



Parish Meeting Jan. 31, 2021

About the Cover

2020 has been a time of dealing with exceptional challenges with the elimination of gathered services after March 8 due to the pandemic. We have moved forward by figuring out alternate ways to worship.

The theme of Persevering in the Pandemic is relevant to our experience in 2020. The photograph by Catherine on the cover captures both dark side and challenges of the time at the bottom and the radiance of the light against the church toward the top as our services were remade, online in cyberspace using Zoom, or meeting in person on the riverbank.

The theme of restoration from the Old Testament and God doing a new thing in the New Testament was apropos to St. Peter's in 2020. God is creating, redeeming, and sustaining. We learned to be both flexible and adaptable.

Themes for the year:

1. Church moved to Zoom with scattered outside services along the river in the fall.

The Zoom services offered additional ways for parishioners to contribute through photographs and discussion. In July and August, we held Morning and Evening Prayer outside. In September, we celebrated the Eucharist twice.

2. New services (Compline) and educational opportunities (Sacred Ground). The latter considered racism against various group from the 19th century to the present.

3. Ministries regrouped under the restrictions due to the pandemic, including the ECW (Episcopal Church Women), ECM (Episcopal Church Men), Village Dinner, and Village Harvest.

4. Within the ministries there were alternate means of connecting – ECW, for example, made cookies for members not able to connect. We used our ample driveway to distribute food for the Village Dinner and Village Harvest food ministry. We also provided messages of assurance in the food with the latter, an idea from one of our parishioners. There were untold phone calls, email, and outside visits to preserve the connections.

5. Filming began inside the church in Dec. and was integrated within the online service from Zoom.

[The website describes 38 events in text and picture that told the story in 2020](#)

Table of Contents

About the Cover	1
Rector's Report	4
Senior Warden, Annual Report, 2020	8
Junior Warden Annual Report, 2020.....	9
ECW Annual Report, 2020	11
Music Annual Report, 2020.....	12
Treasurer Annual Report, 2020	13

Rector's Report

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

As your Rector, I would like to thank each and every one of you for what you have done this year for the St Peter's community. If you have said a prayer for St Peter's, thank you. If you have called another member of St Peter's to check on that person or have helped a member of our community in some tangible way, thank you. If you have sent a card, or said a prayer for someone, thank you. If you have shared encouraging words with another, thank you. If you have figured out how to use the technology required to be in community and study and worship online, thank you. If you have bought a Village Dinner, or cooked for a Village Dinner, thank you. If you donated to Giving Tuesday, the ECM Thanksgiving and Christmas projects, or if you donated to the UTO, thank you. If you participated in Bible Study, Sacred Ground, or attended a special worship service online, thank you. If you have sung or played an instrument or lit candles for a worship video, or if you have listened to one of these videos, thank you. If you have been a lector, thank you. If you have sent in photographs for worship, thank you. If you have helped with the food distribution in any way, thank you. If you have helped with an outdoor worship service or attended one, thank you. If you have planted trees at St Peter's, worked in the church yard, or made flower arrangements, thank you. If you baked communion bread, or came to communion at an outdoor worship service, thank you. If you have served on the Vestry, thank you. If you have contributed money this year to the work of St Peter's, thank you. I am most thankful for your faithfulness and your flexibility during the nine months we have spent as community while not being able to gather in person for the most part.

I am also thankful for the guidance of the Diocese of Virginia during this time. The staff of the Diocese has been a tremendous resource for all of us. Diocesan guidelines about how to worship safely outdoors in person made our preparations for our outdoor worship this summer easy to plan and to carry out safely. As frustrating as not gathering in person in our building has been, I'm grateful that we've had access, through the Diocese, for the most up to the minute information from a variety of reliable sources regarding how to proceed safely. The bishops regularly consult with Dr. Fauci and other authorities before they make the decisions that affect all of us. Bishop Porter Taylor was able to join us and be part of our worship recently, a generous act on his part. And each week the Bishop's chapel provides an online sermon that we can use if necessary. The sermon we heard from Bishop Brooke-Davidson was one of the offerings from the online chapel. The Bishops have also met with the Clergy on Zoom on a regular basis and have sent out summaries with their latest news to us after each of these meetings, keeping us up to date on their decision making and how they formulate their responses to the challenges we continue to face.

Since we have had ample reminders throughout the year about what we have done as a church, and what we have had to leave undone, and we have some reports that recap our activities for the year, I want to share here some general thoughts about this year that I believe will be of ongoing significance for our life together as St Peter's.

Our community is broader than “just us”

Prayer

More than ever, we have been conscious of how praying for one another can keep us united with one another especially when we can't gather in person. I've also noticed more people from outside our immediate community requesting prayers on behalf of others or for themselves. We can continue to be part of the Body of Christ that is actively at prayer for others. On a personal note, I have found great solace in being part of a weekly on-line meditation group that is held by an Episcopal church in Maine. I've discovered many other online opportunities for prayer, and perhaps you have too. This time has taught me that having to turn to technology has broadened my opportunities to pray with others. St Peter's may be able to establish an online prayer presence in the future. I would like to offer some online prayer opportunities that those outside of the St Peter's community may want to join.

Technology

Over the past ten years, St Peter's has developed more of an on-line presence. The church website, which was already in place when I came to St Peter's, has grown into a comprehensive history of our life together through the work of Ben Hicks. Anyone who wonders about anything related to St Peter's can more than likely find an answer on our website. We also have a Facebook page. But we had never gone beyond these two uses of technology until this year. As you all know, a majority of us have learned how to use technology, and specifically Zoom, in order to continue some semblance of life together. Even after we return to in person worship, we will continue to have a Zoom option for worship for those who can't physically be present. We have bought a hotspot for St Peter's, which will allow us for the first time in the history of St Peter's to have internet access in our church buildings. Many of us have gotten to be much more comfortable with using technology for meeting together, and even when we are back together in person, I foresee that we may want to continue meeting on line periodically for various reasons—allowing those at a distance to participate, being able to meet at night without driving in the dark (a concern for many), and helping the environment by having the opportunity to meet without driving, or having to up the heat or air conditioning in our buildings for one meeting. And just think, even a gigantic snowstorm can no longer prevent our worshipping together. We'll just hop online if necessary. We may also be able to expand our opportunities for outreach out in the world with internet access in our building.

Worship

As much as we will all enjoy returning to worship in our building, this year has forced us to broaden our ways of worship, in ways that I believe will continue in some form or fashion. The goings on in the natural world enhanced our outdoor worship this summer. With some improvements to our sound system and with more musical options, worship outside periodically may be something that we will continue to find satisfying in the future.

Because we've not been able to sing together, we have done a lot of listening to music during this time—music from all over the world. We've heard music that we wouldn't normally get to hear. What music, in addition to the music we usually use, will we want to add to our in-person worship? What different music will we want to sing together?

Worship online in addition to our in-person worship may also be something we will continue. Would you drive to St Peter's in the dark to participate in a twenty-to-thirty-minute service of Compline? Probably not! But spending thirty minutes of quiet worship on Sunday night online could continue to be a satisfying way to close the day in prayer. Currently, Compline at 7PM on Sunday nights offers a peaceful prayerful close to the day in community. We may want to continue such online offerings.

As we enter (hopefully) into the beginning of the end of this time of exile from our building, join me in thinking prayerfully and creatively about how we want to continue worship and how we might broaden our worship opportunities both in person and online.

Outreach Food Ministries

Thankfully, we were able to maintain our monthly food distribution for most of 2020. What has become increasingly clear to me is that we will want to expand this food ministry during 2021. I'd like to figure out how to prepare simple meals that can be shared with each person in Port Royal over time. We'll have to figure out the logistical challenges, but this way of tangibly reaching out to the community could bless people who don't come to the food distribution.

Response to our nation's systemic racism

Events in our nation during 2020 made visible in unavoidable ways the fact that systemic racism is part of who we are as a nation. As Christians we cannot continue to look the other way or bury our heads in the sand regarding this issue. Although I'm aware that within our congregation we have many different viewpoints on racism and many conflicting ideas about what we should or should not be doing about it, we at St Peter's must no longer be silent or inactive about the issues around race. This past year gave us an opportunity to act by engaging in a study about how race has defined the history of our country and also the church. Sixteen people, including people from other churches,

participated in the ten-week Sacred Ground study that is offered by The Episcopal Church. Our response, because of that study, is threefold. We will continue to learn by meeting in a book group and continuing to add to our knowledge about racism. We will take the conversation about race out into the community by offering the movie "I'm not racist, am I?" which will allow us to begin conversations with others around us. And we will address racism as well more fully through worship. Sometime this year we will hold a service to remember those unnamed and unrecorded enslaved African Americans who invisibly participated in the life of St Peter's in its early years. As we go along, other things that we will want to do as the Body of Christ will become visible to us. I hope that we have the courage to continue to work on this challenging issue, beginning with continuing to have honest and often difficult conversations with one another regarding race.

Loss

2020 and many months of 2021 have been full of loss, both visible and invisible. We've lost our freedom to come and go and be with people out in the world as fully as we usually would be. We haven't felt safe about traveling. We've lost the opportunity to be together and to see one another, to study together in person, to share the Eucharist, to eat together, to hug one another, to sing together. Some have moved away, and we feel their absence keenly. Some have not joined online, and we've been diminished by their absence. Even when we've been together, our smiles of delight have been hidden by our masks. Zeke Fisher is growing up, and we won't recognize him when we regather! I have lost the opportunity to visit you all in person. We have lost the opportunity to share the time that flies ever more quickly as we age and that we can never get back. On a personal note, I lost time that I normally would have spent with my parents and daughters and extended family due to Covid concerns, and many of you have lost time with your families as well. My beloved father and a close friend have died, and I miss them both, regretting the time we missed together this past year because of Covid. And yet, I'm so grateful that we've all stayed alive and well at St Peter's during this time, a tremendous grace and blessing for our congregation, but still....our community has missed so much, including the comforting rhythms of life that we normally share in community. So, in the time to come, when we do regather, I pray that we can gather with tenderness toward one another, and with a great joy that doesn't negate the sadnesses, both known and unknown for now, that we have all experienced. The impacts of 2020, both good and bad, will linger, and we will want to care for one another gently as we deal with the griefs as well as the unexpected and possibly painful growth that we will experience ahead in our life together. The Holy Spirit will help us.

Senior Warden, Annual Report, 2020

Elizabeth Heimbach

The pandemic this year has presented challenges for St. Peter's, but we have been truly fortunate in many areas.

1. Catherine's leadership:

After the Diocese forbade gathering inside church buildings in the spring of 2020, Catherine quickly mastered the intricacies of Zoom so that our congregation was able to gather remotely for Sunday services each week. These services of Morning Prayer have included wonderful music, often with the help of Brad Volland and members of the choir, Nancy Long and Helmut Linne von Berg. When outside gatherings were briefly permitted during the summer, we were also able to celebrate Eucharist on the banks of the river, and in addition to the daytime services on Zoom at 11:00 A.M., Catherine has recently added Compline, an evening service at 7:00 P.M.

2. The completion of the pavilion:

Under the leadership of Johnny Davis, the old nursery building was razed, and replaced with the beautiful, new pavilion.

3. Fellowship:

The monthly Village Dinners became grab-and-go this summer, but they still provided a measure of togetherness and added to the amount the ECW was able to contribute to various charities.

4. Outreach:

Village Harvest continued to provide food for many in our community, and both the ECM and the ECW were able to make donations to Caroline County Social Services and to a number of charities.

5. Education:

Wednesday Bible Study has continued on Zoom, and this fall, a group of members of St. Peter's, plus several people from other churches, participated on Zoom in Sacred Ground, a class that explores the history of racism in this country.

6. The St. Peter's website:

Ben Hicks' inspired photography continues to enhance the church's website as well as the Facebook page. His work on the weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletter is invaluable.

Junior Warden Annual Report, 2020

Johnny Davis

JANUARY

Contacted Window World to install windows purchased earlier found there was extreme termite damage, and they were unable to do the installation.

FEBRUARY

Helped with the demolition of the Nursery building after getting Chris Flora to remove the new roof with a crane

Had to decide what to do after the demolition of the building

After much discussion and a number of ideas, it was decided to use the roof and make it into a pavilion.

We talked to three contractors and decided to ask Chris Flora to do this project.

I found and purchased a ceiling fan online. Hired ESV, Inc. to wire the Pavilion for lights, a ceiling fan, and receptacles.

MARCH

Had Austin Field install a new lamp on the posts in the front & back of the church.

Had Austin install new motion lights on the back of the Parish House.

APRIL

Chris Fisher agreed to power wash and repaint the ramp on the front of the Church and Parish House. Tucker Fisher, Zeke Fisher and Charles McGuire helped with this project.

Called the Pitts Brothers to replace vents in the Bell Tower that had blown out. They had rebuilt the tower earlier.

MAY

Cleaned yard around area where old Nursery was taken down and removed all old siding from the church property.

JUNE

Robert Bryan and I investigated an organ problem in the loft of the church. We found the problem was not the wiring but the breaker in the switch box. Robert bought and installed a new breaker, and the problem was fixed.

JULY/AUGUST/September

Sprayed walks and borders with Roundup three times to keep down grass & weeds.

Hired Jeremy Pitts to cut the riverbank and clean leaves, etc. from the church yard.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Assisted in Outdoor Worship helping with chairs and sound system.

Talked to Jason at Bartlett Tree Experts about the cost of lightning rods to be installed on the big sycamore tree behind the church.

DECEMBER

Took windows we had purchased from Window World and could not use to Habitat for Humanity in Hanover.

In addition to monthly activities, I checked both the church and Parish House weekly to be sure electricity, heat, etc. were operating properly. I also removed trash and fallen tree limbs as needed.

ECW Annual Report, 2020

Elizabeth Heimbach

For the first few months of 2020, the Royal Caterers were able to plan, prepare, and serve Village Dinners as usual. Then, from March through November, with the spread of Covid, the dinners were able to continue, but became grab-and go.

In November, the group gathered for our annual ECW tea, but, of course, this year, we were together on Zoom, not in person! At the tea, the members decided on the charities that the ECW plans to support with donations this year.

Then, in December, the ECW packed and delivered plates of cookies to members of our community who have been especially isolated due to the pandemic. Now, as the New Year begins, the members of the ECW are hopeful that before long we will be able to meet in person and continue with our service to St. Peter's and to our community.

Music Annual Report, 2020

Brad Volland

What a year 2020 was! Particularly challenging in many ways! We must give thanks for Zoom church and our beautiful property on the banks of the Rappahannock, where we can, from time to time, gather for outdoor worship. We all look forward to the day when we are allowed to once again gather in our beautiful church building to worship God.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks go to: Helmut Linne von Berg for his continued choir membership and for sharing his violin music with us; Nancy Long for her continued choir membership and for sharing her beautiful voice with us; Karen Richardson for sharing her beautiful voice and guitar music with us and to our Rector, Catherine Hicks for sharing her voice with us and for all of her hard work learning the technology required to allow us to have Zoom Church and for recording music in our church for use during Zoom worship services. Thanks also to Ben Hicks for all he does behind the scenes.

We (Catherine, Nancy, Helmut, Karen, and I) were privileged to be able to meet and record music for Church during the season of Advent and Christmas, so that we were able to have instrumental and vocal music for both Advent and Christmas from our own church. What a joy!

We are blessed by and thankful for Mark W. Thompson and his staff, who continue to offer their specialized talents in the maintenance of our pre-Civil War pipe organ. Respectfully submitted, Brad Volland, Music Director and Organist, January 28, 2021

Treasurer Annual Report, 2020

Jim Heimbach

Below is a recap of financial assets (Balance Sheet)

FUND DESCRIPTION	END OF YEAR BALANCE
General Checking Account/Fund	\$15,988.70
Prior Year End Surplus	104.47
Cemetery Fund-Cash	1,407.04
Concert Fund	799.64
Endowment Fund	680.00
Flower Fund	410.30
Tree Fund	4,887.64
Laura Hayes Scholarship Fund	565.22
Maintenance Fund-Church Painting	2,310.00
Memorials Fund	2,679.03
Miscellaneous Funds	1,117.69
Outreach: Discretionary Fund	271.00
Discretionary Fund Checking Acct balance as of 12-31-20 (not included in total assets below)	(1,422.34)
Outreach: ECM	212.20
Outreach: ECW	1,293.31
Outreach: Mustard Seed	78.96

FUND DESCRIPTION	END OF YEAR BALANCE
Outreach: Village Harvest	3,604.72
RESTRICTED FUNDS-MANAGED BY DIOCESE:	
Trustees of the Funds (ToTF)-Stamp Program	30,998.13
ToTF-Cemetery Maintenance Fund	5,186.15
ToTF-Endowment Fund	69,333.18
ToTF-Investment Fund	139,435.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$281,363.18

2020 Budget Report

Category	Month Actual	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Budget Difference
INCOME CATEGORIES				
Loose and Other Offerings	20	568		568
Pledges	3,550	82,208	83,416	(1,208)
Non-Pledge - ID'ed Offerings	850	9,397	12,246	(2,849)
Interest Earned	0	17		17
Total: Income Categories	4,420	92,190	95,662	(3,472)
EXPENSE CATEGORIES				
Church Properties				
Building Repairs		1,055	2,000	945
Insurance	4,518	4,518	5,000	482
Reg Maintenance Bldgs		4,151	3,000	(1,151)
Utilities	499	4,817	5,200	383
Total: Church Properties	5,017	14,541	15,200	659
Salaries - Priest				
Base Salary	2,901	34,815	34,816	1
Continuing Education		0	500	500
Health Insurance	940	10,730	10,380	(350)
Pension	522	6,267	6,266	(1)
Professional Allowance		0	500	500
Total: Salaries - Priest	4,364	51,812	52,462	650

Category	Month Actual	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Budget Difference
Salaries - Other				
Organist	1,500	14,250	15,500	1,250
Supply Musician		0	100	100
Total: Salaries - Other	1,500	14,250	15,600	1,350
Administrative				
Admin. Expenses, & Gen. Supplies		182	700	518
Christian Education		125		(125)
Cleaning Duty		360	2,000	1,640
Liturgy Supplies		271	400	129
Misc Expenses		790	1,000	210
Music			200	200
Pledge to Diocese of Virginia		4,800	4,800	0
Pledge to Fredericksburg Region		300	300	0
Total: Administrative		6,828	9,400	2,572
Charities and Community Outreach				
	2,900	3,000	3,000	0
Total: Expense Categories	13,781	90,432	95,662	5,230
Operating Surplus/Deficit	(9,360)	1,759	-	1,759