

**Annual Meeting
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Report for 2017
January 21, 2018**



This is my commandment, that you love one another
as I have loved you.

--John 15:12

CANON 24.

Of Parish Meetings and Elections

Section 1.

There shall be an annual meeting of the members of each Parish within sixty (60) days before or on the 31st day of January, unless otherwise authorized by the Ecclesiastical Authority, on a date to be appointed by the vestry; notice of which must be given by the Rector or member of the clergy in charge or, if there be none, by one of the Wardens from the chancel on a Sunday at least two weeks prior to the appointed date. This meeting shall be designated as the Annual Parish Meeting. The provision of this Canon relating to the qualifications of members of the vestry shall be published to the congregation at the time the said notice is given, and also at the Annual Parish Meeting or otherwise before nominations for the vestry are made.

Section 2.

Other Parish meetings may be held from time to time as occasion may require, at such times as may be appointed by the vestry; due notice of which must be given by the Rector or member of the clergy in charge, or, if there be none, by one of the Wardens from the chancel on the Sunday prior to the appointed date.

Section 3.

At the Parish meeting the Rector or member of the clergy in charge shall preside; or in the absence of such, the Senior or Junior Warden shall preside; or if they be absent, a confirmed communicant of not less than 18 years of age shall be chosen by the meeting to preside. The Secretary of the vestry shall be the Secretary of the Parish meeting.

Section 4.

The following alone shall be entitled to vote in any Parish election or meeting under these Canons: All worshipers of not less than 16 years of age, being communicants in good standing and regular contributors of record, or members of family groups which are regular contributors of record, for the support of the Parish, and who shall have been Canonically connected with the Parish for thirty days prior to the date on which the Parish meeting is held. This provision as to financial support shall not apply to those communicants who are unable to contribute. Those voters so qualified and being present at the Parish meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5.

All matters voted upon at Parish meetings and Parish elections shall be decided by a majority of the qualified voters present and voting. In any election such as that for members of the vestry, where there is more than one position to be filled, as the result of one ballot, those receiving a majority and the highest number of votes on the first or any subsequent ballot shall be declared elected for the respective positions and the ensuing terms thereof and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. In any election where there is more than one position to be filled, if a voter votes for fewer or more persons than the total number of positions to be filled, that ballot shall be invalid and not counted. If all positions are not filled as the result of the first ballot, prior to the taking of the next and each subsequent ballot, the number of candidates shall be reduced to not more than double the number of positions yet to be filled by eliminating those who received the smaller number of votes on the previous ballot unless this is prevented by a tie in which event the names of all those so tied will be retained for the next ballot. In the event that terms being filled in an election are of a different duration, those persons receiving the larger number of votes on the ballot on which they are elected shall have the longer term. If more than one ballot is required to fill all of the positions, those persons elected last shall receive the shorter term.

Section 6.

(a)

Within thirty (30) days following the reception of a congregation as a parish of this diocese, there shall be a parish meeting to determine the number of positions on the vestry. The positions shall be filled by the said meeting in accordance with the requirements of these Canons.

(b)

New members of the vestry shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Parish Meeting or at an election called by the vestry for that purpose held before or after the principal Sunday worship service(s) not more than two weeks prior to the Annual Parish Meeting. In the latter case, run-off election(s) may be held on two (2) successive Sundays or at the Annual Parish Meeting. Notice of the election shall be given in accordance with Section 1 of this Canon. The polls shall be open until all qualified voters present have had ample opportunity to cast their ballots.

(c)

The qualifications for a member of the Parish vestry shall be as follows: A confirmed communicant of the Parish in good standing of not less than 18 years of age, a frequent attendant upon the services of the Parish for the six months next receding the election and a regular contributor and pledger of record, or a member of a family unit which is a regular contributor and pledger of record for the support of the Parish; PROVIDED (1) a husband and wife shall not both be members of the vestry at the same time; and (2) members of the paid staff (including clergy) of a Parish working more than ten (10) hours per week, and their spouses, shall not be eligible to serve. In case of a question as to eligibility, the report of the Rector in consultation with the Treasurer shall be final, provided that subparagraph 2 of this paragraph shall not apply to vestry members taking office prior to March 1, 1999.

(d)

The vestry shall consist of not less than three nor more than twenty-one members. Members of the vestry shall be elected in the following manner: One-third to serve for a period of one year; one-third to serve for a period of two years; one third to serve for a period of three years; and thereafter one-third of the vestry shall be elected for a period of three years; and no retiring member of the vestry shall be eligible for re-election until there shall have elapsed a period of at least one year, or until the Annual Parish Meeting next following the expiration of the term; PROVIDED, however, that in Parishes where the members eligible to serve on the vestry are less than twenty-five, a retiring member of the vestry may be re-elected to another full term without the interval of one year.

(e)

In the event the vestry votes to recommend to the Annual Parish Meeting a change in its number it shall maintain as even a rotation of the vestry as possible with the length of each term not to exceed three years. If the recommendations are adopted by the Annual Parish Meeting, any new positions shall be filled at the same meeting.

Section 7.

The vestry shall, prior to the Annual Parish Meeting, cause to be written and delivered to the Rector or member of the clergy in charge or, if there be none, to the Warden, a full, accurate and faithful statement of the temporal condition of the parish. This statement (to be designated the annual report of the vestry) shall show, among other things, what money, lands and other property have been received during the year past and from what sources; what money has been expended and for what objects; what property has been exchanged or mortgaged or sold and for what purposes; what debts are owing by the Parish and what security, if any, has been given therefore; and what money, lands and other property are then owned by the Parish. This annual report shall be submitted to the Annual Parish Meeting by the Senior or Junior Warden or by some other member of the vestry.

Section 8.

Each organization and activity of the Parish shall also make its report to the meeting. Said meeting shall provide for such officers and matters as may be needed to enable the Parish to execute its full program, and shall transact such other business as may be brought before it.

Section 9.

The Secretary of the Annual Parish Meeting shall record in the minutes the results of the elections as announced by the presiding officer. The Secretary shall transmit the signed minutes, together with all reports received at the meeting, to the vestry to be by them examined and incorporated in the minutes of the first meeting of the vestry following the Parish Meeting and filed among the permanent records of the Parish. It shall be the Secretary's duty to notify promptly the vestry members-elect of their election and to inform them of the time and place appointed for their qualifying as members of the vestry

Agenda

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Reading of the minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting**
- 3. Election of Vestry Members (see bios below)**
 - A. Qualification of Vestry Members: Canon 24, Sec. 6c.
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Financial Report to be distributed at Annual Meeting.



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
January 29, 2017**

Members attending the Annual meeting included Teri Daily, Peggy Cromwell, Jane Harris, Karen McNutt, Christie Garrett-Jones, Chris Odom, Tracy Simpson, Marilyn, David and Liz Larson, John Shute, Sam and Tanya Buchanan, Jay Ruud and Stacey Jones, Jerusalem and Wylie Greer, Bev Freiley, Norma Smothers, Mary Ferguson, Chris Smith, Warren and Shari Readnour, Eric Hutchinson, Ted and Leigh Ann Warriner, Mike and Kelley King, Genie and Jan Davis, Melanie and Chrissy Cavender, Mike Moses, Rita McIntosh, Leroy and Frances Hendricks, Steve Zeltman, Tommy Trussell and Amanda Moore, and Ashley Groves.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by the Reverend Teri Daily.
A motion was made by Jane Harris to accept the 2016 Annual meeting minutes, second by John Shute, all approved.

The new vestry members were elected to serve on St. Peter's vestry, starting January of 2017 are Marilyn Larson, Chris Odom, and Tracy Simpson. The new members bios can be found in the 2017 Annual meeting agenda. Leigh Ann Warriner will serve the next two years, in place of John Phillips, who resigned. Karen McNutt will be the senior warden. Kelley King will continue as secretary, the junior warden will be elected at the next vestry meeting.

The Finance committee report was presented by John Shute. The Stewardship report was given by Jerry Adams. The Laying The Foundation Team Report was given by Teri Daily and Jerry Adams. The St. Peter's Endowment Fund Report was given by Eric Hutchinson. A motion was made by Jerry Adams to accept all the

reports, second by Norma Smothers, all approved. A motion was made by Tanya Buchanan to adjourn the Annual Meeting, second by John Shute.

2018 Vestry Nominations

Carolyn Scott

Since my confirmation in 2004, I have had the opportunity to serve St. P in many capacities: 2 terms on the vestry, senior warden and on the finance committee; as a member of committees focused on the courtyard renovation, installation of our labyrinth, development of our columbarium, management of memorial funds, and the establishment and leadership of our ministry teams. I participated in the acquisition, remodeling, and the establishment of a vision for the Morgan House and as a founding member, patron, and interim director of St. Peter's Preschool. In addition to my participation in three mission trips to Guatemala I have supported and served fund raising, especially the Guatemala Market during Art Pray Love. I participated in the establishment of the Servant Leadership School, serve on the planning committee and facilitate presentations. I recently assisted in establishing the Church in a Changing World study group and I currently serve on a ministry team, in the food pantry, and participate in the Community of Hope training. I am retired after 30 years in public education, elementary through college, at the local and state level. In addition to my church family, my daughter, son in law and two granddaughters fill my life with joy.

Brett Hardison

DOB: 12/27/1962

Member since 1993

I came to St. Peter's as the care partner for RAIN (Regional Aids Interfaith Network) in 1993. Meeting Peggy Hays and several members helped me see Christianity in a new light. I was raised in a fundamentalist Pentecostal home and had abandoned religion. St. Peter's community helped me to understand Christianity from a historical point of view and how the metaphors and stories in the Bible can be understood in ways to help with everyday life.

Since joining, I have served as a Sunday School teacher, EYC helper, Food Pantry worker, 1 deacon and 1 priest discernment committee, priest search committee and helped with Christmas Meals on Wheels food prep.

Tom Renton

-Raised in the Anglican church

-Baptized at St. Michael and All Angels, Overland Park, Kansas

-Confirmed at St. Paul's, Pleasant Valley, NY

-Attended St. Paul's for 32 years

-Graduated from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY

-Firefighter for 10 years in the Arlington Fire District, Poughkeepsie, NY. Held fire and civil officer positions.

-Worked at Guideposts Magazine, Pawling and Carmel, NY, for 10 years.

-Moved to Conway in 2000.

-Attended Antioch Baptist in Conway from 2000-2012. Played drums in Antioch's worship band for 10 years. -

-Coordinated Antioch's food pantry ministry for 3 years.

-Began attending St. Peter's in 2012.

-Volunteer at Camp Mitchell.

-Have worked at Acxiom in Conway for 17 years.

Genie Davis

I'm a cradle Episcopalian; I was baptized as a baby in Texarkana. I've been a member of St. Peter's since 1987 when my family moved to Conway. I attend the 11:00 service regularly. I've been a part of Altar Guild Team 1 for over 10 years. I'm also one of the assistant wedding coordinators for the church. I've volunteered with the Christmas Meals for the last a couple of years.

I'm single. I don't have any children, but I'm Gigi to many of my friends' children. I have one fur baby; a cat named Betty Batgirl. I've worked for the state of Arkansas for 10 years. I work for the Arkansas Department of Health. I'm the Quality Assurance Coordinator for the Arkansas Public Health Laboratory in Little Rock. My primary job is to keep the clinical laboratories in compliance with our accreditation body.

Claire Losardo

I was born in Salem, MA and raised in Marblehead, MA. I graduated from Marblehead High School. While raising three children I decided to go to secretarial school, graduating on the Dean's list and becoming a Legal Secretary. After ten years I changed my profession. I attended Roger Williams College graduating on the Dean's List as a Phlebotomist. I loved my job and dealt with a lot of people handling the outside pre-surgical visitations. I was also one of the main people to do house calls, nursing homes and group homes. It came to an end when my husband was laid off from General Dynamics and got a job at Raytheon in Wichita, KS. In 2000 we got four grandchildren to raise so that took priority. I am still raising my grandsons, Dalton 20 and Austin 18, they are both special needs children and they are my world.

We joined St. Peter's about 2009 and have been there ever since. I love my Church and Church family and want to give back for it has given so much to me and the boys. I have grown Spiritually since 2009 and continue to do so.

Taylor Tennison

My name is Taylor Tennison, I am 20 years old and I am currently a sophomore pursuing a degree in Communication at the University of Central Arkansas. There, I am a brother of Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI), and a Student Ambassador. I volunteer with Arkansas Children's Hospital, the March of Dimes, and Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY.)

I grew up in the Hoxie United Methodist Church for 18 years. There, I was a lay minister for 4 years, where I had a hand in planning our VBS, after school programs, and our backpack program. I moved into my dorm room on August 18, 2016 and found my church home 2 days later here at St. Peter's.

During my time at St. Peter's, I have participated in a discernment committee, college bible study, and started the College Finals Ministry, where we open up the church during finals week for college students to have a quiet place to study. In addition to hopefully being placed on the Vestry, I am also on the Rector Search Committee.

Written Reports

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Brown, Interim Vicar

Dear All,

As I reflect on the last six months I have spent as your interim vicar, the overwhelming feeling that always overtakes me is what a blessing the congregation at St. Peter's has been for me and so many other persons. We, indeed, have a wonderful situation here, and that is no doubt due to the guidance and blessing of the Holy Spirit.

During these months, we have carried forward with such a large number of ministries that it would be a duplication of the rest of this report for me to attempt to list them here. Many ministry teams have made this possible, and our sincere thanks goes to all of those persons who have given such outstanding service.

We are fortunate to have a fine staff who all work very hard on our behalf. We need to thank them even more frequently in the future.

Our Vestry continues in their dedication and devotion to our church. They did a marvelous job with our stewardship campaign.

In financial matters, we ended the year without carrying forward any debts, our year-end giving was significant, and our pledges for the coming year exceed any total we have had in recent times.

All of this is a result of your prayers, your continued attendance, your willingness to serve when called upon, and your sustained support of St. Peter's.

God has certainly smiled upon us, and I sincerely believe that we are in a good position for a new rector, whomever God will lead to us.

Please know of my appreciation for each of you, and my continuing request for your prayers for our congregation.

May God continue to bless us.

Sincerely,

Robert Charles Brown
Interim Vicar

The Rev. Dr. Linda Brown

It was exciting to me when at my Ordination in June, Bishop Benfield told me that he wanted me to return to St. Peter's in my now official role as a Deacon. The St. Peter's family had already endeared themselves to me and I was pleased to be able to serve the congregation in an official capacity.

Brown Bag Book Study

In 2017, a group of parishioners interested in book study and discussion continued forward. The group is open to all and welcomes any who enjoy lively interaction combined with spiritual direction and loving support. This is our third year and we are still excited about our reading choices. In the past, we have read Richard Rohr, Margaret Guenther, Barbara Brown Taylor, Joan Chittister, and are currently reading a book on Mary with essays by Kathleen Norris. Come join us at noon on Wednesdays!

Walking the Mourner's Path

Walking the Mourner's Path is a faith-based series of eight support meetings for those who have lost a loved one. The time that has elapsed since the loss is not important. The group is available when individuals need it and want the support of other individuals and the facilitators. In addition to myself, St. Peter's has trained lay facilitators who co-facilitate the meetings. The meetings are convened as the needs of the parish indicate; hopefully, at least once per year.

In addition to the offering of a support group, booklets are mailed to individuals to help them through this difficult time. Please contact me with any questions.

Eucharistic Visitors

Each Sunday, a dedicated group of parishioners feel called to take Communion and a short Eucharist service to those who cannot attend but want to be part of our church community. The ministry is so appreciated by the hospitalized and homebound, as well as the ones who serve them. Training of new or former Eucharistic Visitors, as well as any questions regarding this ministry are welcome.

The Rev. Peggy Cromwell

**See Canterbury Coffeeshouse and Community of Hope

Jerusalem Greer, Minister to Youth & Families

Family Ministry at St. Peter's is not just for those families with small children or teenagers, it is for everyone who is part of the St. Peter's family, regardless of age or relationship status or household number. While a large portion of what I work on is specifically aimed at youth and children and their families, the overall goal is to minister to the St. Peter's family as a whole. To reach this goal, Family Ministry seeks to provide opportunities for connection between all parish members and friends, giving comfort and support where needed, helping with community outreach and spiritual formation when needed.

Family Formation

This September we began our Family Formation hour, which is our spiritual formation classes for children ages 4 and up, and their parents (we split the ages up mid-class.) For this class we use the WHIRL Curriculum from Augsburg Press, which ties into our lectionary readings during Sunday's services. We meet between 10:00-10:50 on Sunday mornings.

Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel is the newest addition to our Sunday Morning offerings. During the 9 and 11 services, children of all ages are dismissed after the reading of the Gospel to a Children's Chapel class led by myself and volunteers. These short chapel sessions focus on the gospel or other scripture readings that the children just heard, and involve singing, movement, and creative reflection. Children and volunteers return to the service during the passing of the peace.

EYC

During 2017 EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) gathered on Wednesday nights from 5:00-7:00 PM for dinner (generously provided by EYC parents and parishioners,) games, reflections, group projects and evening prayer in the Parish Hall and the "new" EYC room off the courtyard. On average we have about 20 youth at each gathering. We had one college intern who work on Wednesday nights and have been a huge gift to the youth and myself. We had guest speakers, served on Turkey Basket Day, put together rice bags, hosted a dog-wash and spaghetti supper for St. Francis Day, and served at the Conway Human Development Center for two nights helping with their Polar Express Event. In addition to our Wednesday night meetings we also had a Back-2-School Bash, hosted Trunk-or-Treat, and went bowling, and had Holiday Party at the Greer's Farm. We have also sent youth to Camp Mitchell for Summer Camp, Winterstar, and the AYE.

Because many of our Senior High Students cannot make it to EYC due to other events, we have started meeting for lunch once a month for the "Second Sunday Sr. Lunch" at Bob's Grill downtown.

We have also changed the time of EYC for 2018 in the following ways:

Flipside 45 – A hangout/homework time is from 3:30-4:15

EYC – 4:15-6:00pm

Family Ministry Team

Where we are: This fall Jeff and Kristina Ward continue their wonderful over the leadership of the Family Ministry Team, which is the ministry team for the first Sunday in each month. Through this new opportunity, kids of all ages and their parents have had the unique chance to experience, learn, celebrate, and take ownership of almost every portion of the worship service. We have youth (and their parents, or grandparents, when needed) serve as lectors, oblationers, ushers, and greeters for each of the three services.

Where are headed: This great team continues to grow, and I am grateful for all Jeff and Kristina have done for this ministry.

Childcare

Where we are: We currently have four permanent Sunday morning and two Wednesday evening paid workers for child care. We have two workers in the preschool rooms and two in the baby nursery.

Where we are headed: St. Peter's is growing and so are our young families, and we always need additional volunteers for both the babies and preschool classrooms to assist our workers.

In addition to these regular programs, this year's Family Ministry Events and Programs have also included:

Graduation Sunday

Blessing of the Backpacks

Rally Day

Family Feast and Advent Event in November

Christmas Pageant

Youth Orchestra

I want to thank the following people for their service to Families Ministries and to me over the past few months - Rev. Bob Brown for his leadership, encouragement and support during this season of transition. To Peggy Cromwell and Linda Brown for jumping in and helping support me and families of St. Peter's. To John Churchwell and Mike King for helping me with daily office life and being such great sports with the youth on Wednesday afternoons. Huge thanks to Verger Mike Moses for helping me with a never-ending list of projects and events. Thanks to the Hutchinsons for providing dinner for the Back-to-School Bash. To the Vestry for their support, service, and wisdom at every turn. Thanks also to our childcare team – Caisa Doyle, Amelia Mackey, Heidi Mackey, Hannay Schlotzhauer, , and all our nursery volunteers for their kindness and dedication to our children, and to Annika Warrick for her service to EYC.

Karen McNutt, Senior Warden

Happy New Year friends! 2017 was certainly an eventful year for our church family:

- Several significant improvements were made to our facilities: new roof on the sanctuary, fresh paint and carpet in our staff offices, four new HVAC units in our sanctuary, the beautiful new doors in the lobby and sanctuary provided by Memorial Funds
- Teri Dailey's beautiful reception and celebration of her 9 years of ministry with us
- Rev. Bob Brown's presence as our Interim Vicar and Peggy Cromwell and Linda Brown continued ministry with us.
- Our 75th anniversary celebration
- The Appreciative Inquiry event with Jason Alexander
- Our Stewardship Campaign
- Our Search Committee was finalized
- The thriving ministries that each of you drive and the huge impact they have on others

“Thank You” to each and every one of you and for all of the time, talent, and treasure that you generously gave to insure the success of our ministries in 2017, and, a special “Thank You” to our amazing staff for their constant support and willingness to do whatever it took to make things happen.

We ended 2017 on a high note. I'm excited to see what 2018 brings.

Peace and warm wishes for a wonderful 2018.

Chris Odom, Junior Warden

Having completed my first-ever stint as Junior Warden, I'm pleased to report that our facilities weathered all we threw at them in 2017. It was a challenging year, but with the able assistance of many in the parish we made repairs when needed and improvements when possible.

Completed items include:

- Faucet leak/freeze outside Jerusalem's office repaired (along with resulting interior damage)
- New paint and carpet in office area
- Backyard cleanup: dilapidated fencing removed; excess bricks and other items removed from around shed; general discarded items removed from west area of the property
- Sanctuary HVAC units replaced
- HVAC repair at Morgan House
- HVAC preventative maintenance program – beginning January 2018
- Power washing of Morgan House exterior
- New lighting in sanctuary
- New carpet runner in sanctuary
- Parking lot surface repaired (potholes filled)
- Sanctuary roof replaced (had been original to the building)
- Glass added to narthex and sanctuary interior doors
- New lawn care/landscaping services vendor selected
- Narthex sheetrock and trim repair (due to leak)
- Slight repair to ramp going to Parish Hall

We do have some ongoing projects and needs in our sights:

- Drainage/leveling in the courtyard/columbarium area
- Playground equipment replacement
- Playground fencing replacement
- Exterior lighting: parking lot, behind Parish Hall, Morgan House exterior, courtyard
- Food Pantry/EYC building structural issues
- Stained glass windows in sanctuary

It definitely takes a village to keep St. Peter's facilities in good shape. Many thanks to all who helped with these projects, and a special thanks to: Karen and Tom McNutt, Mike King, my fellow Vestry members, and John Churchwell who has been SO helpful in being a point of contact, researching, and providing tremendous input.

2017 Ministry Reports

Acolytes

Our Acolyte Ministry is going well again this year. We currently have 19 Acolytes. This ministry is in constant flux due to the fact that kids grow up (the audacity!) and new acolytes – OF ANY AGE - are always welcome to join the team. We also have two acolyte masters and two Junior Vergers-in-Training. An acolyte party is being planned for the spring. To volunteer, please contact Jerusalem or Verger Mike.

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir meets every Sunday morning at 10:00 to rehearse for the many upcoming musical contributions to our worship. In a year, we sing approximately 40 anthems, including music for special services and a Christmas cantata. We welcome new members!

Adult Forum

Adult Forum continues to meet on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome. The planning committee includes Kevin Mequet, Steve Zeltman, and Judy Helm. There have been many live presenters over the year, including Donna Bowman, Teri Daily, David Daily, Jim Fowler, LeAnn Warriner, Chuck Bane, Judy Helm, Erin Weindorf, and Bob Brown leading the Rector's Forum. We also watched some outstanding videos including "Violence Divine" with Dr. John Dominic Crossan and Richard Rohr's "Alternative Orthodoxy." Kevin Mequet led us in a book study of JS Spong's The Fourth Gospel. Attendance varies from 5 to 20.

Altar Guild

The ministry of the Altar Guild is one which sometimes goes unnoticed because of the dedication of its members. The men and women of St. Peter's Altar Guild are a wonderful group who love our church community. They are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Altar Guild members are very dependable and well-informed communicants working behind the scenes setting Christ's table for every service held in our church. New members are always welcomed and needed. Currently there are three new members in training. The Guild works in four teams who serve 3-4 times per year for one month at a time. Three members also serve as our Wedding Coordinators.

The beautiful altar linens are cleaned, ironed and folded properly to be ready for each service. This past year we were able to purchase a new set of the traditional white altar hangings as well as several sets of our small linens from St. Peter's Memorial Gifts fund.

Silver and brass is washed, polished and shined with care after use. Candles are filled with liquid wax to burn brightly and to help shine the light of Christ. Bread for the Wednesday Healing and Eucharist is made with loving hands and baked with prayers for our St. Peter's community. Weddings, Christmas and Easter Services bring a whole new meaning to serving on the Altar Guild.

Bethlehem House Meals

In 2017, we continued with two teams of St. Peter's parishioners taking turns providing evening meals to Bethlehem residents and guests on the first Tuesday of every month. At the close of the year, however, it was decided that we disband. Aimee Prince, Director of Development at Bethlehem House writes "We are so very grateful for the commitment you all have made to our program. You have helped us feed thousands of people over the years. You have certainly made a difference to the homeless in our community and we can't and don't say thank you enough. We are blessed to have you all as friends of Bethlehem House. Your church family has been an incredible example of being the hands and feet of Jesus." Many thanks to all that have participated over the years.

Bible Study

Bible Quest: A Journey through the Christian Scriptures is a systematic study of the books of the scriptures. For the 2017-2018 study year, the Book of Luke is being discussed. Two groups meet. Monday Afternoon Bible Study meets in the Church library with ten regular members, and the Thursday evening group, which meets at the Morgan House, has six members. When appropriate the groups used the Conversations with Scripture series as a discussion guide. The discussion groups are open-ended design for participants to begin attending at any time.

Canterbury Coffee House

Due to several factors, we changed from providing a full meal to a more relaxed "Coffeehouse" event in the Morgan House. This ministry is currently in a state of flux and is being reevaluated to determine how best to help it thrive. Thanks to our interns for their good work this year.

Card Ministry

Mary Ferguson serves as coordinator of our happy band of 13 dedicated volunteers.

She works to stay informed of needs in our community by communication from our staff as well as keeping her ear to the ground at church and watches the local papers for anyone who might have a need. We gladly receive direct information or requests for a card to be sent to someone in our church family. Requests can also be sent to the church office.

CARDS SENT BY THE CARD MINISTRY IN 2017

Congratulations	7
Encouragement	1
Get Well	11
Sympathy	22
Baptisms	2
Confirmations	6
Graduations	8
Congratulations to Jr. Daughters of the King	6
TOTAL	63

To volunteer or request a card be sent, you may reach Mary Ferguson at incefer@yahoo.com or 505-8766 or Donna Hutchinson at donnaruth123@gmail.com or 501-269-1664.

Christmas Dinners

**See Food Pantry/December

Church Women United

St. Peter's has been a member of Faulkner County Church Women United for many years. The Morgan House is used for our monthly Officer's Meeting. The Parish Hall is used for one of our Lenten Luncheons every year. The sanctuary was used for the CWU Human Rights Celebration, in October, where the Rev. Teri Daily was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year award for 2017. The sanctuary was also used, in August, for the first ever Lessons and Hymns, which was graciously planned and facilitated by John Churchwell. We appreciate the graciousness shown us by everyone at St. Peter's.

Community of Hope

"In short, Community of Hope International equips lay people to serve in all forms of pastoral care. Pastoral care is when a person is being "present" in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously or unconsciously representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs. Through ongoing, spiritual formation and practical lessons on care giving, members learn to match theological insights and spiritual practices with their experiences of ministering to others and giving spiritual guidance." (COHI website).

Here at St. Peter's, our Community of Hope folks visit parishioners who are otherwise unable to participate fully in the life of the congregation. They are ready and willing to provide pastoral care whenever needed.

We are currently training a NEW group of people to bolster our ranks as lay ministers. In conjunction with St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church in Maumelle, we will add 18 new lay ministers to the COH ranks.

Contemplative Fellowship

Contemplative Fellowship, a silent worship service with a Quaker-Episcopal spirit, has been meeting weekly on Sundays (7:00-8:00 pm) since September 8, 2013. This service has a short reading followed by silence as participants discern God's inward guiding presence within a compassionate, contemplative community. Attendance has ranged from four to seven participants with an average participation rate of four. CF participants seek to live four interrelated Quaker testimonies:

- *Equality*: To recognize that of God in each person and foster the flowering of divinity in all.
- *Integrity*: To be truly in harmony with oneself and live from one's deepest authentic self.
- *Peace*: To seek to resolve internal and external conflict and to live intentionally with compassion towards oneself and others.
- *Simplicity*: To live simply, joyfully, and true to one's "Inner Guide."

Daughters of the King

2017 was an exciting year for the Imogene Chapter of the Daughters of the King here at St. Peter's. Our members pledge to undertake a life-long rule of prayer, service and evangelism. Through these ideals we seek to strengthen our individual spirituality and the well-being of our parish and community. Here are many of the projects we held this past year:

Prayer Projects

- In 2017, DOK have prayed for over 450 individuals from our church and our community (collated from multiple prayer lists)
- We facilitated daily prayers during Lent and Advent
- Led the "For Such a Time as This" campaign and monthly prayers to raise awareness of hunger and food insecurity
- Five sisters went to the Cummings Penitentiary Unit to hold prayers for Kenneth Williams, a man executed on April 27, 2017

Service Projects

- In 2017, our members contributed 30 hours of time to help St. Peter's Food Pantry
- Our members made and blessed over 15 prayer shawls to give to individuals in need
- We selected an in-need parishioner for Christmas and provided presents for their entire family
- Our chapter donated over \$300 to various DOK National Funds to honor speakers and deceased members of the church
- We created and hung banners in honor of deceased church members on All Saints Sunday

Evangelism Projects

- In 2017, we created the first Junior DOK chapter in the state of Arkansas
- We helped host several events with the ecumenical organization Faulkner Church Women United

Social Events

- Many of our members attended the Arkansas DOK Spring and Fall Assemblies, at St. Paul's, Fayetteville, and St. Michael's, Little Rock, respectively
- We hosted our annual Christmas brunch and gift exchange
- We had a book club potluck to host Jerusalem Greer where she discussed her new book "At Home in this Life"
- We hosted two Meet-and-Greet events for prospective sisters

Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry (EFM) is a program of theological education for laity, created and administered by the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Under the leadership of Nita Brown and Marilyn Larson, more than a dozen members of St. Peter's participated in the EFM program from January-May 2016. Nancy Thompson completed the four- year curriculum and became a graduate of EFM in May 2016

and was recognized by the congregation for her commitment to theological education when she received her certificate from the School of Theology at Sewanee during a worship service. In September 2016, fourteen persons began or continued their studies. Nita Brown provided leadership in organizing and administering the program in the fall of 2016.

On Monday afternoons from September 2016 until May 2017, Emily Madden and Kathryn Spinks lead the following persons in their studies of scripture, theology, and church history. The third year students focus on the history of Christianity and include the following members: Beth Brady, Tanya Buchanan, Catherine Fortney, Pam Holt, Gloria Parker, Lillian Petrucelli, Dinah Reed, and Danny Reed. The fourth year students; Emily Madden, Dee Sanders, and Kathryn Spinks completed their studies of Christian theology and received their certificates during worship in May 2017..

A smaller group of EFM students met since September 2016 until May 2017 on Tuesday evenings with Jane Harris as the EFM mentor. Melanie Cavender began the first year of study with a focus on the Old Testament. Joe Arn and Dave Barlow studied church history using the third year's curriculum. Dan Allen completed EFM in May 2017 with the study of Christian theology and received his certificate of completion in the worship service in May.

An integral part of the EFM program is the process of theological reflection. As students and mentors, participants in EFM take what we learn in our individual studies and apply new insight and awareness to God's presence and work in our daily lives. Through theological reflection, we become more aware of the spiritual depths of the ordinary events and moments in our lives.

Worship and fellowship also contribute to the richness of the EFM experience. The group members get to know each other well as we worship, share, and learn together. While EFM is definitely intellectually stimulating, the opportunity for community building and personal spiritual growth make this program uniquely enriching in the life of our church. For some participants, EFM begins a process of discernment about their ministries.

A new community of EFM participants was organized in September 2017, with Kathryn Spinks and Jane Harris serving as mentors. Four persons are continuing their study, all of whom are completing the fourth year study of theology with the anticipation of graduating from the program in May 2018. The current EMFers are Joe Arn, David Barlow, Beth Brady, and Gloria Parker

Eucharistic Ministers

Our Eucharistic Ministers ministry grew again this year. Currently we have 22 EMs serving. We have Eucharistic Ministers serving at all three Sunday morning services and on Wednesday nights. EMs also serve at funerals and weddings as needed. Mike Moses continues to do a great job serving as Verger. If anyone is interested in becoming an EM please contact Teri, Jerusalem, or Mike.

Eucharistic Visitors

At present we have four EV ministers:

Dan Allen, Tanya Buchanan, Deana Weindorf, Rita Mackintosh.

Other ministers who served during the year: Cody Blackmon, Catherine Fortney, Elizabeth Walters, Erin Weindorf, Deana Weindorf.

The Rev. Linda Brown is mentor and supervisor for Eucharistic Visitors for the coming year.

At present we visit four people regularly, with occasional visits to persons who are temporarily in need of visitation.

Total visits for 2017 = 129

Fledglings Writing Group

The Fledglings Writers Group continues into its fifth year. We are an “open to all” writing workshop. No matter your experience in creative writing, we welcome you. Our group meets on Wednesday nights, 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the St. Peter’s church library. We discuss the work we are doing, share our writing in group and use all kinds of writing prompts during meeting time to make the stories, the poems, and the hybrid whatnots. Our numbers range in size from 8-12 people, depending on time of year and personal schedules. You are welcome to attend as often as is feasible throughout the year. Please contact Liz Larson for any information at: tamliz@aol.com

Food Pantry

	Returning	New	Total
Households	1335	229	1564
Adults 60+	542	41	583
Adults 18-59	2232	378	2610
Children 0-17	1738	250	1988

The number of families we served in 2017 in comparison to 2016 decreased by 495 and the total number of people we served in 2017 decreased by 1,177. That’s a significant decrease in comparison to years past. This could be because there are more pantries available for clients to visit each month. Or from a more optimistic viewpoint, it could mean that our clients are becoming more financially stable and are able to provide for themselves with less assistance. As in years past, I have to thank all of our wonderful volunteers. Without their time and the generation donations given, we would not have been able to serve the 5,181 pantry clients who needed us in 2017.

Food Pantry

Balance as of 12/31/16	\$ 3,306.70 (\$400.00 added to 2015 beginning balance)
Income as of 12/31/17	<u>\$11,540.32</u>
Subtotal	\$14,847.02
Expenses as of 12/31/17	<u>(\$11,344.98)</u>
Net balance as of 12/31/17	\$ 3,502.04

Primary food expenses:

Arkansas Food Bank	Purchases	Pounds of food	Cost/Pound
	(\$4,430.00)	10,074	\$.44
WNM	(\$5,729.24)	10,810	\$.53

Conway Locally Grown

St. Peter’s parishioners and others in the community donated \$1,791 through Conway Locally Grown to be used for purchases for the food pantry. The majority of purchases for the pantry consist of fresh eggs, vegetables, and fruit.

Our volunteers are what keep the pantry doors open. Without them, the food pantry would not operate as efficiently and effectively as it does. Thank you to all of the volunteers who give their time to keep the pantry doors open each Saturday, pick up food from AFB and local grocery stores, pack bags, and enter data into the reporting system.

Summary of significant events

November

- Successfully completed another Thanksgiving meal project
 - Offered 130 meals to food pantry clients and St. Peter's parishioners
 - Received \$3,350 in monetary donations from St. Peter's Parishioners, Hendrix College and 1st Presbyterian Church
 - Received substantial food donations from 1st Presbyterian Church and Hendrix College
 - Had over 25 volunteers – youth and adults

Thanksgiving

Balance as of 12/31/16	\$6,911.67
Income as of 12/31/17	<u>\$3,350.00</u>
Subtotal	\$10,261.67
Expenses as of 12/31/17	<u>(\$5,600.56)</u>
Net balance as of 12/31/17	\$ 4,661.11

- 2017 ending balance will be held in the Thanksgiving project account and will be disbursed as needed to the food pantry in 2018.

December

- Leftover non-perishable food items from the Thanksgiving meal project were used to prepare hot meals on Christmas day
 - Delivered 102 Christmas meals for Meals on Wheels
 - Delivered food to Haven House, Conway Fire Department and Bethlehem House
 - Had over 30 volunteers – youth and adults

Received over 1000 cans of food from the Faulkner County Library food drive

Annual report completed by Christy Garrett-Jones. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 501-472-9249 or cdjones1976@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Christy Garrett-Jones

Foyers

Guatemala Mission Projects

An enthusiastic group of 25 participants went to Guatemala in early April 2017. The trip membership consisted primarily of team members from St. Peter's and St. Mark's in Little Rock. A number of the participants are not affiliated with any specific church, but are interested in the project via their work at Conway Regional Medical Center. There were many generous donations received from individuals and churches to help with supplies and funding on the trip. This even included St. George's Episcopal in Germantown, Tennessee, who has been a consistent partner in funding, volunteers, and support. A new strong supporter is Wal-Mart of Conway, Dave Ward Store.

In 2016 we were able, through the efforts of Conway physician Doug Stroud, to offer balloon sinuplasty – a procedure which opens the sinus passageways and provides permanent relief to patients suffering the effects of chronic sinus infections and pain. Dr. Stroud and his surgical staff performed these procedures on 10 adults and they also provided consultation for ear/nose/throat patients of all ages. We are expanding this service to pediatric patients in 2017 by partnering with a small charity hospital in the area where we work. Many of our patients came for routine clinic needs and with 4 clinicians we were able to take care of over 500 patients in 4 days. Remarkably, a toddler with a severe cleft palate came through our clinic in 2016 and we were able, through generous donations of our team, to send him for an immediate cleft palate repair. We saw that little boy this year and he is now a typical toddler – healthy and rambunctious.

The team set up medical clinics in Chumanzana, Chucalibal, Tecpan, and Solola. We were able to provide for fitting of basic eyeglasses which greatly improves the quality of life and earning potential for elderly Mayans. Every patient seen is also given a minimum of one month's supply of vitamins and new clothes and shoes. A surgical trip is being planned for February of 2018 and will be largely made up of participants from both St. Peter's Episcopal and St. Mark's in Little Rock. The entire project for 2017 was directed by Father Roberto Armas, of the Western Region of the Diocese of Guatemala.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir consists of 11 handbell players. Each player is responsible for up to 4 notes and plays an independent part of the music. This is teamwork at its best! We were fortunate to have our bells refurbished this summer and they are sounding truly magnificent. Rehearsals are after the 11:00 service during the seasons of Lent and Advent. The handbell music truly enhances worship at St. Peter's. We could use a couple new players! (Ability to read music is a must for handbells.)

Library

During the year 2017, Mary Ferguson accessioned 78 new and used donations to St. Peter's Library. "Thank you!" to all the generous donors of items and funds for the library collection. Sarah Bryan cataloged 56 books, which means they are ready for looking up by title or subject or keyword.... at "stpetelibrary" on Librarything.... and for browsing the shelves and checking out items here in the library.

On June 1, 2015, our church library began cataloging newly accessioned and adding existing collection titles to LibraryThing, which is an online collection cataloging tool. You can find our library's growing catalog online there under the name "stpetelibrary". During 2017, Sarah has added the 56 newly cataloged titles and 186 retrospective titles to our LibraryThing virtual catalog. The old physical card catalog remains in the library, and is useful, as a general search tool, but bear in mind that items cataloged since June 1, 2015, will not have cards therein.

During 2018, we plan to continue adding existing titles to LibraryThing, as well as new additions, and, due to shelf space constraints, we will begin to assess some less-used items in the existing collection for withdrawal. As always, we wish to invite all of the St. Peter's community to visit and use the library and our growing catalog online at LibraryThing (search for "stpetelibrary"). The library is open for self-service whenever the church building is open.

Little Free Library

The Little Free Library continues to be managed beautifully by Stephanie Vanderslice and the youth of St. Peter's and is being used often by the neighborhood.

Meals Ministry

We are currently looking for a coordinator for our meals ministry. This ministry helps to provide meals for families celebrating a new child, or facing illness or grief. This ministry is extremely vital to providing comfort to our families. We have a host of volunteers who are happy to make meals – either to keep in the freezer in the church, or to provide as needed, but we are in need for a lead coordinator and point person for this ministry.

The Morgan House

The Morgan House was put to wonderful use in the past year. TMH was used for the Men's Group dinners, Inter-Faith Gatherings, EFM, Canterbury College Ministry, NA, Newcomer Events, Vestry Meetings, and Servant Leadership also made use of the space. We also held our Inquirer's Workshop and the Bishop's visit there. We are excited about all the ways TMH was used to engage with our community this past year and we look forward to offering it through more events during 2018.

Newcomers Ministry

We have had a wonderful year welcoming Newcomers into our midst. The Newcomer Team currently consists of Dan Allen, Jerusalem Greer, and help from the Vestry. Over the past year we hosted Newcomer Brunches at The Morgan House, all of which were extremely well attended. Effort was made to also invite Newcomers to several church-wide events including Pie Fest, Advent Event, and Rally Day. There were also two Newcomer Meet & Eat gatherings – one at the home of Marilyn and Len Rishkofski, and one at the home of Veronica and Simon Makepeace. We are so grateful to everyone who has helped with all of these events.

We are always trying to improve the way we welcome and include those who are visiting or new to St. Peter's. If you would like to serve on the Newcomers Ministry Team please contact Jerusalem!

Ministry Teams

We currently have four ministry teams in rotation. Jeff and Kristina Ward lead the Family Team (Team 1,) Team 2 is currently looking for a leader, Jerry Adams leads Team 3, and Claire Lasardo and Nancy Thompson lead Team 4. These teams are made up of individuals and families who serve as Lectors, Oblationers, Ushers, Greeters and Coffee Host. Each team takes one week of the month, and one fourth Sunday of the year.

All of our team leaders would like to thank everyone who serves on a team – Ministry Teams are what make Sunday mornings run smoothly, and help to make our visitors feel welcome.

As always, the leaders are happy to welcome new team members and a sign-up sheet is on the board in the lobby!

Servant Leadership

Vision: Trusting in Divine Presence, we imagine an interdependent, inclusive community rooted in compassion and empowered to serve.

Mission: Relying on ancient spiritual wisdom enriched by modern understanding, we offer courses designed to foster personal growth and service to others.

The first workshop was held April 8, 2017, led by Ms. Catherine Crews from Russellville who is commissioned by Contemplative Outreach. The focus was on Centering Prayer and 12 Step commonalities.

The second workshop was held on May 13, 2017, again led by Catherine Crews. She led us on a labyrinth journey in our own courtyard.

There was a third Saturday workshop on August 5, 2017, entitled "Practicing Self-Compassion: Transforming Stress." This was led by Amanda Moore, D. Min.

On five Thursday evenings in October and November Servant Leadership sponsored "Conversations on Servant Leadership," led by Steve Zeltman and based on Bennett Sims' book, Servanthood: Leadership in the Third Millennium.

As an outgrowth of the Servant Leadership School classes, two Circles of Trust were formed and continue to meet regularly. Circles of Trust are small groups who meet to support each other in discerning their own truth. They rely heavily on confidentiality, and once formed, are usually closed to new members.

Our volunteers continue revamping the core Servant Leadership course so it can be offered again in the future. Volunteers include Carolyn Scott, Rita Mackintosh, Diane Brownlee, Merry Helen Hedges, Nita Brown, Amanda Moore Beth Brady and Judy Helm.

Verger

The Verger Ministry is now entering its sixth year at St. Peter's and has continued to evolve as the needs of the parish do.

For those unfamiliar with what a verger is/does, or the history a brief description is in order.

According to the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church (VGEC) "a Verger is a layperson who serves in a ministry organization and welcome. Vergers work under the direction of the Rector, Vicar, or priest in charge. They are a source for liturgy and planning. Vergers work behind the scenes to ensure that details are handled while clergy attend to the pastoral needs of the congregation. The job of verger is different from parish to parish."

The Verger name and initial purpose comes from the "virge" or staff vergers carry, it was used to clear the path in front of the procession of parishioners and dogs in the way.

As Verger I am considered unpaid staff, answer to all parishioners, and am willing to assist with whatever detail or information is needed or requested. I also do my best to identify visitors and ensure that they are greeted by myself, introduced to other parishioners, and that the clergy know they are present and have whatever information I have gathered about them. A typical Sunday will have the verger checking the altar setup, staffing needs, checking with ministry team leaders and clergy, and assisting with whatever details they need help with. The past year has also seen the role of verger expanding in liturgical matters. Upon request of the clergy, I now typically process and serve at the altar at the 11 am service. The verger also serves at all funerals and special services, either behind the scenes or on the altar as needs require, which I have continued to do.

Future plans and goals for the Verger Ministry in this season of transition are: To continue to be a presence of continuity and tradition. And God (and Priest, Vergers serve at the pleasure of the Priest) willing, to assist our new Priest (whomever that may be) in any way needed to ensure a successful, smooth entry into our community.

This year will also mark the first time a Verger will be able to be present during all Holy Week services, and hopefully some possible long term projects will manifest that will round out the helpfulness of the position.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this congregation,

Respectfully

Mike Moses

Website, Social Media & Church Office

Our Social Media presence has been vital to St. Peter's outreach and communication. We have 689 followers on Facebook. Our church directory app has greatly helped in making sure that our current list of active members stays updated. Our email list has been updated as well to make sure that we are reaching the appropriate people who have signed up for our emails.

Wedding Coordinator

St. Peter's served as host to 3 weddings in 2017

Becky Hayes and Lisa Lachowski

Lauren Crymes and Ryan Boswell

Dave Campbell and Kent Ballew

The wedding coordinator ministry is led by Donna Hutchinson who is ably assisted by Genie Davis and Dee Sanders.

Wisdom House Project

Wisdom House/Tomorrow's Dawn Women's Center Meeting Minutes (week before Christmas)

- the fence is good and done
- records (my uncle is bringing them - now excel files is being created for every student)
- printers: the printer has been filled and we need a course for teachers and the kindergarten crew (orange) providing virtual educational files on Rawaq stage.
- Questionnaire: to test the satisfaction of the parents in coordination with Moad'mina and the rest of the teachers to see the effect on the parents on the scale of their kids improvement
- Facebook page in Arabic for the kindergarten: Jomah is going to do it with Natalie and others.
- we need a new additional computer
- first aid kits and fire extinguishers for the kindergarten
- the filming is every two weeks twice and the coordination is with Jomah to text them on the group.

Wisdom House Project Financial update for the New Year:

- 167 individual donations since we began the Wisdom House Project nearly 17 months ago in September 2016.
- 9 monthly recurring donors providing \$945.00/month (5 new after our send-out)
- Currently have \$26,700.50 in our Wisdom House Project account.
- \$47,400 amount our school/women's center has received/spent since Sept. 2016
- \$75,680 total amount raised/sent to orphanage since Sept. 2016
- This past month we received almost 20 remittance envelopes from our holiday send-out with donations to our cause and new members of our Wisdom House team! We also raised \$2,159.00 last month thanks to our amazing community. Thank you all for your incredible work!

Update since Christmas

The Assad Regime and Russian forces began bombing Idlib Province on Christmas Day 2017. Within days the towns around the Wisdom House and Tomorrow's Dawn Women's Center were evacuated with most moving north toward the Turkish border. One of our student's family home was bombed and she lost her 3 y/o brother. Our team in the US encouraged the leaders and teachers to evacuate. All have moved nearer to the Turkish border.

Our team is committed to continued support for Raasha, Jomah, Moumena as well as the staff and students. The local Syrian team is staying connected through What's App and will regroup after there is better insight into the needs as they transition.

Team Update:

- Raasha (Women's Center director) has moved north near the Turkish border and is gathering info for possible education opportunities in that area.
- Moumena (Wisdom House director) is with her family now and is in contact with Wisdom House staff and students through What's APP. Will look to set up school when bombing decreases.
- Jomah (our regional director). He and his family are in Turkey. He is continuing to work with Red Crescent and other Turkish NGO's to help where needed.

Upcoming event:

Mouaz Moustafa (director Sryian Emergency Task Force) will be at St. Peter's on Sunday Feb 11th. He will be sharing updates with Adult Forum classes at 10am and also during the 11am service with reception to follow in lobby.

For more information, please contact Brett Hardison or Jerry Adams.