

Congregational Meeting 2015



St. Peter's Episcopal

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Priest in Charge, Annual Report, 2015

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

First of all, I would like to thank St Peter's for electing me to serve as the Rector of our parish in August of 2014. To serve as your Rector is the greatest honor of my life. You have been the ones to train me as a priest, and I am so grateful for all that you have taught me and all that we have had the privilege of doing together as we continue through our fifth year of life together in service to God.

“Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

This collect for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany reminds us that we are to be Christ's light in the world as the people of God. So I hope that you will “Come and See,” by reading these reports, what we have done this past year as we've tried to follow Jesus and to be God's light in the world in 2014.

Retreat with Sally O'Brien—Resourceful use of our buildings and creative ways of being “church” in our community

Instead of having a Vestry retreat this year, we had a Parish Retreat, so that everyone in the congregation could participate. We welcomed Sally O'Brien, from the Episcopal Church Building Fund, to join us for Sunday worship and to give us a presentation and to lead us in a time of discernment following our worship service and lunch. The mission of the Building Fund is to empower congregations to develop or enhance their mission through the strategic, resourceful and creative use of their buildings and to help congregations to think about new vital ways of being “church” in their communities.

The Vestry has spent this past year exploring various ideas that came from this time of discernment.

The obvious ongoing ministry that we decided to enlarge is our calling to feed the hungry people in our community. We held another **Community Dinner in December** as part of the Town of Port Royal Tree Lighting and with the help of Caroline's Promise.

Since Port Royal exists in a food desert, meaning that fresh produce and healthy food choices year round is not immediately available for those who lack money and transportation, we have

started a food distribution called **Village Harvest** that takes place on the third Wednesday of each month. With help from the Northern Neck Food Bank and the willingness of Johnny Davis to pick up produce, we have been able in just two months to distribute to 21 families fresh produce including collards, potatoes, sweet potatoes, watermelons, avocados and acorn squash. In addition, we have provided these families with Kleenex, soup, peanut butter, bread, and other food staples. We hope to continue this monthly distribution throughout the year. We are using our Parish House as the distribution point, and people come to St Peter's to pick up their food. We are currently serving 21 families, for a total of around 64 people who benefit from this distribution.

During 2014 we also **shared our building with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service for their Foode Fridays program**, which met once a month at St Peter's for several months in 2014. This program teaches people about healthy eating and how to prepare healthy foods. The groups of people who came prepared recipes and shared the results by eating lunch together.

In October, we once again **cooked and served a delicious meal for the Caroline County football team** before one of their home games. We were one of several churches in Caroline County who participated in this project and this year we **partnered with Second Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dawn, Virginia**. This project is a way of reaching out to young people in our community and working together with other churches to make a positive difference for the people of Caroline County.

John Faibisy **began a conversation with Fredericksburg Regional Transit to explore the possibility of restoring public transportation to the Port Royal area**. We also discussed other transportation options that we could add to our current approach of having a list of drivers available to those in need of transportation.

In October, we took St Peter's "outside the walls" by doing our **St Francis Day blessing of the pets as part of Charter Day on the Town Green in Port Royal**. Many people stopped by our table to learn more about pet blessings, St Francis, and also St Peter's. Catherine blessed dogs who had come with their owners to Charter Day, and lots of people took Pet Blessings to Go (for both dogs and cats) with them so that they could share treats and bless their pets waiting for them back at home. We auctioned off a statue of St Francis and made \$150 to use toward our new food ministry. This way of doing pet blessings was a way to be "church" in Port Royal in a new creative way.

Under the leadership of Ken and Andrea Pogue, we got a **tutoring program going for the young people in Port Royal** which met at the fire house three days a week for the second half of the

school year. During the summer, the tutoring group met to think about its philosophy and the tutoring program will resume in 2015 and will be held in our Parish House.

Another outgrowth of Sally O'Brien's visit is that we now have a great deal of **demographic information about Port Royal and the surrounding areas** that we can use in our ongoing discernment, thanks to Alex Long, who compiled this information for us.

Other Mission and Outreach Projects for 2014

FredCamp is an organization that brings area teenagers together each year to work on houses in the area. The teenagers stay at Fredericksburg Christian School for a week. They work on the homes during the day and have an inspirational program each night. **St Peter's provided lunches** for one of the Caroline County work crews.

We continued our **monthly Bible Study at Peumansend Creek Regional Jail** throughout the year, bringing the Good News to the prisoners there.

We welcomed **Lyra, an a cappella group from St Petersburg, Russia, to St Peter's in September for our second annual community concert.** An appreciative audience filled the church and immensely enjoyed the Russian Orthodox church music and the Russian folk songs which this group brought to us.

Worship

Worship at St Peter's is shaped by the lectionary and the church year calendar. Our pattern is to celebrate the Holy Eucharist each Sunday, and on the last Sunday of the month we worship with the Morning Prayer service at 11AM and a service of Rite I Holy Eucharist at 9AM. We began 2014 with an evening Epiphany service of Holy Eucharist. In 2014, the Feast of the Presentation fell on a Sunday, so we observed this Holy Day in our Sunday morning worship service, and as part of our worship, blessed the candles that we then used in church throughout the year. The Ash Wednesday evening service began our observance of Lent. Our Holy Week services in 2014 included our observance of Palm Sunday, followed by Tenebrae on Wednesday, our Maundy Thursday service and a prayer vigil with Taize music, and our Evening Good Friday service. Easter Day began with the community Easter Sunrise Service, followed by the lighting of the Paschal fire and our Celebration of Holy Eucharist at St Peter's. We celebrated the feast of Pentecost. We began Advent this past year with a Candle Tea at Coffee Hour during which we learned about Moravian Advent customs. We used several Moravian hymns in our Advent worship services, including our Advent wreath lighting hymn, Candle Glowing. We also learned a new Advent hymn, Soon and Very Soon, made unforgettable by the sax playing of Ben Hicks on the third Sunday of Advent. On the fourth Sunday of Advent this

year, we combined our Christmas pageant with the celebration of Holy Eucharist. On Christmas Eve, we held a traditional Moravian Christmas Eve Love Feast. Our final worship service for 2014 was a service of Lessons and Carols. Along with the choir, Helmut Linne von Berg, violinist, and Marilyn Newman, harpist, continued to share their musical gifts with the congregation, and Amy Meyer, harpist, joined us on Christmas Eve.

This year we have continued the practice of having the Prayers of the People written specifically for the particular scriptural themes of the day and for the concerns of our community rather than constantly to use the generic forms in the Book of Common Prayer, which are provided there as guidelines for congregational Prayers of the People. We have also used three of the Eucharistic Prayers from Enriching our Worship when they've been especially appropriate for seasonal themes, or to emphasize particular themes in the lectionary readings for a particular Sunday. BJ Anderson has continued to bake the gluten free bread that we all share on Sundays. During the winter months, Catherine has made bread for communion.

The Rt Rev. Susan Goff joined us in March for the Bishop's annual visitation and we officially welcomed Chris and Becky Fisher, longtime members of our congregation, when Bishop Goff received them into the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Amy Turner baptized Michael Fox at this service.

With heavy hearts, we said goodbye to Genevieve Davis in July. We held her funeral in the church, and her burial followed in the church cemetery. Helmut Linne von Berg offered a champagne toast to Genevieve which began the lovely and bountiful reception that the family gave in Genevieve's honor following the service.

Christian Education

During 2014 we continued to offer the **Godly Play** curriculum to our children from ages three to eight. The Rev. Amy Turner, who put this program into place and taught it for a year, left at the end of May, and the class resumed in September under the leadership of Ms. Callie Towler, who grew up in the Methodist Church and who graduated from Virginia Tech in May 2014. We currently have eleven children in the Godly Play class. We continue to offer a nursery for our youngest children every Sunday morning.

Frog and Toad, the charming and thought provoking Arnold Lobel characters, joined us for a **four week Adult Education Lenten series** and Catherine took Frog and Toad on the road to Shrine Mont for a weekend retreat program for St James, Mt Vernon, in the early summer.

On the first weekend in May, twelve members of St Peter's joined Christ Episcopal Church, Spotsylvania, for a **weekend retreat at Shrine Mont. We enjoyed a program based on The**

Rule of St Benedict taught by The Rev. Jeff Packard and Catherine. Catherine got to preach in the Cathedral of the Transfiguration, Shrine Mont's outdoor worship space that Sunday morning.

During **Advent**, in addition to learning more about Moravian Advent and Christmas customs, **Catherine led a four week study session on Mary, the Mother of our Lord and Savior, based on the book, Singing Mary's Song, by John A Stroman.**

The Ecumenical Bible Study continues to meet every Wednesday morning from 10Am until noon. This group studies and discusses the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday each week.

Vacation Bible School

We held Vacation Bible School for the children in July during the day and we used the Mennonite curriculum that focused on hospitality. Under Becky Fisher's able leadership, several adults brought Bible stories about hospitality to life for the children.

Youth Group

During the first part of 2014, the Youth Group worked on a merit badge curriculum, God and Family. The metaphor for the program was building a pizza. The participants learned about what it means to include Christian values in family life. After taking a summer break, the Youth Group reconvened in the late fall and is reading the Chronicles of Narnia, by C. S. Lewis, beginning with the first book in the series, The Magician's Nephew.

Other updates from Catherine

We applied for a **Mustard Seed Grant from the Diocese of Virginia in 2014 which I wrote and \$7000 was awarded to us so that we could re-leather the organ bellows (the lungs of our organ)**. This is the second Mustard Seed Grant we have received from The Diocese of Virginia in the past four years, in addition to a financial gift from the Diocese that helped pay for our continuing community dinners this past year.

In October 2014, I attended CREDO for Recently Ordained Clergy. CREDO is a program run by the Church Pension Fund to promote clergy wellness. During the seven day retreat I attended at the Lake Logan Episcopal Retreat Center in the mountains of North Carolina, we focused on the following areas in our lives as clergy—spiritual, vocational, health, financial, leadership formation, and we also developed a Rule of Life. I attended this conference along with 26 other recently ordained clergy from all over the country. We had five excellent faculty members who

met with us in groups and also individually. We are now in what is known as the Bridge Year, during which we continue to pay attention to these areas in our lives, stay in touch with and accountable to the members of our small group, follow our rule of life, and next October we will meet again for the second seven day conference which will be held in Prescott, Arizona.

In 2014, I also completed thirty hours of continuing education to keep my Licensed Clinical Social Worker license current, and I began the training for **Prepare/Enrich**, a training program for those who want to offer premarital and marriage enrichment counseling.

I am continuing as a **Spiritual Director** at Virginia Theological Seminary, where I meet with students and staff individually once a month. Beginning in September of 2012, I became the **“Chapel Coordinator”** at the seminary, a job which will continue through May of 2015. I plan three midday Eucharists each week, and schedule the people who will preach and serve at the services. I am also on the preaching and celebrant rotation for these services. I also schedule for two Morning Prayer services each week.

In 2014 I had the honor of being the **preacher at the Diocese of Virginia Fall Clergy Retreat**, and I was the **Quiet Day speaker at Virginia Theological Seminary for the Advent Quiet Day** held in early December.

For a small church, we continue to do an amazing amount of mission, outreach and witness in our community, We have been diligent in worshipping together as the family of God, and we have worked hard to continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God. God has truly blessed our congregation. Thanks be to God for all of the blessings from the past year, and I pray that God will continue to bless our worship, study, mission and our witness to God’s love in the world in the year to come.

Senior Warden, Annual Report, 2015

Boyd Wisdom

This was the 3rd and last year of my three year term on the St Peter's Vestry and I feel one of the most memorable years of my church life. It has been both an honor and a personal blessing to serve St Peter's as your Senior Warden. I have had the privilege of working with Catherine, who is a most outstanding and dedicated Priest and a real blessing to St Peter's. I also worked with some of God's most excellent persons on the Vestry. This was an outstanding Vestry and I feel we had a most successful year at St Peter's. I thank each and every member of St Peter's for your outstanding support of St Peter's and the Vestry as we went about determining and performing God's mission for St Peter's.

This was a milestone year for St Peter's:

- St Peter's elected our first Rector in several years being able to announce this to the congregation was definitely the highlight of my year as Senior Warden.
- The Godly Play Sunday School class for young children successfully completed its first year. We were blessed with finding a new Godly Play teacher for Fall 2014 thru Spring 2015
- We began an effort toward long term planning with a great presentation by Sally O'Brien of the Episcopal Building Fund. Sally's presentation helped us to focus on a vision of what our future will look like and what our mission and goals should be. We also formed a Long Term Planning committee to plan our future needs for buildings and planned maintenance and repair.
- We began our first community Tutoring program
- The ECW initiated the "Village Harvest" program to gather and distribute fresh produce, food, and other grocery items to families in the Port Royal and the surrounding area [.

St Peter's also continued with our many other programs, just to name few:

- The ECM conducted a very successful fund raising drive enabling us to feed two families at Thanksgiving.
- St Peter's held the 2nd of our Concerts for the community. For 2014 we featured the Russian choral group "LYRA" which was enjoyed by a large audience from the surrounding community.
- We continued our "Community Dinners" in conjunction with the Port Royal Easter Egg hunt and annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

St Peter's continued with our many other existing programs which I will not mention separately. St Peter's has so much faith and spirit that we seem to do an amazing amount of work for a small sized church. I pray that the future Vestries will be blessed with the ability to continue these efforts.

Junior Warden, Annual Report, 2015

Johnny Davis

- New insulation was installed under the living room of the Parish House.
- Men of the Church painted the white board fence behind the Parish House and part of the chain link fence on the northeast side of the church.
- Hired ALEXCOM (structural engineers) to inspect the church and Parish House because of the leaks and cracks that had appeared recently. No major problems were found but some minor repairs are needed in the future.
- Removed old cork board and installed new covered bulletin board on the right side of the church porch.
- Met with Cleo Mullins (a conservator) and Catherine to look at the Tablets above the altar and discuss the process of preservation and stabilization.
- Hired J. L. Clark to paint the outside of the church removing all lead paint from wood trim and making repairs as needed.
- Organized a fall work day in the church yard with the men of the church cutting bushes and removing limbs & leaves.
- Planted two apple trees and a lilac bush in the yard of the Parish House.
- Formed an alliance with the Northern Neck Food Bank to get fresh vegetables and fruits to supplement our new monthly food ministry.
- Picked up a truckload of food from Northern Neck Food Bank in Warsaw in November and December.
- Continued working with Hunters for the Hungry at Upper Essex Baptist Church taking them freshly harvested deer and picking up packaged frozen venison to deliver to Social Services in Caroline County.

Treasurer's, Annual Report, 2015

Clarence Kunstmann

On page 13 The Cash & Investment Summary shows the accounts for the monetary assets of St. Peters.

- Sections I and II identify the locations of the monetary assets.
- Section III, the Restricted Funds (designated funds) section, identifies those amounts that have been donated or set aside from the funds available for the general operation of the church, the Non-Restricted Funds.
- Section IV shows the Operating Fund Total. The sum of this total plus the total of the Restricted Funds equals the Cash & Investments Grand Total.

Under section II, Investments, is the Trustees of The Funds Account which has had an improvement in spite the market's ups & downs. Monies invested there are from the Cemetery Fund and the EC Davis Memorial Fund for Building & Development.

Within section III the earthquake account was closed out with a write off of \$3,598.37 after donations and support from the Diocese. Total cost was \$19,850.00.

The Fund Activity chart at the bottom of page 1 displays those restricted funds having activity during 2014.

On page 15 The Operating Income Statement has been placed on the same page with FY2015 budget in order to facilitate comparing the FY2015 Budget with the FY2014 budget and expenditures.

The 2015 Budget has a deficit in that planned disbursements exceed the anticipated income from pledges and loose and other offerings. The major cause of this is painting of the church along with the need to paint Fall Hall. The need to maintain our buildings along with the increase in expense of the utilities are issues that we must address during 2015. While we have the cash in the bank to pay these expenses, such expenditures can result in a burden on future congregations. There is also an increase in the salaries. The Vestry voted to recognize Rev. Catherine Hicks leadership as well as her acceptance of being the Rector of church.

As usual there have been a lot of "hidden" contributions in the form of time and material, including the little things such as providing food or flowers.

I will be pleased, any time, to answer any questions you may have.

Clarence Kunstmann
Treasurer

Cash & Investment Summary
As of 31 December 2014

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
I. Bank Accounts - Union Bank & Trust Co		
General Checking Account	\$31,853.29	\$34,146.68
Money Market Checking Account	45,874.19	45,879.66
Cash on Hand	0.00	0.00
Discretionary Fund Checking Account	635.63	522.13
ECW Checking Account	<u>5,210.01</u>	<u>1,355.01</u>
Total Checking Accounts	\$83,573.12	\$81,903.48
II. Investments		
STAMP Account (\$100,000)	99,379.33	100,721.72
Trustees of The Funds Account*	<u>51,958.63</u>	<u>54,144.77</u>
Total Investments	\$151,337.96	\$154,866.49
Cash & Investments Grand Total	\$234,911.08	\$236,769.97
III. Restricted Funds		
*Cemetery Fund	\$ 17,928.36	\$ 17,928.36
*EC Davis Memorial Fund for Building & Development	39,580.96	39,580.96
Building Fund	35,000.00	35,000.00
Emergency Operating Fund (Rainy Day)	23,000.00	23,000.00
Discretionary Fund	558.33	1,024.97
Parish House Fund	4,071.45	4,171.45
Laura Hayes Memorial Education Fund	1,544.22	1,044.22
Concert Fund	988.68	685.64
Memorials	1,159.00	6,274.00
ECW Fund	3,909.20	994.47
Church Painting	0.00	-500.00
E.S. Fall Organ Fund	910.00	-643.00
Miscellaneous	<u>4,648.92</u>	<u>8,952.70</u>
*Funds with part or all monies in investments		
Total Restricted Funds	\$146,614.37	\$137,513.77
IV. Operating Funds		
Total (Note ¹) Available	\$88,296.71	\$99,256.20

¹ Total Operating Funds includes \$567.07 for altar flowers.

Fund Activity during 2014

ECW is reported separately

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Paid Out	Ending Balance
Discretionary Fund	558.33	6,293.63	5,826.99	1,024.97
Parish House Fund	4,071.45	100.00	0.00	4,171.45
Laura Hayes Memorial Education Fund		0.00	500.00	
Organ Fund	910.00	14,367.00	15,920.00	(643.00)
Concert Fund	988.68	979.00	1,282.04	685.64
Memorials	1,159.00	5,115.00	0.00	6,274.00
Cemetery Fund [Cash on Hand]	2,594.55	1,360.25	0.00	3,954.80
ECW		5,112.78	8,027.51	994.47
Building Painting	0.00	7,500.00	8,000.00	(500.00)
Miscellaneous	4,648.92	7,170.00	2,866.22	8,952.70

Miscellaneous Fund Balances

175th Donation	1,859.84	Royal Caterers	2,422.70	Village Harvest	1,302.56	love feast	200.00
Mustard	560.27	Table	100.00	Kitchen	100.00	Total	8,952.70
Ladies	1,796.50	Shred-it	175.00	Football	(106.31)		
ECM Picnic	1,247.14	Engr Inspection	(925.00)	Poinsettia	220.00		

**Operating Income Statement
for the Period
1 January thru 31 December 2014**

	Budget	Actual To Date
RECEIPTS		
Pledges	85,124	83,891
Loose & Other Offerings	10,000	11,873
Interest Earned	0	13
Other	0	2,685
Total Receipts	95,124	98,462
DISBURSEMENTS		
Salaries:		
Salaried Clergy		
Base Salary	30,300	30,300
Pension	5,454	5,603
Life Insurance	156	0
Health Insurance	6,624	6,624
Telephone & Travel	500	261
Professional Allowance	500	95
Continuing Education	500	740
Net Compensation	44,034	43,623
Supply Clergy	300	200
Children's Ministry Coordinator	5,600	5,539
Organist	10,400	10,400
Supply Organist	600	1,400
Total Salaries	60,934	61,161
Outreach:		
Charities & Community Outreach	2,000	175

FY 2015	
RECEIPTS	
Pledges	82,384
Loose & Other	10,000
Interest Earned	0
Other	0
Total Receipts	92,384
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries:	
Salaried Clergy	
Base Salary	31,248
Pension	5,625
Life Insurance	156
Health Insurance	7,260
Telephone & Travel	500
Professional Allowance	500
Continuing Education	500
Net Compensation	45,789
Supply Clergy	400
Children's Ministry Coordinator	5,600
Organist	11,200
Supply Organist	600
Total Salaries	63,589
Outreach:	
Charities & Community Outreach	2,000

	Budget	Actual To Date
Pledge to Diocese of Virginia	3,500	3,500
Pledge to Region I	400	400
Total Outreach	5,900	4,075
Administrative:		
Admin & General Supplies	1,500	1,669
Liturgy Supplies	500	644
Diocesan Council & Clergy Conf	800	816
Christian Education	1,000	271
Music	100	15
Misc Expenses	700	1,403
Nursery Services	1,600	1,480
Cleaning Services	2,000	1,938
Total Programs	8,200	8,236
Church Properties:		
Insurance	4,000	4,869
Utilities	5,500	6,596
Reg Maintenance Bldgs & Grounds	4,500	4,724
Building Repairs	0	712
Total Church Property Expense	14,000	16,901
Total Operating Disbursements	95,534	88,191
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	-410	10,271

FY 2015	
Pledge to Diocese of Virginia	4,000
Pledge to Region I	400
Total Outreach	6,400
Administrative:	
Admin & General Supplies	1,500
Liturgy Supplies	500
Diocesan Council & Clergy Conf	800
Christian	1,000
Music	100
Misc Expenses	700
Nursery Duty	1,600
Cleaning Duty	2,000
Total Programs	8,200
Church	
Insurance	4,000
Utilities	9,500
Reg Maintenance Bldgs & Grounds	4,500
Building Exterior Painting Reserve	8,000
Building Repairs	5,000
Total Church Property Expense	31,000
Total Operating Disbursements	109,189
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(16,805)

Music, Annual Report, 2015

Brad Volland

The past year saw many blessings for St. Peter's Episcopal Church's Music Ministry. The church is blessed with dedicated choir members who share their talents with enthusiasm and love. We are a small choir wholly committed and dedicated to serving our church and community, praising God through Christ the Son.

The choir led the congregation in singing hymns and service music throughout 2014. The choir made music possible throughout the Holy Week services. Choir members also attended the annual choir retreat in December and then enjoyed lunch at the home of Roger and Eunice Key.

Blessings continued with the support and talents of Helmut Linne von Berg and his violin and Marilyn Newman and her harp. We also welcomed Amy Meyer, a harpist who has recently moved to Port Royal.

Mark Thompson, who runs Thompson Pipe Organ Company in Seaford, Virginia, continues to maintain our one hundred sixty-five-year-old pipe organ in a dedicated and professional manner and we are most thankful. Thanks to a Mustard Seed Grant from the Diocese of Virginia and the generosity of parishioners, we were able to re-leather the organ bellows, an expensive project that was long overdue. Mark also replaced the pedal trackers in 2014.

Looking forward to many musical blessings in 2015! Thanks be to God!

Godly Play, Annual Report, 2015

Callie Towler

For the first half of 2014, The Rev. Amy Turner led our Godly Play class. Amy was responsible for putting the Godly Play curriculum into action for the first time here at St Peter's. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Amy also spent a considerable amount of time gathering and putting together the materials for each lesson. These materials are now available for any Godly Play teacher to use here at St Peter's. We said goodbye to Amy at Pentecost and took a summer break before welcoming Callie Towler as our new Godly Play teacher this fall. Callie is a 2014 graduate of Virginia Tech and is currently working at Dalghren.

Her report for the second half of 2014 follows.

Godly Play is a style of advanced-structured Sunday School for the children here at St. Peter's. It was developed with Montessori school ideals in mind, including the focused lesson and the choice-driven free time the kids have.

We start each Sunday with a gathering, discussing where we are in the church calendar and what is coming up next for all of us. This leads us to our lesson, which I as the instructor present using the lesson found in the Godly Play books and the figure sets we have in the classroom so the children can have a tangible visual aid as we work through each story. After this lesson, we discuss our favorite and most interesting details before each child picks what he or she would like to work on. They may choose to work with any of the lesson sets, the desert stories in the sand box being the frequent favorite, or to work with arts and crafts so that they may go at their own pace through lessons and come to the stories on their own. During this time, the doorkeeper and I are there for guidance and questions, but allow the children to work on their own. We then gather again for a "feast" of a small snack and prayer to send us off for a good start to the week!

This season of Godly Play, we began in the best place to start: The Beginning. We traveled through the Old Testament with Noah and Abraham, and continued through the story of Moses. The kids have been very enthusiastic about these very action-filled stories, and have been very clever with their connections between the characters as we came closer to Advent and the Mystery of Christmas. So far, we have memorized 8 out of the 10 Commandments and have learned the cycle of the Church calendar. There has been a lot of progress and we are all very excited to head into the spring season with parable teachings and the Mystery of Easter.

I'm very grateful for all of the people who have served as doorkeepers this past fall. They have been very helpful not only with guiding the children during our lessons, but also helping me with names and such since they have been at the church longer than I. We are hoping to have a few more doorkeepers to add to the mix as we head into the spring, as it is a great way to spend some time with the younger members of the congregation! If you'd like to know more

about being a doorkeeper and/or would like to sign up, please contact me at ctowler430@gmail.com, or talk with me on any Sunday.

ECW, Annual Report, 2015

Marion Mahoney, President

Other Officers:

Eunice Key, Vice President

Betty Kunstmann, Secretary and UTO Chairperson

Crystal Pannell, Treasurer and CPC Chairperson

2014 was another busy and productive year for our ECW. The Altar Guild continues their faithful ministry under the direction of Crystal Pannell, and Carolyn Davis' flower arrangements grace our altar every Sunday.

Eunice Key, assisted by her talented helpers, Betty Kunstmann (and Clarence), Cookie Davis, Cindy Fields, Susan Linne von Berg and others that fill in when needed or asked) prepared and served delicious meals at the monthly Village Dinners. In addition to being very popular social occasions, these dinners earned \$1952.00 toward our yearly charitable gifts. (See next page for a complete list of donations).

This year, the ECW began a new community outreach ministry. On the third Wednesday of each month, a group of volunteers meets at the Parish House to pack bags of donated food for pickup by approximately 20 families (60 people). We hope to expand the food choices and nutritional options for as many people as possible.

Other activities included food service at the Port Royal July 4th celebration, which netted \$600.00 and a table at the Charter Day event where we sold mugs, cookbooks and Christmas ornaments.

Betty K., our UTO Chairwoman, collected \$619.38 at the spring and fall Ingathering.

Last spring, we enjoyed a trip to the beautiful Maymont Mansion and Gardens in Richmond followed by lunch in the city. Our annual Christmas luncheon was held at the Sandbar Restaurant in Tappahannock.

I am privileged to be part of St. Peter's ECW, whose members show their devotion to God by their faithful service. We are blessed to have Rev. Hicks as our leader and spiritual guide and are grateful to the ECM for their unfailing support.

I pray that with God's help, we will expand our service to the community in 2015 as we continue to grow in His grace.

ECW OUTREACH 2014

A. Women & Children in Crisis	
1. St. Andrew's School, Richmond, Va	\$200.00
2. Jackson-Field Home for Girls	\$200.00
3. Covington Boys' Home	\$200.00
4. Young Life	\$200.00
B. National and Worldwide	
1. National Cathedral (earthquake repair)	\$200.00
2. Heifer Project-1 Pig & 5 Flocks of Chickens	\$220.00
3. 5 Talents	\$200.00
4. World Vision	\$435.00
5. Doctors Without Borders	\$300.00
6. Episcopal Relief and Development	\$500.00
7. Project Hope	\$200.00
C. Additional ECW Outreach	
1. Hospice Support Care	\$200.00
2 C.E.R.V.E.	\$300.00
3. Priest's Discretionary Fund	\$300.00
4. Chaplain Fund (Grace Inise Jail Ministry)	\$200.00
5. St. Peter's - Painting Project	\$200.00
Total	\$4,055.00

ECM, Annual Report, 2015

Bill Wick

The ECM had a good year with lots of activities to report. We had meetings every month, averaging ten participants each month. The monthly meetings had a volunteer deliver a Devotional and lead a discussion on the topic afterwards. These discussions helped those present better understand the subject. Just about everyone shared thoughts and ideas and these contributions helped the group understand the reasons why that particular subject might have been chosen.

During the course of the year, the group handled two church clean-ups, one in the fall before Thanksgiving and the other in the spring before Easter. The group also did the cooking for the July Social after Church outside on the grill. This picnic format has always been received well and this year was no exception.

Another much anticipated activity sponsored by the ECM was the Annual men's Night Out. Started some twelve years by Tom Mahoney, this activity has grown each year. In addition to the Men cooking the dinner (except for the occasional sous chef vital to the process), there are hors d'oeuvres and wine served before the meal, and tasty desserts afterwards. When the meal has concluded, there is terrific entertainment for all to enjoy. This year, the group is once again having a murder mystery complete with a corpse and plenty of suspicious people hanging around. The ECM has raised over \$6,000 for the Vestry to use since the event started.

This report would not be complete without a summary report of the Thanksgiving and Christmas gift giving program the ECM sponsors each year. The names of needy families are obtained each year from the Caroline County Department of Social Services. A couple of men from the group meet with the families to determine the food needs and to get a list of what the children in each family need and want as presents. After these needs have been determined, the group then plans what to buy, plans the time to purchase all the food and gifts, then collects all the food and presents for each family and delivers it just before the Holidays. The funds for purchasing all the gifts (close to \$1,000 this year) comes from the group and the generous contributions from the congregation. Anything remaining in the ECM account can be used for the following year, unless the discretionary fund becomes too low to handle an important need with a family in trouble.

All-in-all, it was a good year with lots of wonderful memories to savor in the years to come.