

## **Congregational Report For St Peter's Episcopal Church, 2022**

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

I'm presenting this year's report in narrative form. The year 2022 brought our congregation and many of our people unexpected challenges and opportunities that have proven to us over and over, in the words of that famous hymn, "The Church's One Foundation," that our lives together are grounded in Jesus Christ our Lord, who is truly our church's one foundation.

Lent 2022 arrived along with an unexpected and sudden upheaval in my family which meant that I had to take an unexpected leave of absence from St Peter's. You all drew on your spiritual strength and your commitment to one another as Christ's body in this world. Under the leadership of the Vestry and Becky Fisher, our Senior Warden, you put a plan into place and proceeded on with worship, study, outreach and pastoral care in my absence without a glitch.

A great blessing that came from my absence was the arrival of the Rev. Tom Hughes and his wife Alice. When I returned after Easter, Tom and Alice decided to continue with us, with Tom in the role of Assisting Priest. Tom and Alice have joined wholeheartedly in the life of our parish and have contributed to our well-being as a parish on many levels.

What a privilege it is for me to serve in this congregation. Your compassion, understanding and fortitude sustained me through the most difficult year of my life and then you graciously supported me as I returned to work. Being in this congregation with all of you has been one of the greatest blessings of my life and I am thankful for each one of you. I would also like to thank my husband, Ben Hicks, who through this year has continued to format bulletins, produce our monthly newsletter, The Parish Post, and to help me with other administrative tasks, and to be a steady supportive presence that has sustained me through 2022.

As you read on, you will be amazed at all that we, a small church, did in 2022 to witness to God's work out in the world, even as we were challenged by unexpected events, illnesses and losses in our congregation. God has blessed us, and we have reached out to share our blessings with our community and beyond, both on our own and as we have partnered with Caroline's Promise, The Caroline County School System, and the Healthy Harvest Food Bank.

### **Outreach and Pastoral Care**

#### **Village Harvest Food Distribution**

Outreach this year continued with our ongoing commitment, for the eighth year, to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and meat to people in our area. On every third Wednesday of the month, the Village Harvest food distribution takes place, thanks to the participation of many who go to the Healthy Harvest Food Bank to pick up the food, those who sort and pack the food, those who distribute the food, and those who clean up afterward and deliver extra perishables to Caroline

County Social Services for distribution there. Cookie and Johnny Davis go to the food bank for pick up, and Andrea Pogue coordinates the other volunteers and their responsibilities each month. **2022 was our best year so far for our Village Harvest outreach ministry.** In 2022 we reached the milestone of going over 10,000 people served over the eight years we have been carrying out this ministry. Ben Hicks provided the following report.



“The number of people we served in 2022 rose from 999 in 2021 to 1,051, and pounds of food increased from 14,303 to 15,302. The percentages of growth are 5% for people and 7% for food. 2022 is the first year that saw a rise in both people and in the amount of food distributed since 2016.

In 2022 each person served by the food bank received approximately 14.6 pounds, an increase from 14.32 pounds in 2021. The 2022 figures not only posted an increase but are the best in the 8 year history of the harvest! Another achievement in 2022 was going over 10,000 people served over the lifetime of the Harvest.

There is still much work to be done. In the four counties we serve – Caroline, Westmoreland, Essex and King George - half of them had a larger percentage of those with food insecurity than the percentage for Virginia based on numbers from Feeding America. The definition of Food insecure is “these households who do not have access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.”

In 2022, we also included cards for those picking up food bags to let them know that we are thinking of and praying for them. We hope to continue this witness in 2023.”

Contributions made on **Giving Tuesday** each year help to fund the Village Harvest. People from as far away as North Carolina contribute to the fund. This year, St Peter’s raised \$1175 for the Village Harvest on Giving Tuesday, and that money will fund the project for five to six months.

**The Episcopal Church Men (ECM)** also played a big part in St Peter’s outreach in 2022, as well as hands on assistance to parishioners in need. On behalf of the ECM, Ben Hicks prepared the following report.

“ECM Thanksgiving and Christmas Collection provided \$1250 to the community through our collaboration with the Caroline County Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services uses the money to provide families with store specific grocery gift cards. This is the third year since 2020 that over \$1000 was provided for this ministry to Caroline County.

Hands on assistance to parishioners from ECM included support for John and Toni Faibisy. Toni came home from months in the hospital and in rehab and the house had to be made ready for her arrival. John said of this assistance from the ECM that he ‘received a mighty assistance from ECM, who arrived in force at his house to clear furniture for him in anticipation of the arrival of Toni’s new medical equipment and supplies. This equipment included a medical bed, wheelchair

and the like. Additionally, the ECM team had solid ideas about rearranging furniture to maximize space in the house to accommodate the incoming equipment. John greatly appreciated the space-saving interior rearrangement ideas, most of which were put into effect. He also appreciated aid he's been given over the months, such as "soul food" delivered to agent who can barely operate a microwave or acting as a shuttle service to pick up a car from the auto dealer twenty miles away. Thank you ECM!"

**The Episcopal Church Women (ECW)** contributed to St Peter's outreach as well as tending to needs within the congregation. Elizabeth Heimbach, ECW President, provided the following report.

"Throughout 2022, St. Peter's ECW has continued to serve grab-and-go Village Dinners each month. At our annual meeting in October, the group planned the menus for the upcoming year and voted to donate the money earned by the dinners to the following organizations: St. Peter's Discretionary Fund, Village Harvest Food Distribution, Healthy Harvest Food Bank, St. Andrew's School in Richmond, Five Talents. Heifer International, Episcopal Relief and Development, Victoria All Age School in Jamaica, Micah Ecumenical Ministries (in honor of Thomas Hughes), Luis (Cookie's friend in Haiti).

As Covid has become less of a threat this year, the congregation has been able to worship inside the church, and the ECW has been caring for the altar each week. Cookie Davis prepares lovely flowers for the church every Sunday, and with the help of Alice Hughes, several members arranged beautiful greenery on the window sills of the church in preparation for Christmas.

In November, the ECW gathered to write Christmas cards to members and friends of St Peter's who are scattered far and near and to enjoy some time socializing together.

The ECW also delivered toys, clothes, and food as a Christmas gift to a family in Bowling Green and prepared Christmas cards to enclose with the food bags for Village Harvest, as well as for church members who have moved away.

As we look ahead to next year, the group hopes to continue with our service to St. Peter's and to our community."

The ECW also sponsors the **United Thank Offering**. Collections for this offering took place twice in 2022. As Episcopalians all over the country count their blessings, they set aside a gratitude offering which then goes to fund projects in each Diocese every year.

### **The Discretionary Fund**

In 2022, the Discretionary Fund provided \$5715 to those who called St Peter's for assistance. Thanks to the generosity of the people of St Peter's, I was able to help approximately 60 families with emergency financial needs, including rent and utilities, car payments, and medical bills. Thank you to all who donated to the Discretionary in 2022. This ministry brings not only funds, but also hope to the people who call St Peter's for help.

## **Vestry Outreach donations on behalf of the Congregation**

At the end of each year, the Vestry sends money out to various organizations that represent God at work in the world. This year, the following groups received donations from St Peter's: Hunters for the Hungry, CERVE, St Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Caroline's Promise, Caroline Young Life, Caroline Recovery Center, and Episcopal Migration Ministries.

## **Other Outreach projects**

St Peter's members contributed snacks to **the Blessing Cart for Nurses at Mary Washington Hospital** in February. In July, we contributed **250 boxes of markers for Caroline County students**, which were distributed along with other school supplies by **Caroline's Promise**. In September, **St Peter's partnered with the Caroline County School System to help sponsor a family evening of kickball in Port Royal.**

## **Prayer, Study and Worship**

For most of the year, **Monday morning meditation** took place at 6:30 on Monday mornings on Zoom, giving people the opportunity to pray together for twenty minutes at the beginning of each week.

In January and February of 2022, St Peter's offered a program called "**Preparing our Legacy,**" an online series of talks from various experts regarding the issues that we need to take care of as we age—financial and legal matters in place, wills done and updated, and for our families, information about what we want medically at the end of our lives. Working with a funeral home, planning a funeral service, where to be buried—all of these things in place mean peace and less stress for ourselves, our families, and those we leave behind. Twenty people from several churches attended. Resources from the series have helped people as they plan for the future.



During 2022, the **weekly Wednesday Bible study** continued. Each week, this group prays together and then studies the lectionary for the upcoming Sunday. The group met in person, and also on Zoom. The planned Lenten study on the Psalms was postponed and will be held in 2023 during Lent.

In December, a group from St Peter's went to **The Bethlehem Walk** sponsored by Salem Baptist Church in Manokin-Sabot and experienced Bethlehem as it was at the time of the birth of Jesus. In its 19<sup>th</sup> year, the Bethlehem Walk has presented the Christmas story and the story of salvation to thousands of people each year.

**Worship** continued both in person and also on-line. St Peter's members participated in the community sunrise service at Townfield, the home of the Longs, on Easter morning. Both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were held. After the Christmas Eve service, the young people, along with the Hicks family, went caroling at the home of the Linne von Bergs, who were not able to attend the Christmas services.

Toward the end of 2022, the Vestry hired Fredericksburg Technology to update the sound system in the church and to improve our on-line worship offerings by switching to You Tube from Zoom. All I can say about this attempt to improve is that so far, our efforts have not resulted in the improvements that we had hoped for, and that it's all "a work in progress," which is continuing into 2023. Our goal for 2023 is to have a reliable online Sunday worship service that will work for the people who want to worship on line.

## Music

St Peter's is blessed with a group of fabulous musicians. Brad Volland, our organist, and the choir offered some beautiful Easter season anthems, and worked hard on Advent and Christmas music, only to have their plans derailed due to illnesses. Brad has persevered this year in spite of having had to deal with both the flu and Covid, back to back. Denise Gregory and Mary Peterman ably led both Christmas services and provided glorious performances with Mary playing the flute and Denise accompanying on the piano when Brad came down with Covid right before Christmas Eve and could not be present for worship. Larry Saylor's guitar music has brought solace and joy to the congregation on the Sundays that he plays. And Helmut Linne von Berg is always at the ready with his violin. Thank you to loyal choir member Linda Kramer who joins Denise, Mary, Larry and Helmut each Sunday to lead the congregational singing. Helmut Linne von Berg and Jim Heimbach led the annual Gospel on the River gospel sing which took place this year in the church.



In addition to the adult musicians at St Peter's, we have many **talented young people** who gave a wonderful program of music during the season of Advent. Arthur Duke played the piano, Hamilton Duke and Evan played their trumpets, Chester Duke played the French horn, Sydney Davis and Holly Davis both served as lectors, and Marie Duke, Katie Davis and Autumn Hicks sang. And The Rev Tom Hughes showed up in the guise of St Nicholas.

## Racial Reconciliation



The Sacred Ground Group continued its work on racial reconciliation during 2022. The group continued reading for education. To address historic and systemic inequities in education for African Americans, St Peter's created the Sacred Ground Scholarship, available to students in Caroline County of African American or Native American heritage. In the spring of 2022, two scholarships for \$1000 each were awarded to two African American seniors at Caroline County High School. In July, The Rev. Dr. Lee Hill, now the Canon for Racial Justice and

Healing in the Diocese of Virginia, visited St Peter's. Lee preached and then joined us for lunch afterward to discuss various ways forward in our work for racial reconciliation. In October, the group traveled to Washington, DC, to visit The National Museum of African American History and Culture.

## Creation Care

In May, Andrea Pogue brought Shred-It back to Port Royal for the tenth year. This outreach service helps in our care of the environment by giving people the opportunity to dispose of and to recycle their documents securely.



On Earth Day, Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, approximately thirteen people, including scouts from Troop 304, Zeke Fisher's scout troop, met to work on the church riverbank and to provide better access to the river. The group cleared an open space and removed trash from the area. We partnered with Friends of the Rappahannock, represented by Brent Hunsinger, who joined in the work.

St Peter's observed The Season of Creation in worship from September 1- October 4, St Francis' Day. Ben Hicks led a four week study based on the book **Goodside's M.O.R.E Model for Effective Climate Action**. The four people who participated learned more about how to reduce our use of greenhouse gases, and how to come up with a specific plan of action to do so.

## Hellos, Changes, and Goodbyes

### Hellos



**The Rev. Tom Hughes and his wife Alice Hughes** have joined us, and the ECW welcomed Alice with a tea in the summer, giving the women a chance to gather and enjoy some time together.

The Rt Rev Susan Goff confirmed **Arthur Duke** and **Cornesha Howard** in her visit to St Peter's in June. Arthur and Cornesha are our two newest members.

## **Changes**

Barbara and Tom Segar and Boyd and Barbara Wisdom moved to Chancellor's Village in Fredericksburg, while maintaining their ties with St Peter's.

## **Goodbyes**

We said goodbye to **Clarence and Betty Kunstmann**, who have moved to Arizona to be nearer their children.

**Alex Long** has become a Lutheran, worshiping at Peace Lutheran in King George.

**John Whitfield**, Laura Carey's son, who became a well-loved member of our community in the years he spent with Laura, died in October. Andrea Pogue, with the help of many St Peter's people, threw an unforgettable Halloween party for John before he died.

**Roger Key**, beloved longtime member of St Peter's who sang in the choir in his time at St Peter's, also died in October. Although Roger and Eunice had moved to Myrtle Beach a few years ago, Roger's death left a hole at St Peter's that can never be filled by anyone else. His kindness, generosity, sense of humor and good nature brought us much joy in his time with us.

## **Changes in the Diocese**

**The Rt Rev. Susan Goff**, Suffragan Bishop and Ecclesiastical Authority, retired at the end of 2022.

**The Rt Rev. Mark Stevenson** was elected as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop Diocesan in November of 2022, and was consecrated on December 3, 2022.

And so, 2022 has come to a close. We give thanks that the foundation of St Peter's is truly Jesus Christ our Lord. In 2022, we did our best to delight in God's will and walk in God's ways to the glory of God's name. And in 2023, we will continue to pray each Sunday for the strength and courage to continue loving and serving God with gladness and singleness of heart by following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and witnessing to his reign of peace and love on this earth in all that we do as this part of God's church in the world.

Peace,

Catherine

## Treasurer Annual Report, 2022

Jim Heimbach

Below is a recap of financial assets (Balance Sheet)

### St. Peter's Financial Status 2021 vs. 2022

	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2022
<b>Unallocated Checking Account</b>	15,275.25	21,605.68
Cemetery Fund	1,707.04	4,942.35
Concert Fund	799.64	22.11
Endowment Fund	1,845.00	2,095.00
Flower Fund	520.30	447.95
Laura Hayes Scholarship Fund	565.22	565.22
Maintenance Fund-	2,310.00	2,310.00
Memorials Fund	2,854.03	3,154.03
Scholarship Fund	500.00	8,100
Tree Fund	2,202.64	2,332.64
Outreach: Discretionary Fund	955.00	738.00
Outreach: ECM	17.20	144.1
Outreach: ECW	1,323.00	2,045.68
Outreach: Mustard Seed	78.96	0
Outreach: Village Harvest	2,800.58	2,248.69
Miscellaneous Funds	1,237.69	1,237.69
Total Restricted Funds	19,716.30	30,708.49
Checking and Funds Total	<b>34,991.55</b>	<b>52,314.17</b>
ToTF-Cemetery maintenance fund	5,767.00	4,827.80
ToTF-Endowment Fund	80,149.28	70,475.92
ToTF-Investment Fund	170,759.99	150,150.70
ToTF-Stamp Program	31,152.27	30,368.67
<b>ToTF Total</b>	<b>287,828.54</b>	<b>255,823.09</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>322,820.09</b>	<b>308,137.26</b>



## St. Peter's Episcopal Church

## Budget Report

December 2022

1	Category	Mth Inc/ Exp	YTD Inc/ Exp	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	Deviation
2	<b>INCOME</b>					
3	Pledges	2,655	83,012	86,976	<b>86,976</b>	(3,964)
4	Non Pledge - ID'ed Offerings	440	10,716	15,000	<b>15,000</b>	(4,284)
5	Loose and Other Offerings	52	707	1,000	<b>1,000</b>	(293)
6	Interest Earned	0	5	5	<b>5</b>	0
7	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>94,440</b>	<b>102,981</b>	<b>102,981</b>	<b>(8,541)</b>
8	<b>EXPENSES</b>					
9	<b>Church Properties</b>					
10	Building Maintenance & Repairs	1,990	6,994	3,000	<b>3,000</b>	(3,994)
11	Grounds Maintenance		5,103	5,000	<b>5,000</b>	(103)
12	Insurance	5,266	5,470	5,000	<b>5,000</b>	(470)
13	Utilities	1,292	6,058	4,500	<b>4,500</b>	(1,558)
14	<b>Total Church Properties</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>23,625</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>(6,125)</b>
15	<b>Salaries - Priest</b>					
16	Base Salary	3,017	36,209	36,209	<b>36,209</b>	-
17	Continuing Education		-	500	<b>500</b>	500
18	Health Insurance	3,920	12,780	11,460	<b>11,460</b>	(1,320)
19	Pension	522	6,267	6,267	<b>6,267</b>	-
20	Professional Allowance		-	500	<b>500</b>	500
21	<b>Total Salaries - Priest</b>	<b>7,460</b>	<b>55,256</b>	<b>54,936</b>	<b>54,936</b>	<b>(320)</b>
22	<b>Salaries - Other</b>					
23	Organist	1,250	14,000	15,500	<b>15,500</b>	1,500
24	Supply Clergy		827	200	<b>200</b>	(627)
25	Supply Musician		-	200	<b>200</b>	200
26	<b>Total Salaries - Other</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>14,827</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>1,073</b>
27	<b>Administrative</b>					
28	Admin. Expenses & Gen. Supplies	400	1,842	500	<b>500</b>	(1,342)
29	Christian Education		137	100	<b>100</b>	(37)
30	Diocesan Council & Clergy Conf		-	150	<b>150</b>	150
31	Liturgy Supplies		-	600	<b>600</b>	600
32	Music	100	935	45	<b>45</b>	(890)
33	Pledge to Fredericksburg Region		300	300	<b>300</b>	-
34	Pledge to Diocese of Virginia	700	8,400	8,200	<b>8,200</b>	(200)
35	<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>11,614</b>	<b>9,895</b>	<b>9,895</b>	<b>(1,719)</b>
37	<b>Charities &amp; Community Outreach</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>480</b>
38	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,957</b>	<b>109,799</b>	<b>101,731</b>	<b>101,731</b>	<b>(8,068)</b>
39	<b>Reserve</b>				<b>1,250</b>	
40	<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(16,811)</b>	<b>(15,359)</b>	<b>1,250</b>		<b>(16,609)</b>