup walks were held in 2023 throughout the spring, summer and fall at the trail behind the Phoenixville Shopping Center. Considering that the area behind Giant Supermarket was in continual need of care, Amy Atlee and Dave Brennfleck approached Giant Volunteers with an idea to form an area cleanup partnership. Our groups are expected to begin working together in 2023

A partnership to work on grounds and trail cleanup at the John James Audubon Society at Mill Grove was formed when Ashly Hans reached out to Bonnie Elliot and our group. An afternoon work party team was formed in the fall and the group removed weeds, invasives and provided general cleanup around the historic Audubon home. These efforts bolster habitat conservation for wildlife on the property and provide for pleasurable visitor experience to this historic landmark. We look forward to collaborating with this organization more in 2023

This year our small group added new members Jonathan Morton, Steven Smith and Karen Reid. Each have contributed valuable input into the program and their involvement is very much appreciated. The environmental ministry committee sends special thanks to all volunteers, partnering ministries and participants who helped the program and 2022.

Respectfully submitted, *Jolie Chylack*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Lectors and Chalicists - 2022

St. Peter's Lectors are responsible for reading the first and second Scripture lessons, and the Prayers of the People, every Sunday at both services. At the 8:00 AM service, one person does all of the readings, including the Psalm. (The Psalm is sung by the choir and congregation at the 10:00 AM service.)

We currently have 5 lectors for the 8 AM service and 21 lectors for the 10AM service. We are always happy to have more people join us, especially our young students, and also those who are looking to increase their participation within the church. It would be especially appreciated if there were more lectors for our 8 AM service. Please contact any of our clergy or myself if you would like to become involved in this ministry.

Our chalicists will assist the clergy, offering the cup of wine. We have 2 chalicists to serve at the 8:00AM service, and 6 chalicists to serve at the 10:00AM service. This position does require some training. Please talk to Father Sam or Deacon Joe if you are interested in joining this very important ministry.

Thankfully, this new year has begun with a more familiar sense of normalcy than we've been experiencing since the beginning of the pandemic. Hopefully we will be able to return to more parishioners attending services and perhaps more folks willing to serve within our various ministries.

Respectfully submitted, *Joyce Paster*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Music - 2022

2022 was a year of growth for our music ministry. The choir pews are slowly replenishing and more people are rejoining the music program following the pandemic. We saw the addition of three new members of our adult choir this year: Gretchen Streuli, Sarah Gehman, and Robert Olieman. We also mourned the loss of our good friends, Harland Johnson, and Retta Sparano.

The choir continues to explore a range of styles of music which enhances the quality of worship at St. Peter's. Our "wheelhouse" continues to be repertoire from the Anglican Church tradition. However, we've become more familiar with other styles such as spirituals and various hymn arrangements that are not of Anglican origin. I am amazed at the choir's level of commitment and willingness to handle whatever comes their way.

This year for Christmas Eve, the choir prepared three demanding selections from Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols." Unfortunately, because I was absent with Covid, we were unable to sing them for the service. We look forward to performing the work in its entirety for Christmas Eve 2023.

As the Lenten season is fast approaching, we look forward to singing for Ash Wednesday as well as Holy Week services with music that will provide an opportunity to reflect as well as anticipate the joy of Easter Sunday.

We are also diversifying the styles of our service music, including congregational hymns and mass responses. Fr. Sam and I have been in regular discussion about including selections from the Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) hymnal into our services. I would welcome any comments you may have regarding hymn selection.

In 2023, we look forward to collaborating with Godly Play in an effort to revitalize our children's music program. We have had a few early collaborations singing "This Little Light of Mine" for service on February 5, and we look forward to singing for the Family Service on February 26. The children's enthusiasm for music is inspiring to us all and we look forward to incorporating them into our service again.

Thank you all very much for your support of our music program. The kind words and compliments are much appreciated. It is truly a pleasure serving in this role and I hope that our music continues to be a blessing to you in 2023.

Respectfully submitted, *Derek Manin Fior*, Music Director

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

New Member Ministry/Greeters - 2022

Hebrews 13:2 *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

The New Member Ministry and Greeter Ministry returned to relatively normal operation after a tumultuous 2 year period. A few new members joined the ranks of Greeters, including Andrea Steck, and Cindy Stengel-Parish. Our faithful greeters from previous years include Anne Andrews, Anne Atlee, Vernet Spence-Brown, Lady Sharper-Rennie, Marva Young, Rosemarie and Mike O'Rourke. There is an open invitation to anyone who is interested in greeting visitors and members once a month.

On June 26, we had the first New Member Liturgy and Reception since the pandemic began. We welcomed those who came to Saint Peter's in years 2020 and 2021. 8 new families/individuals attended, while another 8 families/individuals acknowledged but were unable to attend.

We are so happy that people came to Saint Peter's for an initial visit, and many chose to continue to worship with us and become members. It is not unusual for those who are seeking a new church to go "church shopping." It happens in all denominations, and the search can last a long time. Our church offers so much – a beautiful church building, a reverent liturgy, an engaging priest who delivers meaningful sermons, excellent music, I can go on and on about all of the wonderful opportunities to serve, their reports can be found in this annual report.

Leo Guen continues to refine the intake form that he developed last year. The form not only asks for demographic information, but also lists ministries that newcomers might find of interest to them.

During the past year we had 16 families/visitors who came to worship with us. We pray that they will continue to come to Saint Peter's and they find a spiritual home with us.

Please keep the New Member and Greeter Ministries in your prayers. Our hope is that people come to Saint Peter's and choose to join our community to share their lives and to have a deeper knowledge of Jesus.

Respectfully submitted, *Judi Hans*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Property Committee - 2022

The Property Committee had another busy year maintaining our church. As usual, in 2022 we had a few repairs and maintenance items on the boiler, including the full front section of the boiler and seals that were failing. Curt Quaintance and Mark Hammaker stayed on top of the boiler and took proactive measures to keep the boiler running as smoothly as possible again this year.

The Property Committee also completed the following jobs in 2022:

- * Ongoing routine maintenance and improvements to the church as needed or requested
 - * Maintained the grass, mulched and trimmed hedges
 - * Maintained lighting inside and outside of church
 - * Coordinated with contractors on snow removal, installing the ADA ramp (complete), replacement of concrete floor at Prospect Street entrance (complete), replacement of Prospect Street sidewalk (spring 2023), and potential new HVAC system for Nave (TBD)
 - * Removed organic garden to make way for the ADA ramp
 - * Cleared office level landing of excess furniture and items no longer required
 - * Repaired various sites in the church with concrete repair and mortar joint corrections
 - * Removed drop ceiling and replaced with new ceiling in Fr. Fifer room
 - * Painted and cleaned Fr. Fifer room to prepare use for Youth Group
 - * Finalized installation and operation of the audio system in Smith Fellowship Room for presentations and speaking engagements
 - * Managed outside services used to maintain the church building (e.g., roofing contractor, mason, concrete contractor)
 - * Trained property committee members how to use the lift and security cameras
 - * Installed and removed the outdoor nativity scene over Christmas
 - * Patched walls in Smith Room to repair previous water infiltration damage
- Coordinated with Brian Thornton for the continued process of replacing fluorescent lighting throughout the entire church with LED lighting (thank you Brian!)
- * We know 2023 will be a busy year, but with the support of our parish, we are ready to continue to make improvements to our church building and to manage the maintenance needs coming our way.

The church is maintained through the help of many dedicated workers. Our Sexton, Maria D. Barranco has continued to do a great job. We are always looking for more volunteers to help keep the building, grounds and gardens looking nice. If you have an interest in joining our Property Committee, we meet the first Monday of each month at 7PM in the Smith Fellowship Hall. Beverages and snacks are provided while we discuss our action plan for tackling our goals each month. Please speak with David Brennfleck or Mark Hammaker if you have any questions or find an item that requires attention from our committee.

Respectfully submitted, *Dave Brennfleck and Mark Hammaker*

Social Media - 2022

Communications
ChurchTrac

We migrated the People (parishioners) database from Realm to the superior ChurchTrac system in September 2022; online giving remains on Realm, but will be migrated to ChurchTrac during 2023.

The team of Leo Guen, Lynn Boukalik, Katie Druckenmiller, Mary Quintiliani, Andrea Steck and Vincent Jouenne is designing and configuring “cards” to be displayed on a new ChurchConnect webpage accessible by smartphone, iPad and browser to inform parishioners of events, news and other information.

We will roll out ChurchConnect to parishioners sometime this spring, after we have updated our existing website to provide an engaging and useful user experience. The goal is for ChurchConnect to provide easy access to events, sign-ups, and news that is hosted on our website, database, and integrated with online apps such as SignUpGenius.

The first ministries to be presented on ChurchConnect will be Youth & Children, Environmental, Vestry, Daughters of the King, and Gardening.

Eventually during 2023, ChurchConnect will enable parishioners to give online, view and update your personal/family profile in ChurchTrac, and search for St. Peter’s parishioner contact info.

St. Peter’s Website

Our website continues to be a central source of information about St. Peter’s, such as the link for the online worship services, archives of Sunday services and news, and our people. However, its most recent major update was done 4 years ago.

While developing ChurchConnect, the Communications/Systems team realized we must upgrade our website to present a current, dynamic view of St. Peter’s people, values, and activities. The website is one of the first places that potential new members visit, so we must not only update but add new content, such as testimonials.

The Communications/Systems team plan to help ministry leaders create their own page to help them communicate their activities and attract volunteers. New member Mary Quintiliani is a communications professional and will be a leader in this effort. This will improve communications with the public and to members of our church.

In January, our webmaster, GeMarr Hatton, updated the site to be a secure site <https://saintpeterschurch.net/> You are automatically redirected to the new secure site if you use the old URL.

Social Media

Facebook

St. Peter’s has three Facebook (Meta) sites that reach out to parishioners and the community, but our view is that these are underutilized and require effort to make them more attractive and useful.

St. Peter’s Church Families

This closed group page is for church members who have children involved in church activities. There are currently 48 members, but many are no longer active. To be added, ask Katie Druckenmiller. There were 48 postings in 2022.

St. Peter’s Church Youth Group

This closed group page is for youth group parents and youth to share activities and events. To be added, ask Katie Druckenmiller.

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church Phoenixville

This open group page allows viewing by parishioners and the public; it has been viewed by over 500 people. While only site administrators can post on the site, viewers can comment as visitors. Many members of the greater Phoenixville community have indicated that they are watching this site. However, the postings on this site are relatively stale, and we are considering shuttering it and starting a

new page to more effectively share events meaningful to the Church community and/or the community at large. There were 95 outreach messages posted and over 500 likes during 2022.

Respectfully submitted, *Lynn Boukalik and Leo Guen*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

St. Peter's Weekly Food Programs - 2022

Ecumenical Meal Program

Our goal is to improve the nutrition of persons who may not have the financial assets to maintain a healthy diet. Our weekday meal program has continuously served a to-go lunch every weekday this year, serving an average of fifteen persons per day from the church parking lot, five days per week, 52 weeks per year. Our guests are primarily single persons, elderly and homeless who express their appreciation for the faithful presence of our feeding teams.

We give thanks for our partner churches and organizations: Sacred Heart Church Royersford, Growth Ministries (Centennial Lutheran Church Kimberton), and St. Ann R. C. Church, First Presbyterian Church and our own St. Peter's lunch group, serving on Fridays.

Saturday Breakfast Program

Our Saturday breakfast program served a hot breakfast every Saturday with six different teams of volunteers. We operated three teams with St. Peter's parishioners and three teams comprised of community members. As COVID parameters relaxed in the latter part of this year, we were able to offer inside seating along with our usual to-go boxes. Average attendance was about 10 per week, but we hope as word spreads we can help more people

The volunteers in these ministries have served faithfully and with distinction. We thank God for them, their time, talent most importantly the relationships that have been created with our guests.

Respectfully submitted, *Gary Russell*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Necrology

Carol Russell

2023 Vestry Candidates

Shawhan Fox

Shawhan Fox grew up since childhood in Chester County and resides just outside of Phoenixville with his wife, Andrea, since Christmas of 2015. He is a graduate of The Hill School (class of 1986) and Juniata College (BA Business 1990). Currently he works for Norfolk Southern Railroad as a freight locomotive engineer out of Abrams terminal in King of Prussia. He's a proud father of Isabel and Alex (who are currently attending college), and two hard-working adult stepsons, Frank and Neil. He's a Hands-On DIY person who enjoys and gets satisfaction from activities like cooking, gardening/landscaping, working on his cars, and home improvement projects. On occasions when he can, he likes to escape to the Chesapeake for a weekend on the water sailing.

He came to know Saint Peter's through his wife Andrea shortly before the pandemic shutdown after she attended services there. Ironically his first introduction there was through Friday night prayer meetings held on Zoom until in-person services resumed. Shortly thereafter he was introduced to, and became active on, the Property Committee, and has been regularly involved in a number of projects since then with the other members.

Over this time, St. Peter's has cemented it's place as his spiritual home and family through the fellowship he enjoys as a member of the property committee and worshipping with a wonderful community of parishioners. Serving as the liaison for the Property Committee to the Vestry seems a natural extension to his continuing role as a participant, while playing to what he feels are his current spiritual gifts and abilities. It would be an honor and privilege to humbly serve the St. Peter's community in this capacity.

Robert Gauthier

Robert Gauthier has lived in or near Phoenixville since 2009 and is proud dad to Ella, a Phoenixville Area High School senior headed to Colby Sawyer College (New London, NH) in the fall. He is the Executive Director of the Campolo Center for Ministry of Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary. Robert loves cooking, reading, arts and culture, and the freshwater lakes, mountains, and maple syrup of New Hampshire, where he grew up and visits as often as possible. He is grateful for the "family" of St. Peter's and humbly honored to serve the church and community through the Vestry.

Marti Wilson

Clerk to the Vestry

Marti Wilson is a dedicated member of the Episcopal church. She served two terms as Rector's Warden in both Trinity, Gulph Mills and Epiphany, Royersford. She was a diocesan consultant to Bishop Bartlett and his staff, consulted with 27 parishes in this diocese and served on the Bishop's Search Committee. Her parish level responsibilities have included Worship Committee, Discernment Committee chair, Lector, Chalice Bearer, Junior Choir Director, Godly Play teacher and Senior High sponsor. A retired math and art teacher, she is currently a tutor. She is a member of St. Peter's Choir.