

Annual Report of St. Peter's Episcopal Church for the Year 2024

Annual Meeting
January 26, 2025



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

99 Sand Hill Road, South Windsor, CT 06074
860-644-8548 • www.stpeters-sw.org

Vestry – 2024

Rector	The Reverend Anne M. Fraley
Senior Warden	Mark Bell
Junior Warden	Erik Barber
Treasurer	Barbara Hoff
Clerk	Lisa Pile

Vestry Members

Tara Fornuto (2025)	Richard Hubeny (2026)
Bill Hartley (2026)	Ingrid Menon (2025)

Convention Delegates

Diane Fornuto (2026)	Ken Fraley (2025)
Martha Houlroyd, Alternate (2026)	

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AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025
10:15 AM

1. Invocation
2. Call meeting to order
3. Presentation and adoption of roll of voting Members/Quorum
4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 2024
5. Treasurer's Report for the year 2024
6. Reports on Parish Life
7. Commission Reports
8. Invitation for Other Reports
9. New Business
 - a. Presentation of 2025 Budget
 - b. Presentation of Nominees/Election of Officers and Vestrypersons
 - c. Presentation of Nominee/Election of Delegate and Alternate Delegate
10. Remarks of the Rector
11. Opportunity for General Discussion
12. Announcements
12. Benediction

List Of Those Eligible To Vote, Nominate, and be Nominated for Vestry Positions

Eligibility is determined by:

- 1) having one's **baptism recorded** at St. Peter's
- 2) **attending St. Peter's regularly** for the past six months, during which time one has been **faithful in working, praying, and giving** for the spread of God's kingdom
- 3) having attained age 16 (Persons must be 18 years of age to serve on Vestry.)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Barber, Erik | 16. Fraley, Ken | 31. McBeth, Susan |
| 2. Bell, Andrew | 17. Gobetz, Frank | 32. Menon, Ingrid |
| 3. Bell, Daniel | 18. Gough, Audrey | 33. Menon, Sachin |
| 4. Bell, Mark | 19. Hartley, Bill | 34. Morelli, Thomas |
| 5. Bell, Patrick | 20. Hoff, Barbara | 35. Morelli, Valerie |
| 6. Bell, Sandra | 21. Horwitz, Josh | 36. Nanci, Dominic |
| 7. Bennett, Danielle | 22. Horwitz, Lauren | 37. Nanci, Shirley |
| 8. Best, Mary Lou | 23. Houlroyd, Martha | 38. Ober, Dora-Lee |
| 9. Bierkan, Amanda | 24. Hubeny, Amy | 39. Perrin, Jane |
| 10. Bodfish, John | 25. Hubeny, Richard | 40. Pile, Lisa |
| 11. Eaton, Lawrence (Lee) | 26. Indomenico, Donna | 41. Plank, Rich |
| 12. Eaton, Nancy | 27. Jennings, Pat | 42. Rios, Diana |
| 13. Flanagan, Glenn | 28. Malone, Elizabeth | 43. Roulier, Leslie |
| 14. Fornuto, Diane | 29. Malone, Greg | 44. Roulier, Paul |
| 15. Fornuto, Tara | 30. McBeth, Robert | 45. Torchio-Zembko, Nancy |

Rev. 1/8/2025

Our by-laws require 25% of voting members to be present to constitute a quorum. That number is 12.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2024

Pre-meeting: A breakfast potluck breakfast was held after a 9:00 a.m. service and just before the annual meeting.

Quorum Established: The Clerk noted that at the time of opening of the meeting, a total of 31 voting members were present, establishing that a quorum of those eligible to vote, nominate, and be nominated were present.

Invocation: The invocation was led by the Reverend Anne Fraley.

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:44 a.m. by the Reverend Anne Fraley.

Presentation and Adoption of Roll of Voting Members/Quorum: A "List of Those Eligible to Vote, Nominate, and be Nominated for Vestry Positions" was provided in the "Annual Report of St. Peter's Episcopal Church for the Year 2023." No changes were made to the voting list. A motion was made by Diane Fornuto to accept the voting list as presented. Diana Rios seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting: Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting are included in the 2023 Annual Report. There were no corrections offered. Motion was made by Diana Rios and seconded by Dick Hubeny to accept the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: The Treasurer's report was included in the 2023 Annual Report. Barbara added the following:

- The good news is that the members of St. Peter's contributed in so many ways to help with our bottom line.
- We ended up being almost exactly as far in debt as we expected. This does not mean we owe money; it only means we have to take more out of savings than what we would like to.
- We knew last year we had a 2023 budget that would be a \$18,000 loss. Actual loss 2023 was \$17,824.

Anne added a comment related to the loss. The church encountered a plumbing issue twice during 2023. The second time it was necessary to pay \$15,000 to repair a sewer line. If we did not have that issue, we would have been almost even for the year. She commended the parish for doing our part to live according to our expected means. She further emphasized that this is a really positive sign as to where we are and where we are going. Time was given for questions and comments related to the Budget Presentation:

Question: How is the RaiseRight program doing?

Answer: This year we raised just over \$500 from the RaiseRight program. We agreed to give 10% of what was raised out of RaiseRight to outreach.

Question: Was the cost of the new dishwasher covered with what we had in savings.

Answer: We took in \$500 in donations specific to covering the cost of the dishwasher. Total cost of the dishwasher was \$3,000.

There were no further questions or comments related to the Budget Presentation. Motion was made by Dora-Lee Ober to accept the Treasurer's Report for 2023. Diane Fornuto seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Reports on Parish Life and other Commission Reports: Copies of parish life and commission related reports are presented for review in the 2023 Annual Report.

Invitation for Other Reports: The Reverend Anne invited corrections or additional reports to come forward.

- **Parish Life Report:** Diane Fornuto added that Nancy Eaton’s name had been inadvertently left out of the report. Diane emphasized that Nancy has made significant contributions to the Parish Life ministry.
- **Peace by Piece Quilters Report:** Nancy Eaton added that any requests should be brought to their attention. Also, if anyone is interested, they are welcome to come by and see what they do.

Anne asked for other reports that may have not been included or if anyone would like to make on behalf of a group or ministry. No additional reports were presented.

Rectors Report: During this time Anne referred to all the hard work that is done behind the scenes. She wanted to acknowledge and thank Shirly Nanci, specifically, for her dedication in fulfilling the duties of Assistant Treasurer. Shirley is here almost every Sunday and comes by during the week to oversee and make sure all things are taken care of to ensure that the weekly deposits are made. She has been faithful in taking on this responsibility.

New Business:

2024 Budget: The 2024 Budget was previously approved by the vestry earlier this month at the January 8, 2024 vestry meeting. A copy of the 2024 Budget was included in the “Annual Report of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church for the Year 2023”.

Income:

- **Pledges** – This is the primary source of income. Members responded well to the pledge drive. Barbara noted that this makes it much easier to determine what our income will be.
- **Endowment Income** -Other primary source of income is the \$2,000 monthly withdraw (\$24,000 annually) from the endowment, which is a continuation of what was done in 2023. At this time the endowment continues to earn enough of money not to be impacted by the \$2,000 monthly withdraws. Last year the endowment earned between \$22,000 - \$23,000 despite withdrawing \$24,000.
- **Miscellaneous Offerings** - Comprised of offerings from special collections, primarily for holidays. We used to take in a fair amount of money from these collections. The amount received has decreased over the years due to more members opting out of using the offertory envelopes. The budget has been adjusted and lowered to reflect this.
- **Flowers** – This is a new category and will be included operating income for 2024. In the past, donations for flowers were previously included in a separate alter guild escrow account. Flower donations are now classified under miscellaneous operating income.
- **Fundraising** – Barbara stressed that this is necessary for us to balance our budget. We don’t want to raise money from parishioners entirely and should look into ways to bring in outsiders to help. Main sources of fundraising are comprised primarily of the vendor fair, RaiseRight and other. RaiseRight and the vendor fair and will have their own line items in operations for 2024 to be easier to track income raised and related costs.

Vendor Fair –

- Very successful at raising money with almost all the money raised comes from outside the church (vendor fees and foot traffic).
- It was mentioned that volunteers are needed to help out with administrative work, which Anne has done most of in the past with Diane as back up, and help with setting up and physically being there during the event.

- Vendor fees are competitive. 2024 vendor fees have increased by \$5 to \$30 (vendor provides own table) and \$35 (Church provides table).

Question: Is there a plan to hold a second vendor fair in the fall.

Answer: No, once a year is enough. We would be competing with too many other events during the fall.

Recognition: Diane Fornuto wanted to take this time to recognize Tara Fornuto for her efforts towards the vendor fair. Tara went to many vendor fairs and collected business cards from vendors she felt would be a good fit. Letters from the church were sent to these vendors and the response has been positive.

RaiseRight –

- Barbara mentioned that this is a way to contribute money without actually contributing money. She further explained that this is an online service to buy gift cards (physical or e-card) and a percentage of what is purchased will go back to St. Peter's.
- 10% of what St. Peter's earns goes to outreach.
- Members can also invite non-St. Peter's members to sign up with RaiseRight and use the St. Peter's code.

Other Fundraising –

- This category is currently undesignated.
 - Barbara emphasized that we need to raise an additional \$2,000 in 2024.
 - She asked the parish if any one had any ideas for a fund raiser. If anyone has an idea, she asked that they research it prior to presenting the idea. Once researched, people will be available to help.
- **Other Income** – Comprised primarily of income from building use. Last year we budgeted \$3,500 and took in almost \$5,500, which is now the budgeted amount for 2024. We have a lot of people who use our space. We plan to raise rates by a small amount for 2024. Groups that use are space include Make Food Lovely, Hindu Group, Al-Anon, Wednesday Afternoon Group. A fee has been suggested to the Scouts, who currently use our space free of charge. They do clean up after themselves but there is still additional cleanup in addition to heating and light usage which can become costly.
 - Anne suggested renting space to someone who would like to rent office space.
 - Diane mentioned that help is needed to set up tables for some of the groups that use our space. She will send out requests for help when there is a need. It was suggested we have a volunteer sexton team to help with setting up tables and chairs for groups that rent space.

Question: Did the people who use our space inquire to us directly?

Answer: Yes, the groups that currently use our space did inquire directly to us.

Expenses:

- **Salary Expense** – This is mostly derived from a formula. The ECCT recommended a 3.05% increase. For the sexton, we pay minimum wage, which increased to \$15.69 for 2024.
- **Diocesan Pledge** – This amount is 10% of our income from two years ago (2022).
- **Utilities** –
 - Electricity** – For both the church and rectory, we now use Constellation Energy to supply the electricity and Eversource delivers it. We have a fixed rate for the next three years. We started to see the effect of lower costs in the June bills. Not sure at this time how much savings will be recognized from this switch in supplier, but we do expect to see some savings in 2024.
 - Heat** – Expect to be kept in between what we budgeted for last year and what we actually spent.

Telephone and Security-Plan is to separate both and have separate line items. Dubaldo charges should be tracked separately. *Anne mentioned in relation to security that she is providing a floor plan of the building to the police and developing an assembly plan in the event of an emergency. This is all currently being worked on.*

- **Kitchen Expense** – This is a new line item for 2024 and is included under Parish Life. This new category will track the money we spend on supplies and maintenance related to the kitchen.
- **Property** – New line item. Snow Removal and Mowing budget for 2024 reflects the actual Samsel charges for 2023. These expenses were recorded in different places in previous the years.
- **Worship** – Added Altar Flower expense.

Time was given for questions and comments related to the Budget Presentation:

Question: Is the Church going to look into getting solar paneling?

Answer: Barbara answered no, not at this time. The challenge is that there is no rebate. We would have to upfront the money. Churches and other non-profits are considered commercial and with this designation, it would not be beneficial. This can change in the future.

Question: What is the status with AON 5G?

Answer: All the paperwork is done. Right now, AON 5G is not looking for property in our region. Anne added that she received an email from the ECCT, which informed her that they are currently in Phase 2 of this process and also stated that they hope that St. Peter's will be selected. The email also mentioned that if we are selected, all required paperwork and documents will need to be provided to move forward. Anne said that she emailed them back requesting information on what information/documents are needed so we can be ready if selected.

Question: Where did the endowment come from?

Answer: The funds in the endowment came from a former member, Nancy Braender. When she passed away, she left the church \$300,000. The endowment has since grown by \$50,000.

Question: How are we doing on developing a new song book?

Answer: Anne answered that it is currently on hold. Diane mentioned anyone in the parish can take on this project or help out in putting one together. Currently, there is a plan to include sheet music. This may cause the book to be larger and there is a question as to where we would put it.

Acknowledgement: Amy Hubeny was acknowledged for her volunteering to provide music twice a month during the 10:00 service, saving the church \$6,000 a year in music expenses. She received a standing ovation by the parish for her dedication.

Conclusion: Barbara ended the Budget Presentation by reminded the church that we budgeted a deficit of \$17,000. This could loss could possibly be less if everything works out on a positive basis financially. We are currently draining some of our savings. The value of the endowment has stayed consistent throughout 2023, despite taking out \$24,000. We can reduce expenses such as clergy hours but that would impact our overall experience.

Presentation of Nominations/Slate of Officers: List of Nominations/Slate of officers was posted in the 2023 annual report and is as follows:

- Senior Warden: Mark Bell
- Junior Warden: Erik Barber
- Treasurer: Barbara Hoff

- Clerk: Lisa Pile
- Two-Year Term: Dick Hubeny
- Two-Year Term: Bill Hartley

The Reverend Anne asked if there were any additional nominations to be made from the floor. None were made. Sandy Bell made a motion to adopt the Vestry Slate. Diane Fornuto and Diana Rios seconded this motion. Motion passed by acclamation.

Presentation for Nomination for Alternate Diocesan Delegate: Anne announced that we need to elect an Alternate Diocesan Delegate but there are currently no nominees. She asked for nominations from the floor. Dora-Lee Ober nominated Dick Hubeny. Dick did not accept at this moment but left it open that he will give it consideration. No Alternate Delegate was elected. Anne stated that in the future, if an alternate diocesan delegate is needed, we can elect one in a special meeting.

Rectors Remarks:

Anne thanked the parish for making it possible for her to take a sabbatical. It was a deeply personal and moving experience for her. She also acknowledged that many members expressed an interest in what she had done and accomplished during her sabbatical. It would be helpful for her to learn what everyone would like to know so she can make a presentation to the parish.

General Discussion:

- Dora-Lee Ober expressed that we have not been good stewards of space and we should be more mindful of how we look to outsiders visiting the church. She mentioned that we have crowded coat closets and miscellaneous items left on the kitchen countertops. She further mentioned that Diane’s desk has become a collection point for items that people don’t know where to put. She reminded members that we need to be mindful of how we look and if you don’t know where something goes, to please ask someone.
- Diane Fornuto mentioned that if anyone knows of a member that is ill, please let Anne or herself know. She reminded the church that it is Anne’s pastoral duty to take care of our spiritual needs, but that it is difficult to do that if she is not informed. Anne reminded the members that Diane’s and her phone numbers are on the back of the service bulletin. From this conversation it was noted that the parish directory is two years old and needs to be updated.
- Martha Houlroyd wanted to remind everyone that if we see someone new in the church, we should introduce ourselves, ask them if they have any questions about the service and show them the books that we use, and go over what we do during the service. Visitors to the church may not be familiar with our service and help would greatly appreciate and help.

Announcements:

- Heavenly Hugs are moving to the large classroom starting next month. Diane added that Jessie worked hard to start up Heavenly Hugs and emphasized that if anyone has interest in learning how to crochet or just wants to hang out and talk with the group, they should come to the meetings.
- Barbara Hoff will be available after the meeting to answer questions related to RaiseRight.

Benediction: Benediction was given by Reverend Anne Fraley.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

Respectively submitted,
Lisa A. Pile

Vestry Motions and Resolutions - 2024

A total of eleven vestry meetings took place during 2024. The following motions reflecting actions of the Vestry were made, seconded and were approved by vote of the Vestry either within or outside of vestry meetings. Motions to accept minutes and treasurer reports, and to adjourn are not included below. Some meetings did not have business requiring a vote by vestry members.

Vestry Meeting January 8, 2024

A motion was made by Dick Hubeny to approve the 2024 budget as presented. Mark Bell seconded this motion. Motion passed

A motion was made by Bill Hartley to accept the Voter List as presented. Tara Fornuto seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Vestry Meeting February 12, 2024

Mark Bell made a motion to accept the Parochial Report as presented. Dick Hubeny seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Barbara Hoff made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 to cover the cost of converting the stove to natural gas including parts and labor. Erik Barber seconded this motion. Motion passed.

February 20, 2024 via email outside the Vestry Meeting

Dick Hubeny made a motion to authorize the additional \$300 for the stove conversion. Barbara Hoff seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Vestry Meeting March 11, 2024

No business was conducted that required a vote.

March 21, 2024 via email outside the Vestry Meeting

Barbara Hoff made a motion to approve up to \$6,000 for Dubaldo to work with a Farenhyt technician to replace the failed Farenhyt fire alarm panel with a new panel. Tara Fornuto seconded this motion. Motion passed with one abstain. (Bill Hartley)

Vestry Meeting April 13, 2024

A motion was made by Mark Bell to offer the occasion to rent the office space, including utilities at a rate of \$325-\$375 per month. Dick Hubeny seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Vestry Meeting May 12, 2024

No business was conducted that required a vote.

Vestry Meeting June 10, 2024

No business was conducted that required a vote.

July 16, 2024 via email outside the Vestry Meeting

A motion was made by Tara Fornuto to accept the building use agreement with the YWCA After School Childcare program. Barbara Hoff seconded this motion. Motion Passed.

Vestry Meeting August 12, 2024

A motion was made by Barbara Hoff to replace the rectory roof and accept the bid by Ray Halle Home Improvements for \$16,000. Mark Bell seconded this motion. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Barbara Hoff to withdraw \$16,000 from South Windsor St. Peter's Church Estate of Nancy C. Braender, Account 21108 immediately to cover the cost of replacing the Rectory roof. Dick Hubeny seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Vestry Meeting September 9, 2024

No business was conducted that required a vote.

Vestry Meeting October 14, 2024

No business was conducted that required a vote.

Vestry Meeting November 11, 2024

No business was conducted that required a vote.

Vestry Meeting December 9, 2024

A motion was made by Mark Bell to authorize the \$119 to upgrade the secure certificate. Bill Hartley seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Dick Hubeny made a motion that the Vestry of St. Peter's Church, South Windsor, elects to retain our current annual spending distribution of \$24,000 from our Estate of Nancy C Braender Restricted Fund (Account 21108). These funds will be disbursed to St. Peter's in equal monthly payments of \$2,000. Ingrid Menon seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Whereas the Rev. Anne Fraley is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. Peter's Episcopal Church, South Windsor, CT, the vestry resolves that the total compensation to be paid to the Rev. Fraley during 2025, that \$8,000 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986 as amended. Ingrid Menon made a motion to pass this resolution. Mark Bell seconded. Resolution passed.

Respectively Submitted,
Lisa Pile

Treasurer's Report for 2024

In 2024 we ended the year as expected, with a deficit close to \$17,000. Given our reduced number of pledging units, we have done a remarkable job keeping St. Peter's moving forward.

Income and Expense Report

Income:

- Pledges: My thanks to each one of you for your ongoing commitment to St. Peter's through your ongoing pledges and support, which resulted in us meeting our Pledge goal of \$153,000 in 2024.
- Endowment: We planned on withdrawing \$2,000 each month from the Endowment for a total of \$24,000, but you will see we actually withdrew \$40,000. The Vestry approved withdrawing an additional \$16,000 in September to cover the cost of replacing the Rectory roof. See the Balance Sheet section below for more information about the Endowment.
- Fundraising: We raised \$4,950 through our fundraisers. Please see the Fundraising Report for more details.
- Building Use: Income from Building Use has become a significant part of our budget, helping to offset the loss of Pledge income. Since September, Covenant Chapel has been using our entire space every Sunday plus a few special events (\$400/week). There is a Hindu group that meets late most Sunday afternoons, and others who use various spaces at different times on a weekly or monthly basis. Al-Anon donates a nominal amount each month and the Scouts donate service hours.

Expenses: Salaries and our regular expenses were generally within the expected budget. A few exceptions included:

- \$2,700 to convert the oven to natural gas (under 'Parish Life-Kitchen')
- \$5,000 to replace the Fire Alarm panel (Capital Expense). We received a grant from ECCT for \$2,500, so our net cost was \$2,500.
- \$15,800 to replace the Rectory roof. We applied for a grant to reimburse us \$8,000 for this property improvement but will not know about the award until April.

Summary of Income and Expenses:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Income: | \$217,136 |
| • Expenses: | <u>\$233,575</u> |
| • Excess Income/Expenses: | -\$16,439 |

Balance Sheet

Current Assets:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Checking Account | \$11,652.17 |
| • Savings Account | \$16,704.91 |
| • Diocese Managed Unrestricted | <u>\$23,536.01</u> |
| • Total | \$51,893.09 |

Note: \$15,736.78 of our funds are earmarked for specific items. These are listed as Escrow accounts on the Balance Sheet, although we do not maintain separate checking or savings accounts for these funds. The largest amount is \$6,934.11 set aside as the Rector's Discretionary account.

Investments:

Fixed Assets: We have not had the value of our land and buildings assessed in several years. However, the Town of South Windsor lists a value of \$2,283,500, almost \$1,000,000 more than the value we carry on our balance sheet.

Endowment: The value of our Endowment (shown under Investments-Other Assets) was approximately \$398,684 at the end of the year, even though we withdrew \$40,000. The table below shows the amount we have withdrawn from the fund each year and the value at the end of each year.

Starting Value in January 2016 = \$288,883.26

Year	Withdrawals	Yearend Value
2016	\$ 4,930.50	\$ 313,792.05
2017	\$ 6,580.18	\$ 337,212.62
2018	\$ 7,197.42	\$ 353,190.82
2019	\$ 7,716.92	\$ 339,970.18
2020	\$ 7,460.62	\$ 442,617.58
2021	\$ 6,814.95	\$ 440,570.02
2022	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 367,197.92
2023	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 365,846.83
2024	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 398,684.86
Total	\$ 140,700.59	

Change in Market Value from January 2016 to December 2024 = \$109,851.60

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Hoff, Treasurer

Rector’s Report

When I sat down to write this report, I thought to myself, “well, it’s been a relatively quiet year...” Ha! We’ve been plenty busy. We’ve just gotten even more adept at living into God’s call to serve and pray as a part of how “we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

Liturgically, our life rolled with the usual flow of seasons, with the slight interruption to “usual” when Bishop Diocesan +Jeffrey Mello visited us in April, his first since his consecration in 2022! I continue to be grateful for the presence of our deacon, Jessie Akerson, not only in worship, but in support of many of our other ministries and activities. We have also benefited from the addition of The Reverend Zeb Treloar as Priest Associate at St. Peter’s. Although Zeb does a lot of pulpit supply around ECCT, he lends his priestly gifts to us on occasion, in addition to a vibrant singing voice!

We continued the practice of worshipping as an “interactive church” on the first Sunday of the month during the program year. We also welcomed members of the community to join us for the annual Blessing of the Animals in October. We are fortunate to have some settled musical accompaniment on Sundays, with the presence twice a month of a regular substitute, Angela Lomaglio, at the keyboard and organ. On other Sundays we are delighted to enjoy the gifts and contributions at the keyboard of our member, Amy Hubeny.

We continued to serve members of the community through collections of school supplies for kids in need, food for those facing food-insecurity, support for Harford Bags of Love in bringing awareness to the plight of the

unhoused, a Thanksgiving meal for area seniors (62 meals served!), a team of volunteers that prepares a hot meal each month for the Friendship Kitchen, an East Hartford ministry that feeds the hungry, and the provision of gifts for the children of local families at Christmas.

We were also able to host our first fish-fry fundraiser, “Fishin’ for Mission,” to benefit the South Windsor Food and Fuel bank. Postponed from its originally intended debut as COVID hit in 2020, we served fried fish and chips with slaw and a choice of dessert, and offered a silent auction, all of which raised just over \$3000. Big thanks to Amanda Bierkan who initiated this event and chaired it to its success, parish volunteers, and to members of Troop 682 for their assistance. We look forward to a bigger and better “Fishin’” event in 2025. Once again, we took to reading to stretch ourselves spiritually with two book studies. We launched the year at Lent with Elias Chacour’s *Blood Brothers*, a story of Christian faith and witness in the Holy Land. This led to an opportunity to engage in conversation with a Palestinian Christian living with her family and working in Bethlehem. Via Zoom, we spent an hour hearing about the challenges for Christians in that hallowed land and were grateful for the occasion to learn directly about the impact of the Israeli conflict on Christian communities. In the fall we undertook a reading of Richard Rohr’s *Jesus’ Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount*. We found that study stimulating, if dense and a lot to absorb from week to week. As previously experienced with other book discussions, these occasions offered us opportunities to share our faith, our questions, and our struggles in community, a form of engagement that blessed the participants.

We had two unique opportunities to host visiting clergy over a meal. In May we welcomed Bishop Markus Dogo and his wife, Nana, from the Diocese of Kafanchan, Nigeria, known to us through Africa Education Partnership (AEP). Members of the Board of AEP joined us for a dinner to help raise funds in support of student scholarships through AEP. We also held a potluck dinner with conversation with the Rev. Fadi Diab, rector of St. Peter’s Church, Birzeit, and St. Andrew’s Church, Ramallah, both member parishes of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Seizing an opportunity to meet with Fadi while he was traveling in the United States, the occasion was prompted by SPOT’s exploration of establishing a sister relationship with Fadi’s church in Birzeit. As faith communities in the Middle East continue to persevere amidst conflict, it was a valuable and illuminating conversation for us as a parish.

Relationally we enjoyed some of our usual traditions: a spaghetti dinner, the Shrove Tuesday Supper, an end-of-school Taco Feast, a fall picnic, December cookie swap, and the Parish Christmas Party. Each occasion provided an opportunity to enjoy and deepen existing relationships, and to build new ones. We also hosted our third annual Craft and Vendor Fair in April, which saw a 50% increase in the number of participating vendors. This continues to be a good source of both exposure for the church, and a means of generating revenue to assist our budgetary needs.

A new experience for us is the presence at St. Peter’s of Covenant Chapel, a Korean Presbyterian faith community. In need of a place to worship when an existing arrangement could not be continued, in September Covenant Chapel began worshiping in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoons. They also use parts of the building for Sunday School and fellowship while they’re here. We are delighted to be able to offer them the use of our facilities, and to consider ways that our common mission in worship and service might be enjoyed together in the future.

The year also marked a change on our staff with the departure of Office Administrator Diane Fornuto when she retired in November. Diane was an invaluable teammate from the first day that I became rector at St. Peter’s in 2017. She made my life easier by virtue of her competence, and richer through the collaborative ways that we considered new ideas and evaluated existing programs and events. I owe her a debt of gratitude for the many ways that she made it a pleasure to come to work each day. Thank you, Diane!

The closing of one staff door also meant opening another! In December Karen Abbruzzese joined the staff as our new Office Administrator. She has already proven herself an asset, having survived generating four distinctively different bulletins in her first month on the job!

As usual, a large part of what makes this community hum is the selflessness so many of our members demonstrate as they take care of a variety of tasks, large and small. From implementing upgrades to the website, to pulling weeds, changing lightbulbs, washing kitchen linens, making bank deposits, preparing the altar for worship, offering music, administering communion, setting up the parish hall for events, filling the little pantry, taking commission meeting minutes, and more, St. Peter's thrives because the people who call this parish home give of themselves to get things done. I am moved, inspired, and grateful daily for the way love is expressed and demonstrated, and that faithfulness is evident every time I turn around. To say that we are blessed is an understatement.

Faithfully,
The Reverend Anne Fraley+
Rector

Deacon's Report

This past year has been a busy and fulfilling one in my ministry. Although my role as deacon is most visible in worship, I have had the privilege of engaging in a variety of other activities aimed at feeding both our parish and the broader community, fostering connections, deepening my education, and serving the wider church. It is a joy to take part in and support the following ministries and activities:

Feeding Ourselves and Our Community: Fishin' for Mission Fish Fry Fundraiser; Annual Thanksgiving Meal; Annual Spaghetti Dinner; and Parish Picnic.

Building Community: Coordinated the monthly Heavenly Hugs gatherings; SPOT (St. Peter's Outreach Team); Parish Life Commission events; Semi-annual book studies.

Other ministries to which I contributed were overseeing the kitchen for the preparation of food for sale at the Vendor Fair; assisting in organizing and inventorying kitchen supplies and tools; and formatting the new Songbook.

Additionally, I have pursued my own Continuing Education through a variety of programs: Visions Anti-Racism Training; Deconstructing the Bible Class; Annual Clergy Conference; ServSafe Certification:

As a deacon of the Church I have also served ECCT in the following ways:

- **ECCT Title IV Task Force**, which addresses matters of clergy discipline to ensure accountability and integrity within the Church.
- **Diocesan Mission Council:** Contributed to the work of this body that oversees diocesan operations between annual conventions.
- **50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination:** Participated as clergy in the service celebrating this significant milestone in the church's history.

It has been an honor and a joy to serve in these capacities, and I look forward to continuing to grow in ministry and to serve our parish, community, and diocese in the year ahead.

Rev. Jessie O. Akerson, Deacon

Senior Warden's Report

It has been a blessing and honor to serve as your Senior Warden over this past year. Despite being small in number, we continue to thrive as a parish family, serving both our members and the neighboring community with blessings in the name of Christ. As I look back over 2024, I see that we had another successful year. Connecting over food has always been a passion of St Peter's and 2024 was no different. Our Fishin' for Mission community dinner was a great success. We served over 100 meals and raised over \$3,000 for the South Windsor community food and fuel bank. We joined together to cook meals on a regular basis to support the Friendship Kitchen in East Hartford, and once again, provided Thanksgiving dinner to many in our community. We broke bread together on multiple occasions including a Taco Feast, a church cookout, a spaghetti dinner, and our annual Christmas holiday gathering.

The Spring Vendor and Craft fair was also a big success. In addition, we have been able to support other groups in the community by providing the use of our building and grounds. Our building space is being utilized by many groups including the Covenant Chapel, a member of the Korean American Presbyterian Church. They worship every Sunday afternoon at St. Peter's and often meet during the week for bible study.

We had several visitors to St Peter's during the year and each moved me in their own way. In April, Reverend Jeffrey Mello, the Bishop diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut worshiped with us. Bishop Mello spoke from his heart and clearly understands the struggles of the Episcopal church and it's individual parishes, and supports St Peter's in all that we do. In May, Bishop Markus Dogo of Kanfanchan, Nigeria with African Education Partnership, visited St Peter's and spoke of the advances being made in the schools in Nigeria that members of parish have helped fund. I was also humbled by the opportunity to connect with Father Fadi Diab, an Anglican priest from St. Andrew's in Ramallah, Palestine. He spoke of the everyday struggles of the citizens of the holy land and was presented with several gifts from St. Peter's representing the support that he and his parishes have here at St. Peter's.

As I look back on 2024, I am moved by all that we accomplished over the year. This is a result of each and every member of this parish. We all serve in our own way and each of us is vital to the overall success of this parish. I encourage you to continue to use your time, talent, and treasure to support our church and the good work that is being done every day. I would also like to thank our clergy including Reverend Anne, Deacon Jessie, and Zeb our Priest Associate for all the work they continue to do to support our parish and our community. I consider this parish a blessing to myself, and my family and I look forward to our continued success in 2025!

Yours in Christ,

Mark Bell MD

Ladies' Bible Chat

Ladies Bible Chat meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the meeting room. We watch a video that is about 20 minutes long and then discuss it within the context of our faith and our personal experiences. It's a great way to spend learn about the Bible and doesn't require any preparation on your part.

In 2024, we finished "Elijah: Spiritual Stamina through Every Season" and then moved on to a series about Ruth. After our summer break, we switched to "12 Daring Women of the Bible," which will take us through most of the year. The discussion is always interesting, even when it veers off the night's specific topic. Please join us. We are happy to provide transportation for anyone who needs a ride.

If anyone is interested in working with me on a similar format for a mixed group, please let me know.

Barbara Hoff

Altar Guild

The members of the Altar Guild serve God by setting the Lord's table for all of the liturgical services, cleaning the linens, silver and brass items, maintaining inventory of candles and eucharistic elements of hosts and wine. I want to express my thankfulness for a terrific job that everyone does in serving the Lord at his table. Members are Amy Hubeny, Lee Eaton, Barbara Hoff, Ingrid Menon and Martha Houlroyd. There are also several Eucharist ministers and followers who volunteer to help distribute the Lord's communion to members of our congregation. Their dedication is a blessing to all of us.

The Altar Guild is self-supporting with funds donated by parishioners which allow us to purchase supplies. Flower offerings provide opportunities to honor loved ones or events during a service.

A prayer: "Gracious God, bless your Church and all who minister at the altars and care for sacred vessels and linens. Give us an awareness of beauty and mindfulness in holy places that we may enable others to worship and set forward the coming of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

If you feel the call to serve the Lord in this ministry, please contact one of us or Pastor Anne.

Submitted by Martha Houlroyd

St. Peter's Outreach Team (SPOT)

SPOT is a small (but mighty) group consisting of Sandy Bell, Amanda Bierkan, Anne and Ken Fraley, Jessie Akerson, Tara Fornuto and Diane Fornuto as well as numerous volunteers. We were sad to lose Robert McBeth this year and are grateful for all he has done for SPOT over the years.

We have had a busy but successful year. We have adopted a sister parish – St. Peter's in Birzeit, Palestine. The rector is Fr. Fadi who we were fortunate to host at a dinner in May at the home of the Bells. It was an interesting evening during which he spoke about what life is like for the people there. He was presented with several gifts to take home with him including a wood and resin cross, a banner for St. Peter's, and a gift hand made by Nancy Eaton for Layan Nasir who was being held without charges in Israel.

We are constantly looking for new ways to support our neighbors and spread God's love. Below is a list of our projects.

Care Bags: We filled Ziplock bags with items such as toiletries, socks, hand warmers, snacks and \$5 gift certificates to Dunkin Donuts or McDonalds to carry in cars for donation to needy and homeless people. This is

an ongoing project; collection baskets are in the Narthex and Parish Hall in preparation for our next “bag filling” meeting.

South Windsor Food Bank: We have an ongoing collection of non-perishable food and supplies to support the food bank. Ingrid Menon has graciously agreed to resume her ministry of bringing the items to the food bank.

Free Little Pantry: In partnership with Scout Troop 682 we provide ongoing support of the outdoor food pantry located at the front of the church. We continue to post in the bulletin a reminder along with a suggestion of three items for the week. We were blessed at the beginning to the year to receive a check for \$500 from the Connecticut Episcopal Church Women for our ministry in providing food for the needy. We have put that money towards purchasing food for the little pantry.

Friendship Kitchen. Under the direction of Ken Fraley, a group of members continue to prepare meals one Monday per month for a soup kitchen in East Hartford. Anyone who wants to get involved should see Ken.

Back to School Project: For this annual project we used an Amazon Wish List and stickers in the sanctuary, to collect an incredible amount of back-to-school items which were delivered to the South Windsor Community Center.

Hartford Bags of Love Sleepout Breakfast: Each year Hartford Bags of Love holds a sleepout to raise awareness of homelessness. This year we continued to provide breakfast for the participants the following morning through the hard work of Amanda Bierkan and Sandy Bell.

Thanksgiving Meal: We prepared meals which were served in our parish hall or delivered to local house-bound seniors as well as the South Windsor Police Department. Many thanks to Ken Fraley, Troop 682, and our members for their hard work.

South Windsor Christmas for others: We adopted six children through the town of South Windsor Human Services Department and provided all the gifts that were on their wish list. We are pleased to have helped provide a wonderful Christmas for some of our neighbors.

Fishin’ For Mission: We finally had our Fishin’ For Mission dinner this past spring. After having been delayed for several years due to covid, it was successful; proceeds were donated to The South Windsor Food Bank. Many thanks to Amanda for leading this project and to all who donated their time and talent.

Birthday Boxes for the Food Bank: Since many kids go without birthday cakes each year, with the help of donations from our membership we provided individual gift bags of cake mix, frosting, candles, a pan, and can of Sprite (substitutes for eggs and oil). These were well received by the Food Bank and we hope to make this an ongoing project.

First Responder Appreciation. In October we recognized police and ambulance personnel by providing a grab and go breakfast; a small number took advantage of this offer. On the same day we offered an afternoon coffee break giving the first responders cookies, trail mix, apples, and coffee. Several of the officers (including the chief) and emt’s came in for that which afforded us some nice fellowship time.

Africa Education Partnership Fundraiser. Bishop Markus from Nigeria was visiting Connecticut this year. We held a successful fundraising dinner and online auction for the benefit of the schools and students supported by AEP.

As your Outreach Team we look forward to continuing our efforts to spread God’s love in our community by helping the needy. We will continue our ongoing projects but have so many new ideas that we need some help to implement. We meet on the second Sunday of the month and invite anyone interested in outreach to join us. As always, we welcome new members or visitors to our meetings.

Faithfully,
Diane Fornuto
Chair of Mission Commission

Heavenly Hugs Annual Report: A Year of Learning and Revival

Introduction The past year marked a transformative journey for Heavenly Hugs, as we embraced the challenge of reviving this cherished ministry. It was a year of learning, growth, and community building, where members stretched their creativity and talents to learn new ways to bring warmth and care to those in need. This report reflects on the milestones and achievements of this first year of renewal.

A Year of Learning Reviving Heavenly Hugs was an opportunity to reimagine the ways we could serve and connect with others. Many members stepped out of their comfort zones to learn new crafts, including knitting, crocheting, and quilting. These skills became the foundation for beginning to create heartfelt gifts, such as blankets, scarves, and shawls, embodying the love and support our ministry represents. Collaborative sessions were held throughout the year, fostering a spirit of mentorship and mutual encouragement. Members with experience in these crafts generously shared their knowledge, empowering others to develop their abilities. The process was as rewarding as the finished creations, as it strengthened bonds and built a supportive community.

Building Community One of the greatest successes of this year was the sense of community that flourished within Heavenly Hugs. The act of creating together brought a shared sense of purpose and joy. Monthly gatherings became a time for reflection, fellowship, and collective creativity. Each member's contribution, whether large or small, was celebrated and valued.

Looking Ahead As we reflect on this first year of revival, we are filled with hope and excitement for the future. In the coming year, we plan to:

- Expand our repertoire of crafts and explore additional creative projects.
- Begin to create partnerships with local organizations to reach more individuals in need.
- Continue fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where all can learn, grow, and contribute.

Conclusion The revival of Heavenly Hugs has been a blessing to all who participated. It was a year of building community, stretching talents, and spreading love through the work of our hands. We are grateful for the dedication of our members and the support of the larger community, and we look forward to another year of growth and giving.

With heartfelt thanks,
Jessie Akerson
Coordinator, Heavenly Hugs

Peace by Piece Quilters

Our quilting group has been in existence since 2007. It was started by Nancy Eaton and was created to give quilts to those going through life-changing illnesses/treatments, surgeries, and natural disasters. They have been called upon to make other items for servicemen overseas, masks during the pandemic (over 5000), and we also make small (4" squares and hearts) "Pocket Prayers" that can be put in your purse/pocket/backpack (to rub away your cares). All of our items are Blessed when finished, and are available BY REQUEST ONLY, since we keep records of the homes where our quilts now live.

In 2024 we finished 26 quilts, and distributed a total of 40, including to cancer patients recovering from surgery, a fall victim (broken ribs), 17 that went to families/children displaced by Hurricane Helene; 14 went to MI to victims of a Splash Pad gun incident. We've provided 7 to Project Linus for children in need. We also sent one to Layan Nasir's parents in Palestine to provide comfort until she was released from an Israeli prison. In addition to Palestine, and local destinations, our quilts have gone to CT, MO, MI, TN, and NC.

We currently have 6 quilts on hand to bring comfort to someone Please contact/text Nancy Eaton at 860-966-9072 for questions or to make a request.

We meet in the large classroom, once a month (on Saturdays), from 9am-2pm. Anyone is invited to join our group or just to stop by and see what we do. We do have a Facebook page and a blog (www.peacebypiecequilters.blogspot.com). Please check us out anyway you can. We look forward to sharing what we do with all of you.

Nancy Eaton

Small Group Bible Study

Thursday afternoons seven of us gather at my house for a hands-on study of a book of the Bible. After earlier dipping our toes into a gospel, we decided to dabble in some of Paul's letters. Then last fall we felt called to look at the acts that caused Paul's letters to be written and have been following the apostles' narrative that makes up the Book of Acts.

Even though at this writing we are about half way through the book, we would welcome anyone who might feel likewise compelled to do biblical digging. One minute we might be lifting up someone or something in prayer, the next minute we might be lifting our hearts in laughter, as we grow together in our tiny community of faith. In faith,

Dora-Lee Ober

Property Commission

The Property commission was busy this past year tending to a variety of projects and maintenance at the church and rectory. Among them:

- Pressure-washing the rectory siding.
- Grading and seeding the area of lawn where the old shed used to be.
- Installation of an awning over the entrance to the education wing.
- Filling gaps in the sidewalks to the office and education wing entrances to ease use for those in wheelchairs and using walkers.
- Repair to the rear exterior sanctuary wall.
- Improvement of sanctuary light switch function.
- Staining rear education wing landing and stairway.
- Removal of shrubbery in the courtyard and by the entrance to the education wing.
- Replacing the shingles on the rectory roof.
- Installed a walkway from the parish hall doorway to the courtyard to connect it to the existing walkway.
- Replacement of exterior lights.
- Identification and marking of an assembly point for emergencies.
- And... clearly walkways following snowfall.

Each of these projects was made possible by the selfless giving of time and effort by members of our Property Commission. I am indebted to Dick Hubeny, Tom Morelli, Dom Nanci, and Will Prokop for their faithfulness in making all these things possible. In addition, the Bell family has helped with snow removal and occasional other tasks.

Our property is also kept looking attractive through the gardening efforts of Barbara Hoff and Ingrid Menon. I am grateful for their selfless dedication to beautifying our church grounds.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Fraley
Chair, Property Commission

Parish Life Commission

This year we have continued to increase the events we plan. We are a small group consisting of Sandy Bell, Diana Rios, Val Morelli, Ken Fraley, Tara Fornuto, Nancy Eaton, Jessie Akerson, and myself. We meet the third Sunday of the month between services in the large classroom. We would love to have people join us.

As your Parish Life Commission we organize the social life of the parish including planning, setting up, and cleaning up after social events. As all who know St. Peter's, most of our events revolve around food!

Our first event in 2024 was to organize the breakfast preceding the Annual Meeting. All went well and delicious food was brought and enjoyed by everyone. Our next event was our annual spaghetti dinner which was held on February 3. Again, everyone seemed to enjoy the meal and fellowship.

On February 13 we organized a Shrove Tuesday dinner. Over the years we have done pancakes and muffalettas. To be different, this year dinner consisted of Ham and Beans. A great way to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and prepare for the solemnity of Lent.

April 21st brought a visit from our Diocesan Bishop, Jeff Mello. Again, we were on the hospitality aspect and provided a nice breakfast for him and the entire parish as well as lunch for him and our Vestry.

The following week brought our annual Vendor & Craft Fair for which we organized lunch for folks to purchase as well as made candy to sell at our booth.

As an event that involved both Parish Life Commission and SPOT, in May we had a fundraiser dinner for AEP with Bishop Marcus as the guest of honor.

On June 2nd we had a Taco Feast to celebrate the end of the school year. Much fun was had by all especially watching Mark Bell and sons destroy the Pinata; candy for all!!

After being mostly quiet for the summer, in the fall we were back at it. We held our annual Parish Picnic on September 15th. Many thanks to Mark Bell who brought his grill and cooked some awesome hamburgers and hot dogs! Unfortunately, the Spuds & Swap event scheduled for October had to be postponed until January 2025 due to bad timing. We are looking forward to that event!

Our Christmas Party was held at the Bell's on December 6th. Although it was a small event, fun was had by all. A Cookie Swap was hosted by Shirley Nanci on December 17th. Again, a small event but those who attended enjoyed appetizers and fellowship as well as went home with many holiday cookies.

There were a couple of other decisions made by the commission in 2024. We did not plan a Progressive Dinner this year. We agreed that, with all the events we had scheduled, it would be more prudent to have that event every other year. In order to make sure that the kitchen remains clean and uncluttered, we decided to institute a rotation of commission members to be responsible for a month at a time.

As you can see, we have been very busy this year and I am grateful to the entire commission for working so hard. I especially want to thank Nancy Eaton who is resigning this year; we have appreciated her hard work and ideas. As always, we welcome anyone to stop in at a meeting and perhaps join us!

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Fornuto, Chair

Communications & Technology

- Many thanks to Dom Nanci, Greg Malone and Dick Hubeny who serve on the Tech team and ensure that our worship services are streamed to both Facebook and YouTube every Sunday.
- Each week, several watch the Facebook stream "live"; the YouTube stream is often watched later during the week.
- An announcement banner was added to the top of our website to highlight upcoming events and important notifications. A sign-up link is often included.

- Our website architecture has been greatly simplified for easier management. Moreover, security has been strengthened and website response time improved by website performance tuning and the migration to a new server at our web hosting provider.
- A Facebook live feed has been added to St. Peter's website homepage. Anyone who visits our homepage can see the latest posts to St. Peter's Facebook page, even if they do not have a Facebook account. This keeps our website fresh with the latest posts.
- Light Breezes is now available online (click on the Newsletter menu item).
- To keep our website current, many new pages have been added, including: Men's Breakfast, Church Calendar, RaiseRight, Friendship Soup Kitchen, and others.
- The online Photo Gallery has been updated to display photos from more recent events at the church. Send photos to Dick Hubeny if you wish them added to the photo gallery.
- Registration and payment for many of our church events can now be made online through our website. Donations for specific causes can also be made online. Examples include the AEP dinner, Fish Fry, Flower donations, Dedicated donations, Fishin' for Mission and In-Kind donations.
- WiFi was extended to the Education Wing of the church by installing a 2nd router in the coat closet in the back hallway.
- Chromecast was installed and configured in the small meeting room, Parish Hall and the double classroom in the Education wing. This enables videos, Zoom sessions and other content to be displayed on the TVs in those rooms.
- New floor speakers were installed in front of the sanctuary to amplify sound for those in the front rows and also to allow the keyboardist to hear and monitor their performance.
- Worked with members of the Covenant Church Chapel to integrate their sound requirements into our sound system.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Hubeny

Finance Commission

The Finance Commission is an informal group consisting of Greg Malone and me with occasional input from Rev. Anne. Since this is my second year as treasurer, the conversations are less about the mechanics of managing the church's finances and more about decisions regarding how to maintain our fiscal health. For example, when we needed to replace the roof on the rectory, we had multiple options on how to fund the \$16,000 cost: take the money from our savings account, borrow the money, or use some of the funds in the endowment. After reviewing these options, the Finance Commission recommended using the funds from the endowment because it has gained sufficient value this year to cover the expense and it's a way to realize some of that unrealized gain.

The Finance Commission is also responsible for the annual pledge drive. Although Rev. Anne and Diane do much of the heavy lifting for this effort, Mark Bell also assisted this year. My thanks for another successful campaign.

Shirley Nanci, our Assistant Treasurer, oversees the recording and depositing of all funds received by St. Peter's. She is assisted by our counters, who volunteer to do the actual counting and recording on a rotating basis. Thank you all.

We're always looking for additional counters. Let Shirley know if you are interested.

We could also use a back-up for Shirley – someone who knows what needs to be done if she is not available. In general, we've been able to work around her occasional absences, but it would be better to have a designated person. Please let Shirley or me know if you would be willing to help.

Barbara Hoff

Fundraising

In the 2024 budget, we set a fundraising goal of \$8,750. Although we ended up raising only \$4950, we learned some things along the way and have high hopes for 2025.

Vendor Fair: The Vendor Fair raised \$2,100, about \$300 more than 2023. Most of the income is from the fees vendors pay us for their tables. In addition, we run a Teacup Raffle, serve lunch, and sell baked goods. A very small group handles all the preliminary work of sending out flyers to vendors, tracking responses, getting the necessary supplies, and doing the publicity. Rev. Anne and Diane Fornuto did most of the work with a few other hands behind the scenes. The word is getting out that this is a great event for crafters as well as buyers, so we anticipate it will grow again in 2025. Please step up to help with setup, “day of” activities, and cleanup, and set aside to come yourself to support the vendors who are supporting St. Peter’s.

RaiseRight is a rebate program that raised almost \$1000 in 2024. While a few people purchase physical cards, most participants use eCards that they purchase through the RaiseRight app. For example, when I am buying something online at LL Bean, I look at the total in my shopping cart. I then go to the RaiseRight website and purchase an eGift card for LL Bean (they come in \$5 increments), which is immediately available. I copy the card number and PIN into the Gift Card section on the LL Bean site. LL Bean deducts that gift card amount, and I pay any difference with my credit card:

LL Bean Purchase Total = \$103.50

RaiseRight eGift Card = \$100 + \$0.29 processing charge

Additional LL Bean charge = \$3.50

LL Bean RaiseRight Rebate = 16% = \$16 to St. Peter’s

It works the same way when I am at Lowe’s (4%), except I’m doing it all with an app on my phone. I do a quick estimate of the cost of items I have in my shopping cart and buy an eGift card. Since I’m physically at the store, I just show the scan code at checkout and I’m all set. For Stop & Shop (3.5%), I discovered the eGift card wasn’t consistently accepted, so I purchased one physical card from RaiseRight and now I reload it using the app. NOTE: RaiseRight gift cards cannot be used to pay your credit card bill with a vendor.

NEW IDEA FOR 2025: Calendar Fundraiser. No, we aren’t selling calendars. The idea is that each month, we put a number in a hat for each day of the month. Each participant picks a number (date) out of the hat, and they donate that amount (\$1-\$31) to St. Peter’s in addition to their regular pledge. There’s always the possibility you pick #30 every month and you end up donating \$360 for the year, but more likely you will average in the middle somewhere and your total for the year will be somewhere around \$180. This is an easy and somewhat fun way to raise \$4,000.

Outreach Fundraising: Although the fundraising we do through SPOT for outreach is a “wash” from a budget perspective (we donate the net proceeds), I want to acknowledge the efforts of our St. Peter’s community to organize, run, and support these efforts. The Fishin’ for Mission event raised almost \$3100 for South Windsor Food & Fuel and the AEP Scholarship Dinner raised \$3000 for Africa Education Partnership. Although we no longer set aside funds in our budget for SPOT-supported activities, your individual generosity of time and treasure is a bright spot in our parish life.

If you have a fundraiser that you would like to organize, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hoff

Parish Budget for 2025

2025 Budget Overview

Income

Current Year Pledges: Where do we raise most of the funds needed to support St. Peter's? The answer is very simple. You are the primary source. Each person who pledges and contributes regularly to St. Peter's helps ensure our future. You all continue to be generous, for which I am very grateful. However, as most of you know by looking around the room, a few more people have chosen to switch to different churches. As a result, our pledges for 2025 are down almost \$13,000.

Endowment Income: We will continue to draw down \$2,000 a month from our endowment. Please review the Treasurer's Report elsewhere in this Annual Report for the current status of the endowment.

Miscellaneous Offerings: While it appears that Flower donations are a significant portion of our miscellaneous income, this is mostly offset by the cost of the flowers (net = \$300).

Fundraising: We expect to raise over \$5,600 this year through various fundraising events and opportunities. The Vendor Fair is a critical piece of our fundraising that requires a significant amount of help doing setup, assisting during the day of the event, and cleanup at the end. This is one of those places where your time is the biggest treasure you can provide.

Other Income: Building Use income has increased dramatically. In addition to our long-term users and Covenant Chapel, we are already aware of two other groups that will be holding multiple events in our space. In addition, in September 2024, we announced that the YWCA Before/After School program was interested in using our space. The licensing process is taking much longer than anyone anticipated, so we are not ready to include their potential use in the budget. Your prayers to mitigate the remaining impediments would be greatly appreciated!

Expenses

Salary Related: ECCT recommended a 4.01% increase in salaries plus the CT minimum wage increased to \$16.35 on January 1st. In addition, the market rate for Office Administrator is significantly higher than we previously paid. The projected salaries reflect these changes. For Rev. Anne, this also impacts a few of her other benefits. In addition, ECCT recommends a budget of \$1,850 for both Rev. Anne and Deacon Jessie for Continuing Education.

ECCT has already notified us of the cost of our Diocesan Pledge, Health Insurance, Property Insurance, and Workers Compensation Insurance rates for 2025.

Church: The budgets for electricity and heat were adjusted slightly to reflect the increase in building use. Since we now track Security costs separately, the 2025 budget is in line with what we spent in 2024.

Other Expenses: The other expenses were budgeted based on our 2024 costs and historical data from the last few years.

Estimated Surplus/Deficit: -\$17,000

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Income							
Primary Sources							
Current Year Pledges	140,300	153,000	152,672	157,969	155,100	178,193	193,110
Old Year Pledges	250	400	1,510	300	700	1,000	0
Plate Offerings	2,000	2,000	2,319	2,991	2,031	395	772
Endowment Income	24,000	24,000	40,000	24,000	36,000	6,815	6,997
Sub Total Primary Sources	166,550	179,400	196,501	185,260	193,831	186,403	200,879
Miscellaneous Offerings							
Initial	25	25	68	85	30	15	20
Lenten	0	0	151	0	205	0	225
Easter	300	300	285	305	455	540	2,125
Thanksgiving	100	100	180	45	95	530	225
Christmas	250	500	285	430	425	1,435	225
Flowers	1,800	1,500	1,799				
Subtotal Miscellaneous	2,475	2,425	2,768	865	1,210	2,520	2,820
Fund Raising							
Church Dinner	600	700	602	278	733	201	302
Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000	0	774	66	0	0
RaiseRight	1,000	1,500	995				
Vendor Fair	2,000	750	2,084				
Subtotal Fundraisings	5,600	4,950	3,681	1,052	799	201	302
Other Income							
Miscellaneous	500	3,800	845	2,207	2,613	1,250	4,285
Building Use	33,277	5,500	12,887	5,075	3,585	2,070	800
Interest	450	600	453	647	789	374	647
Outreach-Specific Donation				629			
Insurance Reimbursement				2,500			
Subtotal Other	34,227	9,900	14,185	11,058	6,987	3,694	5,732
Total Budgeted/Operating Income	208,852	196,675	217,136	198,235	202,827	192,818	209,733
Expenses							
Salary Related							
Secretary	20,650	15,848	17,587	14,532	14,153	14,053	11,595
Sexton	3,924	3,766	3,923	3,510	3,660	5,749	5,576
Social Security Employees	1,880	1,500	1,646	1,380	2,059	2,685	2,461
Deacon	275	300					
Clergy	63,015	60,533	60,533	58,741	54,847	52,915	51,913
Social Security Clergy	9,667	9,471	9,471	9,217	8,666	8,393	8,251
Group Medical Insurance	12,336	12,612	11,928	11,031	13,669	13,279	12,665
Other Employee Insurance	735		1,032				
Housing Equity / Allowance	3,041	2,980	2,980	2,900	2,727	2,641	2,596
Pension	19,259	18,923	18,576	18,078	16,998	17,810	14,835
State Taxes			0	53			
Continuing Education	1,850	1,000	0	0	157	0	180
Professional Expenses	1,000	1,000	621	707	1,062	745	862
Professional Development	0	0	577	0	0	50	0
Deacon Professional Development	1,850	350	0	451			
Guest Organist / Other	6,800	6,800	6,780	7,412	4,803	0	150
Subtotal Salary Related	146,282	135,083	135,653	128,012	131,898	133,610	126,084
Diocese							
Diocesan Pledge	19,320	20,050	20,110	19,101	20,869	21,636	20,640
Property Insurance	11,500	10,160	12,935	10,767	10,567	7,921	7,404
Convention	1,000	250	935	389	240	30	45
Subtotal Diocese Related	31,820	30,460	33,979	30,257	31,676	29,587	28,089
Church							
Electricity	4,750	4,500	4,541	4,993	4,284	3,253	3,134
Heat	4,500	5,500	3,785	5,002	6,596	4,141	5,310
Sewer	475	475	460	460	425	415	715

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Supplies	250	50	185	473		46	
Telephone	1,000	925	980	1,727	2,589	2,571	2,297
Security	1,600	800	1,556				
Water	350	350	326	308	559	270	164
Subtotal Church	12,925	12,600	11,833	12,963	14,453	10,696	11,620
Rectory							
Electricity	2,500	1,800	2,313	1,908	1,700	1,716	1,688
Heat	2,300	2,300	2,005	1,989	2,116	1,940	1,772
Water	500	500	371	469	454	423	597
Subtotal Rectory	5,300	6,400	4,688	4,434	6,003	5,859	5,498
Office							
Equipment	2,000	2,050	1,651	1,930	2,708	1,682	1,596
Other	350	200	380	189	165	870	502
Postage	100	150	73	126	76	183	101
Supplies	800	300	801	824	298	245	255
Member Administration	950	875	939				
Subtotal Office	4,200	3,575	3,844	3,069	3,247	2,980	2,454
Finance							
Audit	2,400	2,200	2,250	2,100	1,900	1,650	1,700
Collection Envelopes + Checks	175	340	386	0	170	389	0
Fundraising	0	300	0	258	516	162	158
Other	100	0	98				
Subtotal Finance	2,675	2,840	2,734	2,358	2,586	2,201	1,858
Parish Life							
Hospitality	300	125	272	1,101	936	876	892
Special Events	0	250	0	0	242	709	210
Subtotal Parish Life	300	375	272	1,101	1,178	1,585	1,102
Mission							
African Education Partnership	0	0	1,572	960	0	1,500	2,000
Rector Discretionary	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	2,000
Outreach Specific Donations	0	0	151	651	0	3,080	6,980
Theological Seminary	2,000	1,987	1,987	1,850	2,000	2,000	2,000
Subtotal Mission	2,000	1,987	3,710	3,461	2,000	7,580	13,480
Property							
Church Maintenance	8,000	10,000	4,172	9,937	14,564	7,367	7,934
Rectory Maintenance	500	250	468	1,229	79	179	1,900
Kitchen	500	300	3,019	0	0	0	0
Snow Removal and Mowing	8,000	6,835	7,605	6,835	3,665	2,745	1,740
Subtotal Property	17,000	17,385	15,264	18,001	18,308	10,291	11,677
Worship							
Equipment	450	0	442	908	200	0	0
Supplies	750	600	730	595	753	487	593
Flowers	1,500	1,500	1,486				
Choir Music	100	50	110	48	95	194	72
Copyright	550	400	529	238	441	533	396
Other / Equipment maintenance	0	420	0	465	0	0	0
	3,350	2,970	3,297	2,254	1,489	1,214	1,061
Other							
Future Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000
Capital Projects	0	0	18,300	10,563	16,664	27,362	33,772
Total Budgeted/Operating Expenses (includes Non-Escrow Non-Budgeted Expenses)	225,852	213,675	233,575	216,473	212,738	205,811	213,023
Total Budgeted/Operating Surplus/Deficit	-17,000	-17,000	-16,439	-18,238	-9,911	-12,993	-3,290