



# Annual Report, 2015

## **St. Peter's Church Vision Statement**

St. Peter's: a thriving urban parish, welcoming to all, whose members nourish one another in journeys of faith, share the love of Christ, and serve the people of this neighborhood, city, and beyond.

## **A Church on a Mission:**

St. Peter's is a church on a mission: To embody the love of God as Christ's heart, mind, and hands.

## **Our Core Values**

- We are people on a journey seeking to live in the way of Christ.
- We feed people in mind, body, and soul.
- We pray as individuals and together; we worship God, sing and rejoice,
- We offer open hearts and open minds as we welcome one and all at Christ's table,
- We provide a safe place to ask questions and a supportive environment in which to live those questions.
- We reach beyond our congregation to serve others and strive for a just society.
- We call forth, share and honor the gifts of every person.

# Saint Peter's Church in the City of Philadelphia

## Vital Statistics 2015

Births: Ryan Chitale, Ida Mae Julyan, Anthony Kobetitsch, Matthew Pidgeon, Titus Schultz

Infants & Children Baptized: Anthony Kobetitsch, Hazel Mae Maher, Alice McGarry, Vivian Mille, Audrey Rowbotham, Clara Rowbotham, Harrison Signorello, Talia Signorello,

Adults and Youth Confirmed & Received into the Episcopal Church: Kathleen Murray, Jay Newlin, Jerome Whitehead, Grace Wohlson

New Members Welcomed: Gretchen Cowell, Taylor Custis w/ Lillian, Noreen & Rich DeMarco w/ Gabriel & Isabella, Johanna Ettin, Pam Harper, Thomas & Tiffany Ippolito, Sheila Jamison-Schwartz, Brigid & Marya Kaye w/ Julian, Francesca Kotey, Peter & Diane McGarry w/ Jack & Alice, Sarah & Curt Merrill, Wayne & Ilaina Moyer, Marjorie Muecke, Kat Murray, Laura Nadon, Paula Hadon, Brian O'Donnell, Vicki & Bob Polizzano, Erin & Adam Sammis w/ Lizzie, Andrew & Barbara Westerhaus w/ Charlie

Marriages: Rachel Beazley & Jamie Wirt, Kendall Johnson & Matthew Kramer, Suzanne Raffaele & Jeffrey Osterwise, Doug Schaller & David Barquist, Marissa Tilley & Devin Rodriguez, Rachel Woodburn & Jon Simmons

Departures: Marguerite Barnett, Emma Brown, Christian Rivera, Tim & Kate Bulat w/ David, Rohan & Lindsay Chitale w/ Ram and Ryan, Max Courtney & Courtney Nelson, Allison Gardner & Jay Kratz w/ Griffin, Gracie Killman, Peter & Diane McGarry w/ Peter & Alice, Charlie & Janet Plosser, Natalia Riobo, Lauren Sieber, Frank & Catherine Signorello w/ Harrison & Talia, Greg & Diane Urbanchuk w/ Alexander & Addison, Peter Windsor

Deaths: C. J. Moore

### Changes in Leadership:

Chair, Adult Education, **Jay Newlin**, stepping down, **Cordelia Biddle & Barbara Tobin**, stepping up  
Coordinator, Altar Guild, **Donna Wechsler**, stepping down, **Johanna Ettin**, stepping up  
Chair, Food Cupboard, **Christine Neville**, stepping down, **Lisa Gaidanowicz** stepping up  
Coordinators, Hospitality, **Elizabeth & Vincent DiPentino**, stepping down  
Chair, Stewardship, **Claudia Stowers**, stepping down, **Peggy Hatch** stepping up  
Co-chair, SPPIT, **Lisa DiCicco**, stepping down  
Coordinator, TNT, **Christy Santos**, stepping down  
Vestry, **Bill Cass, Samuel Reeves**, stepping down  
Delegates to Deanery & Diocesan Convention, **Jim Stowers**, stepping up

Choirs: 10 boys, 14 girls, 26 adults

Average Sunday Attendance 175

Pledge Households 187

The total pledge revenue was \$492,904.

## Total Parish Finances

	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
<b>Sources of Cash</b>			
Contributions Pledged	494,724	499,246	500,000
Plate, Easter, etc.	23,188	24,173	20,500
Pledge and Plate Subtotal	517,912	523,419	520,500
Choir and Music Contributions	25,331	16,732	13,750
Food Cupboard and Outreach Contributions	24,138	62,190	60,000
Subtotal	49,469	78,922	73,750
<b>Total Contributions</b>	567,381	602,341	594,250
Routine Transfers from Endowment	201,785	205,055	214,514
Other Income	102,979	100,272	92,000
Subtotal	304,764	305,327	306,514
Non-routine transfers from Endowment	80,200		
Use of Restricted Funds		43,619	
<b>Total Sources of Cash</b>	952,345	951,287	900,764
<b>Uses of Cash</b>			
Clergy	255,279	252,118	234,533
Music and Choral Scholarships	172,265	155,786	173,474
Education, Fellowship and Development	68,207	68,678	69,225
Outreach: Parish Ministries	55,254	63,289	68,594
Outreach: Diocesan Support	55,836	61,858	64,332
Administration	147,949	155,273	161,736
Property (including projects)	157,688	155,870	118,961
<b>Total</b>	912,478	912,872	890,855
<b>Difference: Sources and Uses of Cash</b>	39,867	38,415	9,909
<b>Cash Used or Added</b>			
General Operating Fund	40,643	15,834	1,113
Music Fund	5,040	2,234	(100)
Food Cupboard	(5,816)	20,347	8,896
Subtotal	39,867	38,415	9,909
Endowment Contributions	164,560	142,883	20,000

## **PARISH FINANCIAL STRENGTH**

### **Endowments (\$4,398,000)**

Increase of 35.6% since 12/31/2008  
Annual return of 10.1%  
Net additions of \$197,000  
Routine transfer reduced by 6.7%

### **Liquidity**

Increase of \$125,000 since 12/31/2008  
Includes General Operating, Music Fund, and  
Food Cupboard Fund

### **Building Our Future Fund (\$375,700)**

Did not exist in 12/31/2008

### **Roof Project Completed**

Contributions to date of \$1,577,000

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Ministry Leaders:** Adult Education: Cordelia Biddle, Barbara Tobin  
Youth Program (Journey to Adulthood): Dale McClendon and Cecilia Wagner  
Children's Formation: Sue Mooney, Caroline West

## Adults

Our theme for Faith Matters in the Fall 2015 was Creation. Among our topics, we offered structured conversations, including a discussion about what creation means to us personally as well as a discussion about the Pope's encyclical on the environment. Ellie Nevin-Field shared her experiences at San Lucas Mission in Guatemala. Lisa Gaidanowicz, Director of the Food Cupboard, discussed the evolving response of the Cupboard to the needs of our guests and others who are food insecure in our neighborhood and the city. Bob Robinson, Professor of Old Testament at Lutheran Seminary, discussed themes of creation in the Old Testament. The Rev. Pam Nesbit spoke on "An Alternative Orthodoxy." Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, shared thoughts on responsible urban development. Creation in Poetry was led by Professor and Poet, Jeanne Walker, and Professor Emeritus, Ejner Jensen. We have a lot planned for this spring, so stay tuned. Current members of the Adult Education Team: Cordelia Biddle, Sharon Haynie, Meredith MacKenzie, Barbara Tobin, Jeanne Walker, Beverly Woods, Janine Utell

## Youth

The Youth Group (6th graders through high school) is led by Dale McClendon and Cecilia Wagner and meets regularly with four to ten young people. The group meets twice monthly from October to June; once for a conversation about God, the church, and their daily lives and challenges, using the *Stories and Rituals* lessons from the Diocesan Youth office; and once for a service project such as volunteering at PAWS shelter, making food for the food cupboard, or making and serving dinner for the Old First Reformed winter shelter. For all gatherings, eating pizza and saying prayers are the first items on the agenda (and sometimes ice cream for special birthday gatherings). In 2015, the group also collected socks, shampoos, and soaps for the Bethesda Project and assisted St. Peter's gardening crew with a Sunday afternoon of leaf-raking. For 2016, the Youth Group plans to incorporate intergenerational and ecologically minded outreach projects.

## Children

2015 has been a time of transition for the Church School at St. Peters after Judith Lewis was unable to return as the teacher for the older children (6-12 year olds). Based on generally low attendance through the past year, a decision was made to not rehire a dedicated Church School teacher. In order to continue to provide a church school experience for older children, Sue Mooney stepped in to modify the Godly Play program to incorporate older children into the 3-5 year old group on the weeks that the children's choir is not rehearsing. Godly Play is a Montessori based approach to church school in which children hear the great stories of faith and enter them through play and wonder. In 2016, parents and clergy will work together toward creating a renewed Christian Education program that will best meet the needs of our St. Peter's families and children.

## On Being

On Being is an informal opportunity for conversation based on the NPR series of the same name. This group discusses what they've heard on the radio program, using Krista Tippett's interviews as a starting point for in-depth discussions. *On Being's* website describes itself as "opening up the animating questions at the center of human life: What does it mean to be human, and how do we want to live? *On Being* explores these questions in their richness and complexity in 21st-century lives and endeavors. *On Being* pursues wisdom and moral imagination as much as knowledge and esteems nuance and poetry as much as fact."

# INREACH

## **Ministry Leaders:**

Book Group: Ann Wilkerson

Greeters: Cordelia Biddle

Guides: Libby Browne, Lisa Hardy

Hospitality: Elizabeth & Vincent DiPentino

Knitting Group: Ann Wilkerson

Pastoral Care: Stacey Auerweck

Sages: Walt Peters

SPPIT+ (St. Peter's Parents of Infants and Toddlers + school-age children): Lisa Di Cicco & Katie Lachance Duffy

TNT (Twenties and Thirties): Christy Santos

## **Book Group**

The St. Peter's Book Group meets monthly to discuss books, both fiction and non-fiction. There is no designated leader of the discussions which are held in members' homes. Occasionally the group attends and later discusses a play or a movie based on relevant subject matter rather than reading a book. Newcomers are always welcome to attend as many or few meetings as their interests and schedules allow.

## **Greeters**

Greeters ease the way for visitors and newcomers by providing a warm and friendly hello. Simple guidelines are available to all who wish to join us. All you need is a smile and a spirit of welcome and inclusion. Please consider joining this important ministry, and showing visitors and newcomers what a vibrant parish we are.

## **Guides**

2015 was a transition year for the guides with fewer guides than we need. We hope to revitalize this important welcoming ministry in 2016.

## **Hospitality**

The Hospitality Ministry provides delicious food and drink at all parish events – from the Annual Meeting, to the summer cookouts, to the welcome back picnic, to the October parish-wide gathering. A big thank you to Elizabeth and Vincent DiPentino for their years of yummy food and welcoming smiles! Looking for new leadership in 2016.

## **Knitting Group**

The Knitting Group is a diverse group of individuals, both parishioners and others from the greater community, who share an interest in getting together to knit, crochet, needlepoint or mend. The group meets monthly in members' homes and spends two hours working on individual projects or for community outreach, receiving encouragement, ideas and/or instruction and engaging in discussions on a variety of topics, as well as enjoying refreshments. The welcome mat is always out for anyone from beginning to experienced knitters who would like to join this congenial group on a regular or occasional basis.

## **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral Care continues to provide steadfast assistance to the St. Peter's community. We provide meals, lend a helping hand, cheer the ill, and bring Communion to those unable to get to church. We also have tried to be proactive in caring for our church family by checking in on folks, building relationships, and cultivating an inclusive atmosphere of support by involving the congregation when possible.

## **Sages**

The Sages enjoyed another successful year with a wide range of programs. Here are just a few examples of our lunchtime gatherings. In March, former parishioner Gracie Killman, who worked at Broad Street Ministry, explained how Broad Street Ministry as a faith-based organization responds to homelessness. In June, parishioner Libby Browne gave us an arm chair tour about Bishop White and Philadelphia's early religious history. In September, Bob Skiba, curator at the John J. Wilcox, Jr. Archives of Philadelphia at the William Way LGBT Community Center presented *Before Stonewall: The Gay Pride Movement in Philadelphia*. In October, parishioners Cordelia Biddle and Steve Zettler wowed us with stories and photos from their recent trip to India. And in November, Marjorie Jones, who has taught college level courses to inmates at Graterford Prison and, prior to that, at Sing Sing, shared her experiences. More great gatherings planned in 2016.

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### **SPPIT+, St. Peter's Parents of Infants and Toddlers + School Age Children**

SPPIT provides an opportunity for parents of small (and not so small) children to get together and share the joys, questions, and adventures of parenthood. We gather informally on Sundays, and a few times, more purposely, throughout the year. We had another successful winter "pajama party" lunch and a movie in February and a fun picnic in Franklin Square in June. At the October parish gathering, we decorated pumpkins. We are looking forward to more fun in 2016.

### **TNT , 20s & 30s group**

The Twenties and Thirties group gathers at least monthly for fellowship and faith exploration. Brews and Beliefs is the centerpiece event, scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Brews and Beliefs meets in a local bar or pub to discuss a variety of topics exploring how faith and daily life intersect. Other activities have included a game night, a gathering at the rector's home and helping to construct the prayer wall in May. TNT looks forward to doing even more in 2016 with the support of our new Associate Rector, Sean Lanigan.

## OUTREACH

**Ministry Leaders:** Camp Get Along: Denise Colliers and Sue Dudkin  
Guatemala Partnership: Hannah Poole and Barbara Tobin  
Food Cupboard: Christine Neville and Lisa Gaidanowicz  
POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Empower, Witness and Rebuild):  
Hildegard Kent

### **Food Cupboard**

The St. Peter's Food Cupboard continues to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and other food staples to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. In 2015, we distributed over 125,000 pounds of food. We served an average of 150 households per week and as many as 300 on peak weeks. Many parishioners help with the operation of the Food Cupboard, as do many other volunteers from area schools, colleges, and community organizations. Financial support from parishioners is also an important part of our budget. In July, Christine Neville completed her Servant Year program and her service as our Food Cupboard manager. Lisa Gaidanowicz took over as our new manager shortly thereafter. We are planning to plant/support two new satellite food cupboards in 2016 and to build mobile vegetable beds in the St. Peter's churchyard to help provide fresh, local food for the Cupboard.

### **Guatemala**

Because an insufficient number of people were able to participate, St. Peter's did not sponsor a trip to the Canterbury School in Guatemala in 2015. Our next partnership trip to Guatemala will take place from July 17-25, 2016. We aim to have more adult participation, although youth are also encouraged to go. St. Peter's sent funds to finance projects at the Canterbury School in November. \$10,000 sent in 2015 helped support new classrooms for industrial arts and cooking, as well as cooking equipment, an expansion of the computer classroom, and new floors and desks. We also sent scholarship money, \$1,435, which came from Alternative Christmas, to offer 3 full scholarships and 3 partial scholarships to the Canterbury School.

### **Camp Get Along**

In 2015, we supported both the summer and year-round Camp Get Along programs. For over nine years St. Peter's has had a relationship with Camp Get Along. Many of the people who were involved in Camp Get Along from the beginning have decided that the time feels right to step away from the program, as it reinvents itself in a new location. St. Peter's is transferring the energy and resources used to support Camp Get Along into our re-imagined children's music program, which will serve under-resourced children through a one-week summer camp and eventual afterschool program. St. Peter's is deeply grateful to Gina Caruso, Denise Colliers, and Sue Dudkin—St. Peter's parishioners who faithfully served Camp Get Along for many years, and we look forward to our future of serving children in new ways at St. Peter's.

### **POWER**

St. Peter's is a member congregation of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild). POWER is a network of congregations from across the city, intentionally bringing people together across the lines of race, faith, income level and neighborhood to work for social justice. In 2015, POWER was instrumental in winning a new living wage standard for thousands of workers on city subcontracts and rallied hundreds of people of faith at the state capitol to advocate for a fair funding formula for Pennsylvania public schools.

### **Episcopal Community Services**

St. Peter's contributed \$1,500 to provide housing, senior home care, and after-school care to people in need.

# STEWARDSHIP

**Ministry Leaders:** Finance: Bill Cass                      HSPCPC: Gail Trimble  
Investment: Allen Hall                      Personnel: Elaine Markezin  
Property: Kathleen Stephenson      Stewardship: Peggy Hatch

## **Finance Committee**

Contracted and managed our accounting review of our accounts by an outside auditor. Developed several long-range models of our expected cash flows. We will continue to monitor and track revenue and expenses and look for opportunities to improve our financial position.

## **HSPCPC**

Had a relatively quiet year after helping to complete the “Raise the Roof” capital campaign.

## **Investment Committee**

continued to monitor AllianceBernstein’s management of our endowment funds. The markets were volatile in 2015 and our investment funds ended the year down roughly half a percent. We are exploring a small rebalancing of the portfolio but, otherwise, we do not expect much change in the near term.

## **Personnel Committee**

Along with the entire congregation, the Personnel Committee is delighted with Claire’s transition to Rector and welcomes Darryl and Sean to our talented staff. Transitions have been extraordinarily smooth which is a tribute to all involved. Many thanks.

## **Property Committee:**

Work in 2015 included replacement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk, repairs to the brick wall surrounding the churchyard and to the exterior and interior sidewalks. Repairs to the bier shed will start in the spring. Regular repairs and maintenance – including inspection of the attic vents (a high and dark place) and of the boiler (a low and dark place) – continue and we welcome volunteers for these two jobs. Going forward, our goals include ensuring that our properties are environmentally sound.

We continue to be a proactive group that still does not meet regularly but still responds quickly to issues as they arise. As noted in our report last year, each of us either knows a “little about a lot” or a “lot about a little” and we still manage to find a solution to every problem. Join us!

## **Stewardship Committee:**

This year our stewardship campaign was all about “Giving in Gratitude.” And give you did! Not only with your financial pledge, but with your heartfelt banners of gratitude that encircled the sanctuary! Our online “Gratitude Wall” lives on the website and our easy-to-use online pledge card saw a big jump in activity this year. Giving to St. Peter’s for 2016 will break the \$500,000 mark! Other stats to report include: 65 parishioners (37%) increased their pledge; the average pledge amount has increased 7% and St. Peter’s has a total of 21 new contributors.

In addition, it is important to share the St. Peter’s Vestry Stewardship Statement with you.

### **We Believe:**

- That our lives, our blessings and all that we have are gifts from God.
- That we have been entrusted with these gifts so that we may fulfill God’s work in the world and live out the promise made to ourselves and to one another.
- That out of gratitude for God’s faith and trust, we must be good stewards in our shared ministry.
- That such stewardship requires us to be generous with what we have.
- That giving our gifts back to God, and each other, is an action of trust and faith that should be undertaken in prayerful reflection.

### **We commit ourselves:**

- To be of service to each other and to make our communities whole and healthy by improving the lives of every person.

- To give in proportion to what we have, recognizing the value of the standard tithe.

- To strive to increase the portion of personal giving to God’s work as we move toward our individual goals.

- To educate our children about our faith and stewardship through lesson and action.

### **We invite:**

- All to share in the experience of love, joy, peace, community, charity, caring and self-worth that personal committed giving can bring.

- All to think, to pray and to embrace the challenge of setting personal stewardship goals;

- All to join together in support of the ministry of God at St. Peter’s Church by making their pledge.



## WORSHIP/MUSIC

**Ministry Leaders:** Altar Guild: Donna Wechsler  
Bell Ringers: Patricia King  
Chalice Bearers: Claire Nevin-Field  
Choirs: Darryl Roland  
Lectors: Kate Randall  
Music: Jonathan Miller  
Ushers: Steve Zettler  
Vergers: Rob Taglieri

Darryl Roland began his ministry as Director of Music/Organist at Saint Peter's Church this past summer, July 2015. During the summer, he met with as many people as possible, including adult singers, chorister families and volunteers. During these meetings, Darryl learned a great deal about our programs and worked with participants to pave a path forward in the 2015/2016 program year. Common themes that were expressed among participants included building on St. Peter's historic training of boys and girls in the English cathedral tradition, incorporating boys, girls, men and women into the program and combining excellent music training with opportunities for social interaction and fellowship.

A balance of maintaining certain traditions and expanding other aspects program characterize the shape of our current season. Our choir adults are rehearsing weekly on Thursday evenings and singing regularly on Sunday mornings. Our boy and girl choristers are now singing together on a regular basis, rehearsing either on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays. In the course of this year's choir season, the younger choristers were separated from older choristers so rehearsals could be tailored to choristers with different levels of experience. Regarding opportunities for social interaction and fellowship, many adult singers go to a local eatery after Thursday evening rehearsals to socialize. Occasional gatherings also are planned and hosted by someone in their home. Regarding our boys and girls, we are going to begin offering pizza time about twice a month following our Friday afternoon rehearsals.

In addition to providing liturgical leadership on Sunday mornings, our singers have participated in several other events. Just before the start of the choir season, our choristers attended our annual camp in August at Cape May where we could build on community and learn new music. During the choir season, the choir participated in additional liturgies, including Claire's installation as Saint Peter's new rector, Choral Evensong for the Feast of All Saints, an Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols and our Christmas Eve services. During the Advent/Christmas season, the parish expressed enthusiasm for presenting Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols early in December as well as having our children's pageant on the Sunday morning preceding Christmas Day.

In addition to our choir, we have a dedicated team of bell ringers who provide beautiful music following our Sunday morning services. The numbers of ringers has grown this past year and they are looking forward to playing our tower bells this coming June when the Organ Historical Society will host its annual conference here in Philadelphia.

A piano studio, with Sivanio Reis as our piano instructor, has been established here at Saint Peter's. Families who are parishioners and have children who are interested in studying piano can register for piano lessons.

Darryl has been working closely with Saint Peter's School's headmaster, Shawn Kelly, and his faculty and staff to explore opportunities for collaboration that can benefit the church and school. Darryl has been playing for their services held in our church and Matt Boatman, our assistant organist, has accompanied the school's choir for a variety of concerts. The school is giving Darryl opportunities to recruit interested students to our choir program and helps transition students from the school to the church for weekly rehearsals.