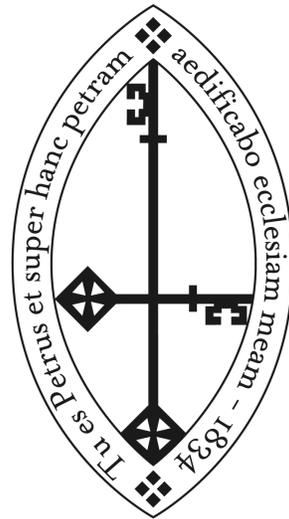


Annual Meeting of the Parish
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

Sunday, December 4, 2016
The Second Sunday of Advent
9:30 a.m.
Martha Bowles Parish Hall



Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam
“You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church.”

Our Parish Vision is to become
a community of bold followers of Jesus;
a crowd that effects good change for the world;
a place known for radical love and welcome; and
a beacon of hope in Center City Charlotte.

Meeting Agenda – Sunday, December 4, 9:30 a.m.

Welcome, Opening Prayer and Call to Order

The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher, *Rector*

Meeting Attendance Report (Quorum required)

Kristine Reid, *Clerk* and Irma Hoffman, *Senior Warden*

Collect First Ballots and Review Election Process

Vestry Nominating Committee

Hymn *sung by all*

Introductions: Vestry Classes and Nominees

Irma Hoffman *Senior Warden*

2016 - Irma Hoffman, Des Keller, Dave Lavoie, Nelda Leon

2017 - Candace Armstrong, Abigail Cudabac, Paul Keller, Kristine Reid

2018 - Paige Ghareeb, John Hall, Michael Koppenal, Bert Miano

2019 Nominees - Carolyn Carlburg, Elsie Erneston, John Frederick, John Hurst,
Maria Long, Thayer Moeller, Cooper Morrison

Offering of Ministry Area Reports

The Rector

Senior Warden Report

Irma Hoffman

Junior Warden Remarks

Paul Keller, *Junior Warden*

Treasurer Report, Review of 2016 Financials, 2017 Proposed Budget

Dave Lavoie, *Treasurer*

State of the Parish Address

The Rector

Adjournment and Dismissal

The Rector

A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols with The Holy Eucharist

10:45 a.m. in the Church

Festive Advent Potluck Luncheon

12:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall

A Message from The Rector
The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher

December 4, 2016
Second Sunday of Advent

Dear St. Peter's Members, Newcomers and Friends:

Every year, the St. Peter's Parish family convenes for the Annual Meeting of the Parish on the first or second Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church New Year. Our business includes the election of new Vestry members, written ministry area reports from Vestry coordinators, a draft operating budget for the coming year, and remarks from the Wardens and Rector. Likewise, it is a time to reflect on what is provided in Life at St. Peter's, our guide of worship, programs, and events, and to look ahead.

Today, we give thanks for approximately 850 adults, youth, and children members, and know that there would be no St. Peter's Parish without them. The offering of each one's time, talent, and treasure is central to our health and welfare as God's "mission station." A substantial majority are able to attend our weekly and seasonal worship, formation, fellowship, and service offerings. Yet, we miss those who physically are unable to engage activities, because of their infirmities. Our Clergy, Staff, Pastoral Care Ministry Team, Eucharistic Visitors, Community of Hope Ministers, and Lay Pastoral Visitors seek to be in relationship with all parishioners through their respective ministries. If you wonder about those who you have not seen in a while, please contact them directly or inquire through the Clergy.

This year, we celebrate the ministries of the *Vestry Class of 2016*, Irma Hoffman, Des Keller, Dave Lavoie, and Nelda Leon, and extend appreciation to Vestry nominees who have agreed to serve in the Class of 2019, if elected. The newly elected will join the *Class of 2017*, Candace Armstrong, Abigail Cudabac, Paul Keller, Kristine Reid, and *Class of 2018*, Paige Ghareeb, John Hall, Michael Koppenal, and Bert Miano for their first Vestry Meeting on December 20 and Vestry Retreat, January 6-7.

We commend the service of the 2017 Annual Fund Chairman Mike Wilson, 2018 Chairman Jay Norton, 2016-2018 Vestry, Staff, Parish House Volunteers, and lay ministry leaders, who continue the tasks associated with "Support Life at St. Peter's: Pledge 2017," our annual fund-raising campaign. As we reflect on the past, present, and future of St. Peter's, particularly all that is necessary to keep us and our sacred property alive and vibrant, the ministry of financial giving is a major calling of all members. This year, we are blessed to have annual fund participation from several newcomers, which is a sign of commitments being made by those who are new to the parish family.

The following **ministry area reports** are offered as an at-a-glance since our last meeting on December 6, 2015. In one way or another, each reflects highlights, participation, opportunities, hopes, upcoming activities, and more about life at St. Peter's. Their purpose is to provide a window into the numerous ways that our parish church responds to The Baptismal Covenant, and keep our eyes on the Parish Vision to become a community of bold followers of Jesus, a crowd that effects good change for the world, a place known for radical love and welcome, and a beacon of hope in Center City Charlotte.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Rector.

Advent blessings and faithfully, I am....

The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher, *Rector*

Senior Warden: Irma Hoffman

In the Gospel of John 13:34, Jesus tells us “I give you a new commandment....that you love on another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciple, if you have love for one another.”

Looking back on this year in the life of our parish, I am struck by the many ways we are living into our Vision Statement and to belonging to the “Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.” I see this in the way we express the love of Christ to one another and to our community at large. I see it in the everydayness of our lives together--and in the responses we make when our city and country are experiencing the darkness of injustice and upheaval. As we hold hands against this darkness...we strive to be the crack that lets the light of Christ shine through.

This morning you will receive reports from all the many programs offered at St. Peter’s. These programs would not be possible were it not for the wonderful work of our Clergy, Staff and the many volunteers who give of their time and talent to lead us on our spiritual journeys. I am forever grateful for their gifts of dedication and leadership.

It has been an honor to serve on your Vestry for the past 3 ½ years and as Senior Warden this year. My deep appreciation goes to all of you for the support shown me during this past year. I believe that you can be justly proud of this group of parish leaders. I encourage you to reach out to them and let your needs and concerns be known to them. And I ask that if you have not pledged that you do so this morning...and if you have pledged, that you might be moved to increase your pledge. Our pledges insure the continuation of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.

John 13:35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”.

Junior Warden: Paul Keller

2016 was another active year as we completed a number of significant improvements to the building which will benefit the Parish for years to come, in addition to the ongoing maintenance of the premises. The long-term improvements included a comprehensive program to address and eliminate the problems of water intrusion in a number of areas of the building which were increasingly causing a variety of secondary consequences. We were also able to make significant improvements to the air conditioning system in the Nave, and to install a new audio system in the Parish Hall. We expect to commence work soon on improvements to the Youth Ministry area, including an upgrade of the HVAC system, and on the installation of a hearing loop in the Nave to assist those with hearing challenges. All of these improvements were made possible by a generous grant from the St. Peter’s Endowment.

The combination of an aging complex of buildings and an active Parish means that there are always many areas that need attention and/or improvements. In addition to ensuring that our budget for ongoing maintenance is adequate, we will also be requesting a sizable contribution from the Endowment to invest in a number of other needed improvements, notably to the classroom space in the basement and continued improvements to lighting throughout the complex.

I am very grateful for the excellent job done by Facilities Manager Brian Whitley and the contribution of Parish Administrator Leigh Dixon, who both perform admirable service in keeping the premises in good working order and in the best condition possible. I am also indebted to a very experienced, talented, and interested Building and Grounds committee for their invaluable advice and guidance. The committee includes a number of former Junior Wardens and professionals with valuable insights and talents in the fields of architecture, engineering, and construction. We welcome new Committee members Jim McEwen, Daniel Oller, and Gary Wald and thank them for their immediate and significant contributions.

Treasurer: Dave Lavoie

2016 Year-to-Date as of October 31

Financially, we have had a good year and are running favorable to both income and expense budgets for 2016. Pledge receipts are ahead of plan and we have collected rents from the parking deck and our 3rd floor tenant on time. Expenses are currently \$57,976 favorable to budget. A large part of that is due to vacant staff positions during the year, but also due to favorable utility bills (electric, gas, water). Another \$13,279 of the favorable variance is due to a delay (slow billing) from Kanuga for our annual parish retreat. While it is comforting to think we might achieve a surplus for the year, it has come at the cost of being understaffed for many months, which has put a great burden on our clergy and remaining staff.

2017 Preliminary Budget

The budget we can share at this point in time includes requested expense increases. Revenue increases are not yet “loaded” because it is too early to predict the outcome of our Annual Fund pledge response. Hence, what you see is a \$85,527 deficit that hopefully will be satisfied with a similar increase in pledge and plate offerings (a required 9% increase). This is a “Needs-based” budget. I have included a list of ten necessary expense items. I think it is important to point out that many of these expense increases totaling about \$40,000 are required or otherwise “baked into” our present operations. The rest of the budgeted expense increases involve restoring our outreach donations and taking care of our staff and clergy through a cost of living increase and a merit pool. Our staff and clergy have been significantly overworked due to vacancies in 2016 and many have not received increases for some time. It is very important for the parish to “do right by them” or we run a risk.

I should also note that we have already set aside a number of necessary expense requests that we felt would not be achievable in 2017. I have listed those as well. While they are delayed for the time being, we do not consider them “nice to have’s” but rather needed items that must be addressed as soon as practicable. Most parishioners might not realize that our Facilities Manager position is currently a part-time job or that our Youth have had to carry a larger and larger share of pilgrimage expenses through fundraising efforts.

We are very fortunate that parishioners have increased their pledge support of St. Peter’s ministries over the last few years, and we are hopeful that will continue and allow us to enact this budget without further changes. If you compare our 2014 revenues with those in the 2016 budget, you will see that pledge offerings have increased by \$85,772 while total revenues increased only \$43,171. Our financial momentum has certainly been impeded by the loss of tenant lease income (down \$46,181), and that was due to La-Tea-Da’s Catering moving to their own facility.

After the Finance Committee reviews the projected result of our Annual Fund pledges, they will recommend a preliminary balanced budget for Vestry review later in December. A final budget will be approved by Vestry in January. Our primary goal is to be good stewards of your donations and to carry out the mission of our parish.

Membership: Elaine Wood, *Ministry Associate (Administrative Assistant)*

As of November 30, 2016, St. Peter's has 856 "active" adult, youth, and children members representing 433 households. During 2016 we have added 77 new members to the parish, plus 8 pending transfers (awaiting information from former congregations), 9 transfers out, 10 baptisms, 5 confirmations, 7 receptions, 3 reaffirmations, 9 weddings, and 7 burials.

Congregational Development: Nelda Leon and Michael Koppenal, *Vestry Coordinators*

The mission of the Congregational Development Team is to develop ways to welcome and engage new members and newcomers; explore ways for the parish to engage the wider community; and collaborate with staff and lay leaders on a comprehensive approach to the development and growth of parish ministries. Our Team Leader is Cooper Morrison, our team members include Virginia Brien, Tony Craghead, Mike Hoffman, Walt Hutchinson, and Matt Sharp.

Our activities and accomplishments for 2016 include:

- The implementation of Newcomer's Coffee, offered on a quarterly basis between the 8:00 and 10:45 services. The Coffee provides an opportunity for new Parishioners to meet with one another, members of the Vestry, and team leaders. We have averaged between 15 and 20 Newcomers for each meeting, with lively discussions and fellowship.
 - Our Welcome Call ministry has further evolved under the leadership of Tony Craghead, members of the Call team and Vestry reach out via phone, email, and text to welcome new members, answer any questions, and provide direction and advice when asked. Several new members have referenced this program as part of the reason they chose to join St. Peter's.
 - The Welcome Host team led by Mike Hoffman has continued to grow, members of the host team work to make visitors and newcomers feel welcome through intentional engagement, offering direction, advice, and a smile.
 - We offered two "Discovering St. Peter's" classes, led by Father Ollie and Mother Joslyn respectively. These classes were well attended and offered a forum where members could ask and have answered questions related to St. Peter's specifically and Episcopalianism as a whole.
 - Our Young Adult Group (20's, 30's and beyond!) have started meeting for brunch at various area restaurants on the first Sunday of each month for fun and fellowship after the 10:45 service.
 - We had our first Name Tag Sunday in October, all parishioners were encouraged to wear name tags and try to meet at least two people they didn't know. Polaroid and digital photos were taken for posting on our bulletin board and social media. New members were asked to stand and be recognized at both the 8:00 and 10:45 service. It was a fun, informal way to further get to know one another.
 - Two classes designed to help identify and utilize our Spiritual Gifts were offered in November, an Inventory Survey was used to help facilitate what was a deep and meaningful discussion. Several attendees have asked that we continue to offer the program in the New year.
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Fellowship: Paige Ghareeb, *Vestry Coordinator*

Saint Peter's offers an incredibly diverse array of opportunities for us to come together in community and fellowship. From Holy Chow's hearty breakfast and the delicious fare presented during coffee hour each week, intimate small dinner groups, the boisterous celebration in honor of Shrove Tuesday, our elegant High Sunday Brunch, to our many potlucks and receptions, we come together to serve one another and break bread.

It's hard to think of a better way for us to begin to live into Saint Peter's vision of a place known for radical love and welcome than right here in our own parish.

Saint Peter's now has an account with *Sign Up Genius*. I am happy to report that volunteer response using this format has been tremendous. A resounding "thank you" goes out to the many of you who have volunteered time, talent, and/or provided food for our events.

Special Thanks goes out to those who acted as event coordinators:

- The Rev. Joslyn Schaefer, who has been our guiding force throughout the year.
- Sue Martin and the Coffee Hour Baristas
- Tate Sterrett, Sam Gardner and the Holy Chow teams
- Christa Lineberger and the High Sunday Brunch team
- Van O'Neill for coordinating our upcoming Small Dinner Groups
- Lyn and Harris Holt and the Shrove Tuesday Volunteers
- Todd Murphy for providing beautiful flowers throughout the year
- Logan Smith for coordinating our Parish Picnic

Formation: Kristine Reid, *Vestry Coordinator*

Children's Formation: Anna Hurdle, Director of Children's Formation

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd & Children's Formation

For over twenty years the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been our primary method of Christian formation for children age 3-12 at St. Peter's and three years ago a toddler atrium was added to serve children ages 2-3.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children that is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church and the educational principles of Dr. Maria Montessori. According to former presiding bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Frank Griswold, III, "The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has shaped and formed both children and adults and drawn them, in a living way, into the mystery of Christ as that mystery is experienced in the life and worship of the church, particularly the Eucharistic."

Each Sunday at St. Peter's, our children gather in specially prepared rooms called atria, which contain simple, yet beautiful materials that they use to draw near God. Adult catechists serve as facilitators and co-wonderers with the children. "I wonder how the tiny mustard seed is like the Kingdom of God? I wonder what power is inside the mustard seed that makes it grow so large?" Together the children and adults enter deeply into the light and love of Christ. Currently, we have twelve adults who work with

seventy-one attending children in the atria. We average between thirty and forty children on any given Sunday.

The children and their catechists meet each Sunday for about two hours during the academic year. During the sessions, they receive developmentally appropriate and theologically sound presentations. Children repeat the presentations in a variety of ways, always seeking to go deeper into the mystery of God and the Kingdom. As many of you have witnessed, the children join the parish at the Sign of the Peace in order to participate in the Eucharist.

As the Director of Children's Formation and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a fifteen hour/week, part time position, my work includes a variety of responsibilities. With Catechesis, I support and provide training workshops for our catechists. The catechists and I work together in creating and maintaining our beautiful atrium environments. I handle parent and parish communications, registration and budget. I create Curriculum Guides that are emailed to parents at the beginning of each liturgical season. I am active in training adults to serve as catechists at a local and national level and our atria have served as models of the Episcopal adaptations to the original Roman Catholic origins.

My expanded role of Director of Children's Formation includes oversight of the nursery: scheduling the caregivers and overall upkeep of the environment and procedures. We are currently serving between 8-13 children in the nursery with two paid professional child caregivers supplemented by volunteers from the parish. This past year, we have added a family outreach project with several opportunities for fellowship and service. I organize the children's pageant. We will be offering the Solemn Communion mediation series during Lent.

I have put crisis plans in place for the atria & nursery and am working with facilities manager, Brian Whitley and consultant to further develop comprehensive plans. Looking ahead to 2017, our goal is to continue to serve children in the atria and nursery at the same level of commitment and quality. We would like to improve upon whole family support and engagement in parish life.

It is a pleasure to serve on the staff at St. Peter's. Thank you for your support of children and this important work.

Youth Formation: Lyn Holt, Director of Youth Formation

It is a hallmark of this community that it takes very seriously its role in the spiritual and social development of its teenagers. Through our use of the excellent curriculum, Journey to Adulthood, our 56 teens are learning about their faith and spirituality and, of course, testing limits, exploring outcomes, being of service and building community. St. Peter's 10 extraordinary youth leaders, as well as the 12 members of the Youth Advisory Team, are guiding and supporting the youth as they navigate this new world. We have 66 teens (grades 6 through 12), on our church rolls. All but ten are active participants in the youth group and in formation classes.

Our youth and youth leaders serve the Diocese through **H.U.G.S. Camp** (a Diocesan camp ministry for mentally and/or physically challenged children and teens): St. Peter's has sent the most Helper Campers to HUGS for the past ten years (14 in 2015) plus three adult leaders (Mike Hoffman, Sarah Geer, and Lyn Holt). And, one of our teens, Mia King, has been a HUGS Camper since she was 8 years old! The "Helper Campers," are essential to providing the HUGS Campers a real camp experience and providing

their families some well-deserved time off. **2016 Summer Mission Trip(s):** 7 of our high school youth joined with 5 youth from Convocation churches on a Racial Reconciliation Mission Trip to Ferguson, MO, where we learned so much about the problems, causes, and how to work together to be leaders in reconciliation. Nine of our youth returned for our third mission trip to the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry for a week of work and educating our selves about the plight of the farmworkers in Eastern NC. In the summer of 2017, we plan to assist the residents of Robeson county in recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Mathew. **2017 Pilgrimage:** 18 of our 22 10th/11th graders and their leaders will embark on their much-anticipated Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Milan, Italy in June at the close of this program year. It will be a life-changing experience they will not soon forget and for which they will always appreciate the people of St. Peter's. This opportunity will keep these young people focused on their spiritual development, on St. Peter's, and on the Church. **Rite 13, J2A, Pilgrim, and YAC (Seniors) Journey to Adulthood classes:** Sunday morning attendance and involvement in each class is good, with our new Rite 13 class coming along and our YAC class has a solid half of the group attending each week.

We continue to have excellent participation in fellowship building events such as the beach retreat, upcoming winter retreat and summer outreach camps and trips. We encourage parents to participate, also, in our J2A Parent Meetings, parent socials and adult formation. **Acolytes:** 32 of our youth serve the parish as Acolytes, assisting us in all parts of our beautiful worship, paying attention to details that show reverence, passion and love for our Lord. **Youth Advisory Team:** this group of 12 adults from all walks of parish life continue to excel in supporting the youth of our parish in various ways: helping plan and execute pilgrimage fund-raisers, leader recruitment and support, parent support, support of the Youth Formation Director and assisting in the many decisions, ideas, and resources needed to ensure that the program is running smoothly.

St. Peter's adult volunteers (professional and lay) are leaders in the Diocese. Mike Hoffman is Chief of Staff for HUGS Camp, and Director of Youth Formation, Lyn Holt, is a trained Diocesan Safe Church trainer and is serving on the Diocesan Bishop Transition Team. Several of our youth leaders serve as Diocesan event leaders at Bishop's Ball, HUGS Camp and Spring Youth Event. St. Peter's adult youth leaders continue to support and lead the 22-year collaboration of Charlotte Convocation churches, middle school **Episcopal Outreach Camp**. Lyn Holt is one of the founders of the camp. Our youth are grateful to the ministry of its devoted lay leaders: **Rite 13** - Sarah Dodd and Robbie Howell; **J2A** - Lorrell Meloy, Mac Meloy, and Drew Nicholson; **Pilgrim Class** - John Frederick and Ed Singletary; **YAC** - Jim DiMartino, Elsie Erneston and Harris Holt.

Adult Formation: The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Associate Rector (Formation)

Formation for adults takes place anytime parishioners gather to worship, to fellowship, to serve on committees or serve the community, and of course to learn. The Parish Hall Forum, our primary adult formation opportunity, has offered a wide-range of topics in the last year. In the spring, we dedicated four Sundays to topics selected by the Social Justice Committee: racial reconciliation (featuring conversations about Ta-Nehisi Coates' book *Between the World and Me*), assuring democracy (specifically focused on voting) and community justice (focused on understanding the transgender experience). We also had two sessions on "What's Going on in the Middle East?" looking at ancient and modern conflict on sacred soil. This fall we were pleased to host Dr. Suzanne Henderson as she led a four-week session exploring Jesus as Messiah in both first century and contemporary contexts. We just completed a two-week session on spiritual gifts. We also completed a parish-wide read on "spirituality and money," (those essays remain available on our website.)

Outside of Parish Hall Forum, we've used the 9:30 hour as a time for contemplative prayer as well as quarterly Newcomer coffees, Confirmation/Inquirers classes, and a two-part series called Discover St. Peter's. In the evenings, the Rev. Murdock Smith has taught intensive Bible study classes on Acts in the spring and 1 Corinthians in the fall. During the week, the Rev. Dr. Paul Hanneman has led a semi-monthly reading and discussion group about mysticism. In the fall, Dr. Hanneman led a workshop called "Bridges Out of Poverty" to help us better understand what it is like to be poor. Over the summer, Anna Hurdle led a week-long training for catechists in our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

In the coming year, we intend to focus on deepening our understanding of and spiritual appreciation for the riches of the liturgy. We also hope to help parishioners develop or enhance their personal spiritual disciplines and continue to offer weekly Bible Study.

Outreach and Social Justice: Des Keller (Outreach) and Bert Miano (Social Justice), *Vestry Coordinators*

The Outreach and Social Justice (O+SJ) Team, including the collective and individual efforts of lay volunteers and clergy, has focused its energy this year on three areas: Community Justice (access to housing and social services); Racial Reconciliation (working to come to grips with the past and how we might learn to move beyond it); and Assuring Democracy (voting registration and access to the polls).

These efforts are reflected in several major initiatives and events we participated in or led throughout the year, including a Parish Hall Forum discussing issues related to educational equity with a particular focus on finding motivation to choose the "collective good" over individual interests; a multi-session book discussion and community panel inspired by Ta-Nehisi Coates' book, *Between the World and Me*; a strong St. Peter's presence for the 20th Anniversary AIDS Walk Charlotte, which raised funds for our Servant Ministry Partner, RAIN; and a community-wide discussion forum on barriers to voting, entitled Your Vote Matters.

We again had a reliable team of St. Peter's volunteers devoting countless hours of service this year to working with Habitat for Humanity, Room in the Inn, Loaves & Fishes, the Pride Parade, the Farmworkers Ministry, the Urban Ministry, the Crop Walk, and many others. We are growing our relationship with the Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, and remain committed to expanding our reach into the broader community as a reflection of our faith.

This year, thanks to the continued generosity of the St. Peter's Endowment Fund, we were able to award grant funds totaling \$50,000 to twelve ministry partners in the greater Charlotte area. In addition, the Capital Campaign Outreach Funds Advisory Committee awarded five grants totaling \$178,856.71 to local organizations, consistent with the understanding that a significant portion of the recent capital campaign monies raised would be used to reach beyond our parish doors. We look forward to seeing the power of this expression of our faith in the most vulnerable populations in Charlotte.

The O+SJ Team is in the process of realigning its focus areas to reflect the needs and passions of the Parish. Areas under consideration for increased attention include race and economic mobility, housing issues, immigration issues, civil/human rights, and education. The work of this committee does not seek to prevent or discourage individual parishioners from involvement in any social justice cause they support. We continue to seek input and support as we explore new areas in which to serve, collectively and individually, in a way that honors the rich legacy of service by St. Peter's parishioners.

As always, the O+SJ Team meets monthly and all parishioners are welcome to attend as we develop our plans for the coming year. For more information about this ministry area, contact Social Justice Team Leaders Lisa Wielunski (lisajan81@gmail.com) or Jeanne Agan (jeanne.agan@icloud.com) or Outreach Team Leader Kathleen Zemaitis (kathleen.zemaitis@gmail.com).

Pastoral Care: John Hall, *Vestry Coordinator*

Many know the charge from Jesus to St. Peter that appears in our logo *Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam* (You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church), but fewer know the second half *et portae inferi non praevallebunt adversum eam* (And not even the gates of Hell will prevail against it). Unfortunately, sometimes it can seem like we have fallen through those gates into some awful places in our lives, and we don't know where to turn. The Pastoral Care Ministry Team, in support of and under the leadership of our talented clergy, provide spiritual, emotional, and practical support during those times when the changes in life may leave us feeling alone, helpless, or overwhelmed. Although as you'll see below, a wide variety of pastoral care ministries are offered by St. Peter's, please don't feel like you have to leave caring to the "professionals." Indeed, we encourage all parishioners to look to the list of those parishioners being prayed for in the Service Leaflet and reach out to those to whom they may feel called. It is because we are all one body, nourished by Christ and caring for one another, that nothing can prevail against us.

To access any of the ministries listed, contact the Rev. Ollie Rencher or any other member of the clergy.

1. All Souls Guild: Members of the All Souls Guild provide a simple reception to loved ones at the time of the funeral or interment (volunteers coordinated by Elise Cathey) and ongoing support for the first year of their loss (volunteers coordinated by Hope Westerfield).
2. Card Writing: Member of the Pastoral Care Ministry group write cards to members of St. Peter's who are being prayed for in our weekly Cycle of Prayer. Members also write cards to parishioners who are ill, hospitalized or have suffered a loss of a loved one.
3. Casserole Ministry: From time to time, parishioners benefit from a meal being delivered to their home from the parish. This ministry involves preparing meals that can be frozen at St. Peter's and delivered on an as needed basis (volunteers coordinated by Kay Keller).
4. Chronic Illness & Caregiver Support Group: This group meets once a month and is co-facilitated by clergy and parishioners. Through prayerful listening and sharing we encourage one another to live each day fully with gratitude and grit (coordinated by The Rev. Keith Lane and Dan Busch).
5. Community of Hope: This program offers spiritual development and training drawing on the Benedictine principles for those who want to be a part of an intentional community that meets monthly to support each person's pastoral care ministry. To learn more about the Community of Hope program over all, visit www.cohinternational.org. To learn more about the Charlotte Chapter and how you might become involved, contact the Rev. Ollie Rencher.
6. Guild of the Christ Child: Working with our Children's Formation team, this Guild supports families welcoming new children in their life through birth or adoption. The guild works with clergy to offer the family a Blessing in preparation to receive the child and a prayer of thanksgiving after the child arrives during our liturgies. In addition, the guild organizes meal delivery after the child arrives and supports the family other ways as needed (Coordinated by Barbara Brown and the Rev. Joslyn Schaefer).

7. Healing Ministry of Intercessory Prayer: After the 10:45 a.m. Eucharist, those in need of prayer for healing of mind, body or spirit are invited to pray confidentially with a commissioned healing minister just outside the Chapel. If you would like the parish to pray for you during the week or for more information about how to become a commissioned healing minister, contact the Rev. Ollie Rencher.
8. Eucharistic Visitors: Commissioned Eucharistic Visitors are sent after each service to share Holy Communion with those who are hospitalized, homebound, or for other reason unable to attend church (for more information on how to become commissioned as a Eucharistic visitor, contact Ruth Woodend).
9. Lay Visitors: Working with clergy, lay visitors are commissioned to visit with the sick and shut-in, bringing Christ's peace and offering a time of listening, companionship and prayer with those who are unable to attend church. Contact the Rev. Ollie Rencher if you would like to arrange a visit or if you would like to become a visitor.
10. Prayer Shawl Ministry: This ministry is open to anyone who knits or would like to learn to knit. Shawls knitted by the group are blessed by a priest and delivered to those in need of a physical reminder of the Church's prayer (coordinated by Linda Smith).
11. Rides Ministry: For Parishioners who can no longer drive to church, we work to match them with a "rides minister" who volunteers to provide rides to a Sunday service once a month. If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, please contact the Rev. Ollie Rencher.

The Pastoral Care Ministry Team includes Phyllis Ferguson, *Leader*, Neil Broncaccio, Barbara Brown, Dan Busch, Elise Cathey, Megan Hung, Kay Keller, and Hope Westerfield.

Stewardship: Candace Armstrong, *Vestry Coordinator*

The purpose of the Stewardship Ministry Team is to lead the people of St. Peter's into generous responses to God's love by offering the gifts of time, money, and talent, caring for parish facilities and sustaining our natural environment. Given that the financial wellbeing of the parish is directly related to Christian discipleship, the team sees worship, education and outreach as key sources for discovering what it means to be faithful stewards of God's abundance.

The membership of our team reflects this broader, year-round view of stewardship. Serving in 2016 have been Mike Wilson, Chair of the 2017 Annual Fund campaign; Jay Norton, Co-Chair of the campaign and Chair of the 2018; Kristin Bradberry, Endowment Board; Ginny Brien, Congregational Development Team; Brian Burden, Coffee Hour host; Sue Coonen, Chair of our Memorial Garden Committee; John Frederick, Adult Formation Team and Journey to Adulthood leader; John Hurst, former Senior Warden and former Chair of the Every Member Canvass; Maria Long, Planned Giving Officer; Dave Lavoie, Treasurer; Bill Williamson, Chair of St. Peter's Endowment; Candace Armstrong, Vestry link and Chair of the Team.

With the support and guidance of our Rector and Associate Rector, our goal in 2016 has been to begin to create a web of stewardship awareness and growth that will permeate our parish life. We have focused on:

- planning and implementing of the Annual Fund campaign
- supporting the parish-wide reading and discussing of three articles about spirituality and money led by our Associate Rector, Joslyn Ogden Schaefer

- working with Leigh Dixon, Business Manager, and Brian Whitley, Facilities Lead, to develop a more comprehensive plan of recycling items used in our parish work and events.

In 2017 your Stewardship Team will continue to support the efforts of those who work to assure that our Rector, Associate Rector, staff and lay leaders have the financial resources necessary to lead us in discipleship and care and maintenance of our facilities so that our parish members can continue to grow into our vision. We will also seek ways to encourage practices of stewardship and responses to God's great goodness to us as individuals and our parish community.

Thank you to all who have joined us in investing in our parish's Vision not only with offerings of time, talent and money but with a commitment of a pledge for 2017. To those who have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider this step of discipleship. We also welcome anyone interested in joining us in our ministry in stewardship. Please contact Candace Armstrong (armstrong4300@bellsouth.net; 704-523-3868) if you would like to know more about how you can be involved.

Worship and The Arts: Abigail Cudabac and Paul Keller, *Vestry Coordinators*

The heart of life at St. Peter's rests in our collective worship. The hallmark of creating and sustaining those worship experiences is certainly a spirit of volunteerism that thrives in our parish. Since the 2015 annual meeting, nearly 160 regular and special parish worship services have taken place within our walls under the leadership of our parish clergy as well as a host of volunteers. Note that these figures do not include the Morning Prayer Services, which are offered every weekday at 8:00 am and which rely on a dedicated team of volunteers who lead the services, or the weekday noon Eucharists. The work of lay Eucharistic ministers, verger, ushers, youth acolytes, altar guild, flower guild, breadbakers, lectors, and the parish choir adds up to at least 9,000 hours of volunteer service over the course of the year, not counting time volunteers spend coordinating/scheduling these ministries. While the different services in fact have differing needs for volunteers, the yearly total averaged over all services would give an average of 56 volunteer person-hours involved in putting on a single service.

Over 100 people serve regularly, many taking on two or more volunteer roles. Parish worship is enriched by their service, just as those who serve find their lives enriched in turn. If these 9,000 volunteer hours were valued at the City of Charlotte's hourly matching gift rate for volunteer service, the work our parishioners do just for worship would be the equivalent of an annual financial contribution to the parish of over \$120,000. The value is even higher in the life of our community.

This year, we give thanks for the service of Manuel Kennedy with the ushers and Brian Hacker with the youth acolytes. Beginning in Advent 2016, we welcome Elaine Jones and Tom Kiser as head ushers for the Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. liturgies, respectively, and the team of Elsie Erneston and Mike Hoffman as acolyte coordinators. We also appreciate Darin Kennedy, who now serves as pianist for many Sunday 5:00 p.m. services.

The St. Peter's Choir exists at the juncture between worship and the arts. The choir is an enormous educational opportunity for a group of people in our parish who bring a particular skill set honed week after week in rehearsals and performance. And in periodic workshops and retreats, choir members spend both money and time to come and continue to develop their skills. All of this adds up to a conservative

estimate of around 6000 person-hours of volunteer service devoted to our parish since the last annual meeting.

With choir development in mind, the parish choir has begun planning a weeklong residency at St. Alban's Cathedral, England for August of 2017. About 25 singers have committed to travel with the group and, in preparation, the St. Peter's Choir has committed to sing an additional five evensongs during the 2016-17 program year. Past parish support has been appreciated, and members of the parish can look forward to new ways to support the choir soon as Mr. Outen and a committee of choir members lead an effort to raise funds to help all choir members who can make the trip have the financial means to do so.

The Center City Concerts series hosted by St. Peter's is in its fourth season. We have enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with St. Alban's Episcopal in Davidson for our first four seasons, but have decided to begin producing our own independent concert series beginning in the autumn of 2017, tailored to our own special needs. The series continues to find new and enthusiastic board members but also continues to need the support of parish and vestry. Producing a season of free concerts is anything but free, so Center City Concerts faces a considerable fund-raising challenge as we work to develop an independent series.

The Choir School at St. Peter's continues to flourish and is healthy financially. In a change to the Choir School's staff, Colin Burns, a parishioner and a graduate of the Choir School, now leads the Town Choirs while also serving as organist/choirmaster at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson. In April 2016, the Choir School at St. Peter's hosted the St. Thomas Choir (New York) as part of its national tour. A former member of our Choir School is now singing as a member of the St. Thomas Choir School.

Endowment: Bill Williamson, *Chair, Endowment Board of Trustees*

In 1955 some farsighted Parishioners established The St. Peter's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, Inc. to provide a way for people to leave a legacy to our Church through planned gifts during and after their lifetime. The mission is to support St. Peter's Church by increasing the Endowment through Planned Gifts and appreciation of the investments. Over the last 61 years the Endowment has been critical to enhancing the work of the Parish both in outreach and in the Capital Campaigns - Miracle on 7th Street and Knocking on Heaven's Door. In 2008 a loan of \$150,000 was granted to improve the basement and third floor space; the loan has been repaid to the Endowment over seven years. Recent projects were the renovation of the Sacristy and the Multi-Purpose (Community) Room and improved control of the HVAC system in the Parish Hall. The total support to these projects exceeds two million dollars.

Another achievement of the Endowment is the annual support of the Planned Giving Committee established in 2002. Since its inception the Committee has named 135 donors who became members of the 1834 Legacy Society. The estimated value of these future gifts exceeds \$8 million. Two new bequests were received in 2016. The Planned Giving Committee is chaired by Maria Long and assisted by the Committee and our Business Office. Thanks to those working to see St. Peter's endure long into the future.

This past year was active in both grants and attention to our investments. The Endowment grants to Outreach and special capital needs were increased to \$136,000.

The Endowment at October 31, 2016 was valued at \$2,868,401, an increase year to date of 4.96%. Total Memorials to date are \$2,312, and bequests totaled \$123,589.63 from two estates. Investments are in high quality common stocks, bonds, and cash reserves managed through the Investment Policy Statement adopted by the Board and the Endowment's Finance Committee. The Endowment also manages the Shannonhouse Student Fund valued at \$280,951 which makes loans and grants for education purposes. Special thanks go to members of the Finance Committee, Sam Bowles, Sam Gardner, Jim Green, Brian Simpson, Bill Williamson and Rick Gross of Morgan Stanley.

The current Trustees of the Endowment appointed by the Vestry are Kristin Bradberry, Sam Bowles, John Hurst, Jim Shannonhouse, Bill Williamson, Dan Woodall, and Father Ollie Rencher.

Planned Giving

Maria Long, *Chairman, Planned Giving Committee*

The Planned Giving Committee was established in 2002 to enhance the principal of the St. Peter's Endowment by working intentionally to increase the number of planned gifts to the Endowment. The Endowment provides resources to St. Peter's by funding outreach grants from endowment income and by helping the church meet extraordinary parish needs, including capital projects.

The 1834 Legacy Society, named for the year Episcopalians first organized for worship in Charlotte, currently has 135 members. Members include those who have pledged or made a planned gift.

Committee members are Maria Long, Chairman; John Arrowood; Kristin Bradberry; Ellison Clary; David Lavoie; Dan Raiford; Jim Shannonhouse; Bill Williamson; Dan Woodall; and The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher, Rector, *ex officio*.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

A parish in the Diocese of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Anne Hodges-Copple, *Bishop Pro Tempore*

The Right Reverend Peter Lee, *Assisting Bishop*

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher, *Rector*

The Reverend Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend L. Murdock Smith, PhD, *Assisting Priest (retired)*

The Reverend Keith C. Lane, *Assisting Priest (part-time)*

The Reverend Dr. Paul Hanneman, *Formation Partner (non-stipendiary)*

Leigh Dixon, *Parish Administrator*

Lyn Holt, *Director of Youth Formation*

Anna Hurdle, *Director of Children's Formation (part time)*

Elizabeth Lenti, *Assistant Organist and Choirmaster and*

Assistant Director of The Choir School at St. Peter's

Dishawn Muldrow, *After Hours Receptionist (part time)*

Brian Whitley, *Facilities Manager (part time)*

Ben Outen, *Director of Music and Organist and*

Artistic Director of The Choir School at St. Peter's

Marty Reep, *After Hours Receptionist (part time)*

Willis Truesdale, *Facilities Assistant (part time)*

Elaine Wood, *Ministry Associate (Administrative Assistant)*

Parish House Volunteer Receptionists and Staff Assistants

Candace Armstrong, Bob Atkins, Irene Brinkley, Tina Coelho, Sue Coonen,

Alice Dresser, Diana Gibbs, Kitty Hughes, Sue Martin, Hulene McLean,

Wendy Merrill, Nancy Sarazen, Rob Smith, Carole Whittington

The Vestry and Ministry Areas

Class of 2016

Irma Hoffman (Senior Warden), Des Keller (Outreach),

Dave Lavoie (Treasurer), Nelda Leon (Congregational Development),

Class of 2017

Candace Armstrong (Stewardship), Abigail Cudabac (Worship and the Arts),

Paul Keller (Worship and the Arts), Kristine Reid (Clerk, Formation),

Class of 2018

Paige Ghareeb (Fellowship), John Hall (Pastoral Care),

Michael Koppenal (Congregational Development), Bert Miano (Social Justice),



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

115 West Seventh Street

Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

(704) 332-7746

www.st-peters.org