

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

505 Main Street

Spotswood, New Jersey 08884

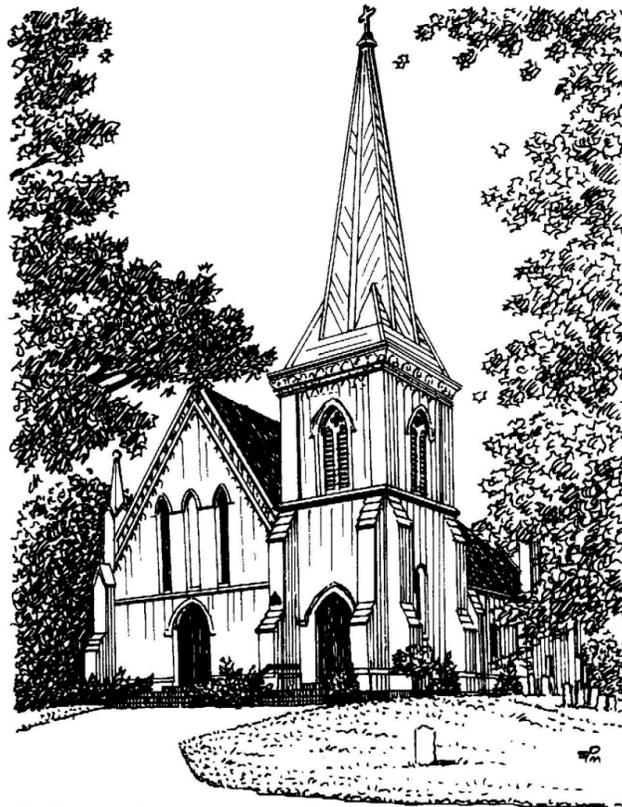
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St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Spotswood, N.J.

Annual Report for 2017

Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting

January 28, 2018

Clergy

The Reverend Marshall K. Shelly, *Rector*

The Reverend William Balmer, *Deacon*

Staff

Arlene Miller, *Organist-Music Director*

Liz Cortijo, *Sexton*

Vestry

Laura Bonamici, Cathy Clark

Wardens

Class of 2018

Maureen Barlow

John Grennen

Open

Class of 2019

Gene Dabrowski

Cathy Decker

Lisa Ignotis

Class of 2020

Rosita Hamilton

Debbie Kraft

Nelson Powell

Kirk Bonamici, *Treasurer*

Carolyn Gugliotta, *Financial Secretary*

**2017 DIOCESAN CONVENTION AND NORTHERN CONVOCATION
DELEGATES**

Laura Bonamici, Kathie Evans, John Hamilton

Alternates

Art Campbell, Cathy Clark Amy Loughran

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting
January 28, 2018

Agenda

- ❖ Convening of Annual Meeting and Opening of Polls
- ❖ Grace before serving of meal
- ❖ Appointment of Recording Secretary and Election Tellers
- ❖ Dismissal to Lunch
- ❖ Minutes of January 29, 2017 Annual Meeting
- ❖ Acknowledgment of Retiring and Departing Officers
- ❖ Report of Nominating Committee for Officers of Parish
- ❖ Notice of Canonical Qualifications of Voters
- ❖ Call for Nominations from the floor
- ❖ Nomination and Election of Vestry, Wardens, Convention Deputies and Alternates, and Delegates to Convocation (Polls to remain open until election is obtained and adopted by Annual Meeting)
- ❖ Voting and Collection/Tally of Ballots
- ❖ Wardens' Report
- ❖ Report on the Finances
- ❖ Rector's Report
- ❖ Commendation of Annual Report, Questions for clarification from the floor
- ❖ Concluding Prayers: A Celebration of Life at St. Peter's for 2017
- ❖ Closing Prayer, Blessing and Dismissal

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting for 2016

Held on January 29, 2017

The Reverend Marshall K. Shelly, Rector, called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. with opening prayer. The polls had been declared open at the dismissal of the 10 a.m. service, which was marked at 10:58 a.m.

As lunch was served, the nomination of Lisa Ignotis as recording secretary was made by Father Marshall. A motion to accept was made by Kirk Bonamici, 2nd by Niels Johnson. The motion carried.

Appointment of Election Tellers was tendered: Eric Pertschuk, Angie Fatum, and Jennifer Shonk. A motion to accept was made by Laura Shelly, 2nd by Amy Loughran. The motion carried.

Father Marshall presented the Annual Meeting Reports. We were directed to review the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. A motion to receive the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting was made by Kirk Bonamici, 2nd Rich Goglia. The motion carried.

Father Marshall introduced Laura Bonamici to provide a report on the Parish's 260th Anniversary. We asked for ideas as to where as a Parish we wanted to go. The overwhelming response was to fix up the parish hall. We're on it! We asked the church community what makes them thankful for St. Peter's. Responses were posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We spent the year in thanksgiving and capped it off with a celebration with Bishop Stokes, returning clergy members, and confirmation. Father Marshall thanked the sub-committee for that celebration.

Father Marshall then introduced Kirk Bonamici for an update on the Realm Database. During the year we brought Realm on-line. Carolyn Gugliotta fulfilled one of the primary goals of compiling and distributing the giving records. The data base is working well but we are still missing some email addresses, birthdays & anniversaries to complete the database. He is hoping to get everyone onto Realm in the coming year so we can use it as a communication tool. See Kirk to bring everyone up to speed. Father Marshall urged everyone to accept their Realm invitation.

Father Marshall invited everyone to turn to the Vital Statistics page at the back of the Annual Report to put some perspective on the primary things we do as a church; one of those is worship. We had

92 worship services (including cancelling one Sunday service due to the blizzard), 49 weekday Eucharist, and 32 home communion visits. In addition, we had 9 baptisms, 6 marriages, and 11 burials. Father pointed out that we welcomed home two former parishioners who had moved away several years ago but continued to support the church. He also wanted to point out that we enjoyed 175 observations of the Daily Office. Daily Offices have been added to the Vestry meeting process.

Father Marshall invited Laura Bonamici to the podium to acknowledge and thank retiring and departing officers of the vestry. Lorraine Wehrle and Nelson Powell are completing their terms. Thank you for their service. Nelson is joining us on the next ballot.

Cathy Clark gave a report from the Nomination Committee. Father thanked Cathy, our continuing Warden, and her committee for their work. Cathy started off by thanking Laura Bonamici, the outgoing warden, for her service and advised that Laura will also be joining us on this next ballot. The nominating committee included Cathy Decker, Gene Dabrowski, and John Grennen. Open terms include:

- one 2-year term for Warden = Laura Bonamici
- 3 3-year terms for vestry = Rosita Hamilton, Debbie Kraft, Nelson Powell
- 1 1-year unexpired term for vestry = open (no nominations)
- 3 Diocesan convention delegates = Laura Bonamici, Kathie Evans, John Hamilton
- 3 Diocesan convention alternates = Art Campbell, Amy Loughran, Cathy Clark
- Stone Scholarship Chair = Nancy Sarnak

Father Marshall reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheets and then introduced the Qualification of Voters. Laura Bonamici read those qualifications from the bylaws. Father Marshall called for nominations from the floor or any questions or clarifications. As there were none, and the appropriate time had passed since the opening of the polls, Father Marshall called for a motion to close nominations. Rosita Hamilton motioned, 2nd Sandy Donaldson. Motion carried.

Father called for a distribution of the ballots. However, since there were no contested offices, Kirk Bonamici motioned that the nominees be accepted by acclamation. The motion was carried. Father Marshall called for the nominees to stand for a round of applause upon their election.

Father Marshall provided a brief explanation of the Stone Scholarship. He invited anyone who was interested in serving on the committee to let Nancy Sarnak know. Scholarship applications will be opened on Ash Wednesday and closed on Easter Sunday. Any member of the parish is invited to apply. The funds can be used for any secondary education.

Laura Bonamici and Cathy Clark provided the Warden's Report. Laura began by citing some of the accomplishments of 2016. In addition to the anniversary celebration, we continued our Way of St. Paul ministry and hosted Laetare Supper. We also tried a few "experiments" to bring more life to the Parish. These included a return of Vacation Bible School, St. Pete's Little Fishes playgroup, and Adult Bible Study. We worked on the Church management system (Realm). Regarding the property, we installed the recycling bin outside and the Eagle Scouts worked on the Lych gate. We did some repairs to the Rectory roof, tree work and landscaping. One of the biggest changes, after much discussion with Nancy Pertschuk, Sunday School teachers, and parents, was to change the start time of Sunday School to 9am to give more flexibility to families and to increase engagement in both formation and worship. They can now attend a full service at either 8am or 10am.

Cathy discussed the Rutgers Students Day of Service. The students cleaned out the garden with the help of the Decker family and cleaned the church pews and parish hall windows. The Parish Hall Renovation Committee formed and began prioritizing renovations needed. Painting of the exterior was completed prior to the Bishop's visit. In addition to the painting, rotted wood was replaced, along with several windows. At the end of 2016, we submitted a grant proposal to Walmart to have the interior ceiling of the Parish Hall replaced. We were just notified that we have been awarded the grant in the amount of \$2,500.00! Thanks to all volunteers who help throughout the year in all the buildings and grounds.

Laura re-iterated that being a Warden can be complex, but rewarding. One of the greatest blessing is being able to share her love of God with all of us. Their job is easier because of the support they receive from the Parish. Thanks were offered to all including Father Marshall.

Father welcomed Kirk Bonamici for the Treasurer's Report. Kirk directed everyone to turn to the Annual Report for the Executive Summary and Financial Reports. Primary points were that congregational giving was under-budget (decline) and we saw less investment income because of the bank's error in calculation in 2014 resulting in an over-payment in 2015, so we took less in 2016 to off-set that. Expenses were also slightly under-budget thanks to a decrease in utilities. Overall our revenue were below our expenses slightly. Accumulated funds from prior year and transfers from other funds allowed us to continue our good work. For next year, in addition to our outreach and our good stewardship of our buildings and ministries, we are looking to assemble a team to complete a financial audit and we are in discussions with Holy Trinity in South River to assist with that project. We will also continue to assess Realm's accounting capabilities.

As Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese, he learned about the fantastic programs that the diocese offers; such as the Disabled Access Grant program that we are looking into to help with our ramp outside. There are also matching grants for international outreach, as well as scholarship beyond the

Stone Scholarship here. See the Diocesan website for more info (www.dioceseofnj.org). He will be elected to post of Diocesan Treasurer shortly, which will give us all the opportunity to ask questions about what's going on at the diocese.

Kirk thanked the Wardens for their assistance and everyone on Vestry. He also offered thanks to Finance Committee, the weekly counter teams, and our financial secretary Carolyn Gugliotta.

Father wanted to point out that as we look at our finances and balance sheets, we must realize that a Church's budget isn't just the actions of the business - assets and liabilities - it's the narrative of the mission of the Church. Every single dollar is devoted to mission. Keep that in mind as we make our commitments. He also mentioned that as we post about life at St. Peter's on social media, people approach him about how engaged and connected we are. He referred to this as "the Light of Christ at the corner of Main and DeVoe".

Father presented his State of the Parish Address, which was provided in the Annual Report. In summary, Father called it a big warm hug from Priest to Parish. He noted that throughout the community and diocese, we are looked upon as an incredibly vibrant church, even though we aren't the largest in terms of attendance, budget, or magnitude of programs. We are supported by a small staff of very dedicated people; Arlene, Lisa, Clarence, the devotion of our Wardens, the Vestry, our parishioners, our children. We are able to do great things in the name of Christ because "love is a verb:" the tagline of our new stewardship program. People are out in the world with various activities and ministries, and we welcome them home, here, to re-charge their batteries and to be lifted up. It is our particular grace to be given the ability to say "welcome home." To that end, we are inviting the world "out there" to be "in here" on Feb 12. We've invited Mayor Ed Seeley of Spotswood and any other council members who'd like to attend, to join us in worship and to receive a blessing - a laying on of hands - to remind ourselves that we have welcomed people home for 260 years. It's not about numbers, it's about Grace. It's not about accomplishments that earn merit. It is about having done things in the name and witness of God.

With that, Father Marshall commended the annual report. He opened the floor to questions. As there were none, he offered thanks to the Wardens and Vestry.

Our tradition is to close the Annual Meeting with a celebration of the life of the parish. He invited Melissa Pertschuk to light candles while Arlene played "Jesus Remember Me". Father read the names in remembrance for this year past of:

- Baptisms
- Holy Matrimony
- Those Confirmed in Faith

- Communion Class
- Burials
- Open intercessions

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and a blessing from Father Marshall.

Motion to adjourn was made by Melissa Pertschuk, 2nd by Sandy Donaldson. Motion carried.

Thanks to hospitality committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ignotis

RECTOR'S ADDRESS

To the beloved of Christ who are the people of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Spotswood, New Jersey: Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus the Christ. May the joy and presence of the Holy Spirit, with the abundant blessings of God the Father be upon us and fill us with all things necessary to continue the great work our God has begun in us! This address to you all marks the observance of my seventh year in your midst as priest and pastor. It has been the joy of my ministry to mark the seasons of our common life together for the better part of this decade, knowing and supporting each of you as we all seek to become stronger in our practice as followers of Jesus, and as we seek to share the blessing of that strength with all whom we serve in his name.

St. Peter's marks its 261st year of mission and ministry to the people of Spotswood and its surrounding communities. As I mark my 22nd year as a priest to the Church, and enter the second 50 years of my own life, I continue to give thanks that this portion of it has been blessed to serve Christ alongside our venerable community. This Church has deep roots, and this history both provokes us to, and nourishes us in a heritage of witness and outreach that continues to offer the abundance of God's blessing to those around us. It also serves as a reminder that while what we do today is important, it is also a note sounded in a long symphony of praise to our Redeemer.

This past year has seen deepening commitment to our common formation as disciples of Jesus. Our work in witness to his love is only so effective as our formation is ongoing and both personally and communally challenging. We have seen profound growth in spirit, knowledge and confidence as our Wardens and Vestry have grown not only closer to each other in ministry and collegiality, but also in the depths to which they travel as they strive to link their spiritual walk with God to their material lives while modeling the same to our membership. Our lay ministry leaders express to me continually how moved they are by the work undertaken to serve, and how that witness serves to feed their own souls. As they lead, so also are they led to deeper awareness of Christ at work around them, and in them.

Every pastor knows that his work is impossible without the heart, care and counsel of devoted lay leadership. As your rector, I could not serve you without the presence and care of our lay leadership. St. Peter's is blessed with two amazing wardens, whose guidance and insight are only exceeded by their love of this parish and Christ. Cathy and Laura offer their time, their talents and their hearts completely and lovingly, that St. Peter's may flourish. You are well served, and I am well guided, by their care. The same can be said of your Vestry. They are a gathering of people from across the spectrum of the parish, and their passion for mission is balanced by their openness to growth in Christ.

From the worship ministries of altar guild, chalicists, lectors, ushers, acolytes, choirs and chapel leaders to the care and teachings of our Sunday School and VBS leaders, we see our learning turning into service. Our staff, Arlene and Liz, continue to do everything they are able to ensure that their ministries support St. Peter's own. Our outreach leaders and volunteers remind us that we are always called upon to not only learn about and proclaim Christ to the world, we are also to be Christ's hand and feet devoted to the care of our fellow human beings at home or afar. This year, we have seen our Sunday School and VBS programs grow, family participation in worship and service increase and our outreach ministries blossom as people find new ways to serve the ongoing needs of the people we love, our neighbors in need.

We welcomed back our deacon, the Reverend William Balmer, as one called to serve St. Peter's, and to lead us into deeper awareness that the Church and the World need to be united by our service, care and prayers. Deacon Bill brings home to us a pastor's heart and a servant's hand. His willingness to pitch in and help, wherever and whenever needed is a testament to his faith in his calling, and his leadership in both our Community Supper and with the Men's Ministry affirm the Holy Spirit's wisdom in returning him to us and those whom we serve.

Our outreach and service continue to expand, with the Thrift Shop having again a hallmark year of growth. Not only does the profit from this ministry sustain our mission, the work and witness of its volunteers and leadership continue to tender a much-needed resource to the community. Up-cycled items that are donated become found treasures to our customers. Customers become friends, and many become volunteers. We are blessed by their work, and their love for our mission.

The same must be said of the leadership and volunteers of Community of Hope Ministries and Alice's CUP Food Pantry. You will see that we have a new volunteer executive director in the person of Jennifer Alexander, and I ask you to join me in both welcoming her and celebrating her work this past year to affirm and build on the legacy of Alice Ryan and Ryan Galway. Her work to affirm what works, and build up what needs renewal has quickened our work together. We are grateful that Jeannie Fitzpatrick, our cooks and volunteers of the Community Supper continue to provide fellowship and food, both in generous measures, to our people. We say farewell and thank you to the innumerable contributions and persons of Bob and Eleanor Stocker, while at the same time celebrating a new chapter in ministry for them, and a welcome for Rich Doran as our inventory supervisor, and Kellie and Sam Baker for their pickup service with MCFOODS and ShopRite.

Helping Hands and the Parish Garden allow hands quickened for service in the name of Jesus to find outlet. Blankets comfort the newly baptized and those who are aged or ill. Scarves and hats warm seafarer's abroad. Fresh vegetables nourish the food-anxious and hungry. We are blessed to serve!

Special gatherings have been supported by your fidelity and generosity, with our Change for Change providing ongoing outreach support locally and internationally. We also had a special gathering for the people of San Pedro/St. Peter's in Pasadena, Texas as they recover from the devastating hurricanes which struck the Texan coast in 2017. As our St. Peter's was aided during our struggle and recovery from Irene, so also we remember and give aid to sister parishes who have found themselves in the path of storms and upheaval.

While we serve and meet the needs of others, though, we also remember to connect to each other as we serve and celebrate our common life together. From work days to support the buildings, grounds and an arboretum renewal plan, we put our hands to work on making our spaces safe, sustainable, beautiful and welcoming. Our Dine to Donate gatherings, the Laetare Sunday Supper, the Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday and our Pig Roast have become standing traditions of celebration, with our gatherings showing forth not only the light of Christ, but also the joy of the Body gathered in honor of the Holy Spirit. This past year, we also added the notorious "Yam Fest" and the observance of St. Andrew's Day with a Scottish Ceilidh. We serve alongside each other...and we also dance, laugh and celebrate alongside each other! God be praised!

That praising of God must, after all I have noted before, be noted as the very foundation and ground of our being as the Body of Christ here in Spotswood. Sunday worship heals us and nourishes us to be Christ's witness throughout the week. Weekday offices, midweek Eucharists and Pastoral visits sustain us on a day to day basis. The Holy Week "Pilgrimage in Place" continues to grow and expand the lives of those who undertake a closer walk with Jesus. When we remember each other in prayer, and are remembered in prayer, then all of what was noted before becomes an "of course" and is celebrated as our blessed routine. We are ordinary Christians, doing the extraordinary because of God in Christ, working through us.

That power of God, working in us always more than we could ever ask or imagine, is the very thing that is enabling St. Peter's ability to allow me a sabbatical leave this coming year. From the Feast of Pentecost through the Sunday after Labor Day, I will walk apart from my role as rector and priest to our community in order to rest, restore and renew my priesthood and my person. The projects ahead for my time away will look at how we as Churches and households go about "Finding our Daily Bread." My father and I will also be working on a project that we hope will help parishes and Church leaders manage and resolve intense conflict. Supply clergy will support you pastorally, with Deacon Bill being there for crises and the day to day pastoral needs of our membership. The Wardens and Vestry will work with our staff and lay leadership, ensuring that all vital ministries, services and functions continue in my absence. We will continue to be supported by Canon Droste, and the Diocese during this season of mutual renewal and discovery.

For now, we continue with our 40 Days to a Closer Walk with God preparation. From Advent to Epiphanytide, we are deepening our awareness of God's self-revelation to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Lent will explore our common calling to become disciples and followers of Jesus, and to be mindful of the transformations that continue in our day to day lives when we say "yes" to that summons. Easter, as we draw near to the sabbatical leave, will see us taking time together in small groups. We will meet in house-church gatherings, hosted in our neighborhoods at which you all and I will make Eucharist, share our hearts and lift our praises to the resurrected Jesus in our midst.

All this effort and reflection is to ensure that upon my return to the parish in the Autumn, we will be ready to go out into the harvest that God has set before us. This harvest is a welcome extended to those around us to join in the long-term growth and evolution in God's love of our parish. We have work to accomplish together as we share our faith and practices with friends and neighbors. We have work to do with our sister parishes in our region. We have a growing role to play as leaders in our common life as members of the Northern Convocation of Churches and as members of the Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey. That expanding role is going to be mirrored in our growing role as a leader of service and witness to Christ in this town and its environs. Our work together with our partner churches here in Spotswood, our local and state government, to help all who are in need of comfort, hope, shelter and fellowship will continue, and it will continue to grow. I am so hopeful for the future of our parish, because I know its present health and have been trusted with its storied past.

What stands head and shoulders above all else is the faith we share in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All of this grace and promise we see in the life here at St. Peter's gives me a deep and powerful hope for the coming year. We have done much, and now much more is expected of us when it comes to building up the vitality, life and witness to Christ. My prayer of thanksgiving is also one of challenge: that all of us find in the life of Christ here at St. Peter's the resources and inspiration we need to more effectively and faithfully proclaim with word and deed the Good News of God in Christ.

May Christ the Son of God continue to be made manifest in us, that our lives may be a light to the Gospel and to the ongoing work of the kingdom here at St. Peter's. May God bless, preserve and keep us in grace, peace and fruitful work to the Glory of Christ and the Holy Spirit!

Father Marshall+
XXXVI Rector, St. Peter's
Dean, Northern Convocation-DioNJ

DEACON'S REPORT

With the blessing of Bishop Stokes and a gentle prodding from Father Marshall and your Vestry leaders, in June I responded to the call to return to the ministries I began at St. Peter's Church during my years at the School for Deacons. And I couldn't be happier with my decision! Since returning to St. Peter's, I have continued my ministry as pastor *in locus* at the St. Peter's soup kitchen ministry - leading the kitchen crew in prayer each week, subbing for Father Marshall in the main dining area when he is not available, and modeling the humble service of Brother Lawrence as chief pot scrubber and bottle washer. My ministry at St. Peter's has also expressed itself in support of men's spirituality, and I have continued to attend the monthly men's breakfast and been a ready volunteer on group service projects. And, of course, I have also supported Father Marshall pastorally as a proclaimer of the Gospel, by preaching, and by assisting in worship as deacon of the table.

I know there is more that I could be doing as your deacon, but I've read that knowing God's will is sometimes difficult because it requires patience. Often, it seems to me God reveals His will to each of us one step at a time; each move a step of faith, if you will, that slowly builds trust. As we wait for further direction on my ministry, the important thing is that we are busy doing the good we know to do (James 4:17), and I hope you feel I have done some good at St. Peter's. I love this place and its people, and it would be a desired blessing realized to continue to journey faithfully with you - in thought, word, and deed - however my presence and assistance is needed.

Deacon Bill

WARDENS' REPORT

2017 was another busy year in the life of Christ here at St. Peter's!

Early in 2017, much energy and research went into preparation for grant submissions; the New Jersey Preservation Historic Trust Grant, The Lowes Foundation Grant and PSE&G/Tri State Program Grant with hopes of being awarded funding for projects to spruce up Parish Hall and replace the Rectory roof. Unfortunately, we were not awarded the New Jersey Preservation Historic Trust or the Lowes Foundation Grants, but we did qualify for the PSE&G Tri State Program. We're anticipating the installation of updated LED lighting and one complete HVAC system for Parish Hall in 2018. We will continue to seek funding needed to address the much-needed renovations to Parish Hall.

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday on February 28th the Vestry organized a 'Dine to Donate' at MJ's. St. Peter's folks gathered with their families for lunch or dinner and MJ's donated 15% of each meal purchased which totaled \$355.

Once again, we celebrated Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, with a Laetare Sunday supper hosted by the Vestry. Many thanks to our chefs for the delicious food prepared, and thanks to all our volunteers who helped serve and clean-up afterwards. A great time was had by all who attended. We are looking forward to our 3rd annual Laetare Sunday Supper in March.

In March snow, ice and frigid cold, caused damage to the railing on the ramp to Parish Hall. A temporary fix was put in place quickly, which gave us time to locate replacement parts and hire a contractor to complete the work. The cost to cover the repair was approved by Vestry. Later in the year the repair cost was submitted under a Diocesan ADA Grant by Kirk Bonamici and St. Peter's recovered the cost. Many thanks to Kirk for locating this opportunity and submitting the application. To prevent this from happening again Vestry approved the installation of a heat strip on the upper roof over the ramp which is designed to prevent the buildup of ice. We also had a similar strip installed on the water pipe coming into Parish Hall basement to prevent freezing.

The Vestry unanimously endorsed the Wardens' request to support Father Marshall taking a sabbatical in the summer of 2018. We learned of his plans to study how food gets to the table and how we might more effectively use our resources to put out healthier food for our feeding ministries. We talked of ways to help prepare for our time apart and developed the "40 Days Toward a Closer Walk with God" program. We are currently working on a parallel journey of exploration for the St. Peter's community to learn and grow while Father Marshall is away. We are looking forward to our reunion in September and sharing what we learned.

In the spring we were blessed to have Reverend Bill Balmer return to us as Deacon! In addition to the support he offers Father Marshall on the altar and with his sermons, Deacon Bill can be found in the kitchen washing dishes each week after the Community Supper.

When Clarence, our long time Sexton, decided to leave the position many hands came forward to keep the buildings tidy and clean until the position was filled. In August, we welcomed Elizabeth Cortijo to our parish family and her arrival was noticeable with swept floors and a clean scent in the air. Other staffing changes saw our Parish Administrator, Lisa Balewitz, leave in October. The job description was updated, and it was decided to reduce the hours to 20 hours per week. Interviews are under way.

As happened in the past, Rutgers students offered their Scarlet Day of Service to St. Peter's on September 23. These students tackled chores around campus including the huge task of relocating the Rectory's historic shutters, windows and doors back to Rectory basement from the garage.

With assistance from Brian Dougherty, we were able to continue our commitment to the long-term care of the churchyard's beauty with a sustainable arboretum plan. We removed several trees that were aged and in distress and through generous memorial donations, planted eleven specimen trees and bushes that will be in bloom from late February straight through early September in the years to come.

In November, in hopes of reducing costs and improving service, a change in our landscape maintenance vendor was made just in time for the first snow fall of the season. Glinka Brothers came to us highly recommended and we are very pleased with their service to date.

The Vestry approved the repair of the stained-glass window from the original church's baptistry. It has been installed in the chapel. Please join us for morning prayer during weekdays or on Sunday to see how beautiful it looks in its new home.

We celebrated our Scottish roots and the feast of St. Andrew on December 1st with a Ceilidh! The winning ticket to our Sandals vacation raffle was drawn as we shared food and laughs with one another and we were treated to a performance by a bagpiper and drum!

As Warden's we are truly blessed to see all the good works done at St. Peter's and are proud to act as your representatives. It's always such a pleasure to speak to folks in the community about our Sunday services, coffee hour, Sunday School, the Thrift Shop and Wednesday Night Supper. We feel, as many of you do, that St. Peter's is our home, a home that needs much attention but offers much comfort. We give thanks for support from Father Marshall, our Vestry, and all of you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve St. Peter's and we look forward to working with each of you in 2018!

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bonamici and Cathy Clark

COHM ANNUAL REPORT

For Community of Hope Ministries (officially St. Peter's Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization) 2017 was another year of change. Once again, we welcomed many new volunteers and leaders within the organization, with Jen Alexander stepping into the Executive Director position in October. December saw the retirement of Bob & Eleanor Stocker after many years of being responsible for restocking and maintaining pantry inventory, as well as many other responsibilities. As of January 2018, Rich Doran will take over stocking and inventory duties.

COHM has once again seen two new organization MVPs in Kellie Baker and her daughter, Sam. In addition to volunteering in the pantry on Thursday afternoons, Kellie and Sam have picked up the responsibilities of picking up donations from ShopRite twice per week. When the Stockers retired, Kellie immediately volunteered to take over the McFoods pickup on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Kellie and Sam are always willing to help at a minute's notice and their first question is always "What can we do to help?".

The Wednesday Night Community Supper continues to flourish under the direction of Jeannie Fitzpatrick. In 2017, a total of 3,985 meals were served on Wednesday nights- a slight increase over the previous year. Discussions regarding upgrading the kitchen have continued, and the remodel is expected in 2018.

In 2017, Alice's CUP Food Pantry served an average of 242 households per month, with an average of 448 adults and 267 under the age of 18. In total, 8,573 people were served in the pantry- a slight decline from the previous year. The pantry continues to be well stocked with the goal of continuing to provide a greater variety of food while allowing people to choose the food they want based not only on family size, but also dietary restriction and personal preference. In July, the pantry added an evening shift on Tuesdays from 5-7pm. This allows working clients the chance to shop in the evenings after work.

The summer of 2017 brought the 2nd Annual COHM Acoustic Series. An acoustic concert was held every Sunday evening for 6 weeks on the great lawn of St. Peter's Church. The cost of the show was free, but guests were encouraged to donate non-perishable items in support of Alice's CUP Food Pantry. Hot Dogs and sodas were also sold with proceeds going to the pantry. We look forward to seeing the series continue in 2018.

The 2nd Annual COHM Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on February 6, 2018. At this time, we will honor our pantry and supper volunteers for going above and beyond for the organization. We will also honor and thank the Stockers for all their years of service.

2018 goals include, but are not limited to: continuing to build the COHM/CUP brand with an updated brochure and printed materials, developing an online donation system through the COHM website or a GoFundMe page, developing a “sponsorship” program that will create partnerships with local businesses, and discovering ways to increase volunteer opportunities for the youth in our community.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jen Alexander

Executive Director, Community of Hope Ministries

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop continued its important work in 2017, embracing and facilitating the material needs of the greater Spotswood community while generating a consistent revenue stream toward sustaining the overall mission of St. Peter’s.

In 2017, The Thrift Shop introduced a spring-themed “events boutique” featuring a curated selection of gowns and special occasion dresses. Timed for the wedding and prom season, this beautifully-appointed “shop within a shop,” offered a delightful place for community members to purchase formal wear at value prices. The annual “Christmas Shoppe” was a tremendous success. Showcasing seasonal items, holiday decorations as well as a wide selection of gifts, this popular event offers a festive setting and gives all the opportunity to participate in the joy of giving. Extra signage and publicity helped tremendously.

Run by a group of 20 dedicated volunteers, The Thrift Shop is open from 10am until 2pm Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and immediately following the Wednesday Night Community Supper. Donations of clothes, shoes and household items are accepted while the shop is open and are sorted, displayed and sold at minimal cost. Items of value are often placed on E-Bay, where an open bidding process assures the church the best price.

Items are displayed for up to four weeks. After that, they are sold by the pound or donated to a local nonprofit organization. Every donated item is put to good use. Members of the community in need are provided vouchers at the discretion of the Rector. Potential volunteers are encouraged to visit the Thrift Shop during normal business hours.

Submitted by David Decker for Thrift Shop Leadership and Volunteers.

HELPING HANDS

The Helping Hands Ministry is a community outreach program spearheaded by Janette Borawski. Along with faithful members of St Peter's Church and donations, handmade blankets are created and distributed to sick parishioners, newly baptized or donated to local shelters, St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick and veterans in nursing homes. 2017 also blessed our ministry with "knotted blankets" and handmade quilts. Donations of blankets and hats were made to St. Peter's University Hospital twice during 2017.

During the year, members knit for The Seaman's Institute "Christmas at Sea" charity and mailed handmade scarfs and hats made with specific patterns to the charity. Due to an overwhelming amount made during the year, a large box was mailed out to The Seaman's Institute in November 2017. We will put out the call for more pieces for the fall of 2018.

The goal for Helping Hands Ministry is to continue supplying blankets and shawls to those in need and the newly baptized. 2018 will include an initiative to include knotted blankets for distribution.

Respectfully submitted,
Janette Borawski

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

The Stewardship Ministry presented a new program for our fall campaign based on how we are a church that meets needs. On June 4, Pentecost, we hosted a fellowship potluck lunch and played a game of St. Peter's Family Feud. The categories showcased how our budget funds mission and ministry in ways both evident and perhaps surprising. One of the things we learned is that the cost of utilities enables our buildings to be kept at comfortable temperatures to support our thrift shop and supper guests and volunteers. Another, is that we help bring people closer to Christ through our paper and photocopier expense; providing worship bulletins makes our service more welcoming when it's easier to follow along.

In the fall we heard from Janette Borawski and Katie Belko describing how St. Peter's has met their needs. Father Marshall and Deacon Bill also shared their personal reflections. We had a few teams of "Ambassadors" meet with parishioners to thank them for previous support and to share stories of what St. Peter's means to them.

On October 22 we gathered the commitment cards received and presented them for consecration and thanksgiving. Thanks go out to Gene Dabrowski, Rosita Hamilton and Niels Johnson for their leadership and guidance. Special thanks to KerriAnn Fitzpatrick for creating bulletins boards bursting with joy!

Thank you, St. Peter's family for the many ways you support our mission and ministry. While your financial support is greatly appreciated, it is your presence and witness that makes us a vibrant faith community. It is through your love of Christ that we are a church that meets needs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Bonamici

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The Altar Guild has had another busy year and would like to welcome a few new members: Keri Olivera and Donna Collins.

We are always looking for new members for this ministry – any time you have available is always appreciated. If you are interested or would like more information, please feel free to contact myself or Father Marshall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerri Dvorak

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

For any parishioners looking to become more active in the day-to-day operations of the church, one of the easiest ways to get started is to become involved in one of the ministries in the worship service. It is not an every week commitment; the more people we have involved, the lighter the load will be for everyone. The schedule is prepared quarterly, giving each person ample time to prepare for their assignment.

There is a particular need currently for more chalice bearers. Anyone who feels a calling to this ministry should contact Father Shelly for training. We could also use more volunteers to usher or lector, especially at the 8AM service, although anyone wishing to join the 10AM rotation is always welcome as well. If you would like to serve in any of these ministries, please feel free to contact John Hamilton or Father Shelly. We would love to have you on board!

Respectfully submitted,
John Hamilton

ADULT CHOIR

Sandy Donaldson, John Grennen, Rosita Hamilton, and Amy Loughran continue with their dedication of leading the congregation in the liturgical responses and hymn singing. This past year we welcomed in Scott Loughran as the newest member. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Parish Hall and all are welcome.

YOUTH CHOIR AND MUSIC

The Youth choir was re-instated this past year after several children showed an interest and a willingness to dedicate their time and talent. We rehearse after the 10 am service on Sunday mornings. They are in the process of learning the liturgical responses, singing of the hymns, and the basic order of the service. I would like to extend a special thank you to Sandy Donaldson and Rosita Hamilton for their help in teaching and leading the children who participate with the adult choir during the 10 am service.

Special thanks to Sean Ignotis for playing his trumpet at the Easter service, and Casey Belko for her flute playing at Christmas.

I encourage anyone who has an interest in participating in the Music Ministry program to speak with me, and welcome suggestions. Please feel free to speak to me at church or email me at musicorganist@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Miller
Minister of Music

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Another fun Sunday School year started at St. Peter's with the commissioning of teachers and backpack blessings. Before Advent, some families spruced up their Advent wreaths this year, while other families were able to make theirs for the first time!

Advent saw a different approach to the Jesse tree was done this year with Fr. Marshall leading children's sermons throughout Advent, giving each ornament a part in the sermon. The last ornament on Advent IV, and Christmas Eve being that of the baby Jesus as we lit the tree and the creche.

The Christmas pageant was performed at the 4pm service on Christmas Eve with one of the youngest casts in quite a while! Such a joy for the families and congregation to witness.

We are always looking forward to each week and the prospect of growing our ministry.

Nancy Pertschuk

ST. PETE'S LITTLE FISHES

St. Pete's Little Fishes Playgroup meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Sunday School Chapel from 9:30 AM to 11AM. Preschool age children and their caregivers are welcome to enjoy play, refreshment (for kids and grownups) and a great opportunity to begin a new chapter in life, faith and fun!

All are welcome!

Jen Shonk

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School 2017 was an exciting adventure for both the teachers and participants. The theme this year was "Super Heroes". We increased the enrollment by five students with a total of 12, up from 7. With dedicated volunteers, the children learned so much about how to be a super hero in their church community. There were days of Bible work and interpretation, music, crafts, science and recreation. The children loved their capes and were able to take the valuable lessons of the Bible and incorporate it into service for the church community. Our goal is to increase enrollment and volunteers for 2018. We will send a save the date so that more children can participate. Please consider volunteering for this most valuable program at St. Peter's.

Many Blessings,

Rosita Hamilton, Debbie Kraft, Nancy Pertschuk

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The St. Peter's Women's Group is composed of the rector and members in various stages of life. Our 9:30 meeting, at the Jamesburg Diner on the fourth Saturday of the month, begins and ends with a prayer. In this fellowship, we discuss personal happenings and community events and, through this, enrich our understanding and our relationship with each other. In 2017, we were able to give to the discretionary fund and run in the Spotswood 5K. We also enjoyed nature with a walk in Thompson Park.

We would love for you to join us. It doesn't matter if it's for one meeting or all the meetings. Remember, we see age not as a restriction but as an open door to new ideas and perspective.

Submitted by Rosette Andrews

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

We are encouraged with the ongoing commitment to the monthly Men's Breakfast Meetings. The goal for this group has always been to strengthen the men of our parish in *fellowship, faith* and *service*, and the meetings provide an opportunity for the men of St. Peter's to discuss whatever may be on their hearts and minds and to look at what God's Word has to say to them today. While we have chosen to keep things very relaxed and informal rather than adopt a particular curriculum, we are always open to new members and fresh ideas. Father Marshall's regular presence at the breakfast table continues to be a great blessing to us all. The group meets at the Seville Diner @ 8:30 A.M. the first Saturday morning each month, and we ask for your continued support and prayers.

Deacon Bill

HOSPITALITY

We would like to thank everyone for making all our hospitality gatherings a success, from hosting coffee hour, baking treats, cooking, donating supplies, setting up and cleaning up. We could not do it without you!

How can you be a part of Hospitality?

- Join our ministry
- Host a coffee hour Sunday between 9:00 – 10:00 am.
Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church. Hospitality will set up the coffee pots. All you need to do is bring milk, juice, breakfast treats and clean-up. Team up with a fellow parishioner and host together.
- Bake something to contribute to a coffee hour.
- Give us your name & number to call you to help on any of our future celebrations.

Suggestions? Things you'd like to have happen?

- Please talk to Alice, Donna or Jayne! We welcome suggestions and assistance!!

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Meyers, Donna Collins and Jayne Miller

STONE SCHOLARSHIP FUND ANNUAL REPORT

The Stone Scholarship Fund was created by a bequest from The Reverend Canon Elsworth D. Stone and Mrs. Stone. This fund makes awards to parishioners, who are pursuing higher education, certification, and/or training beyond high school. In 2017, the Stone Scholarship Committee, comprised of Tom Barlow, Kirk Bonamici, Brian Shonk, Robert Andrews and Nancy Sarnak awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 to Gina Gugliotta.

The deadline for award applications for the 2018-2019 academic year will be announced in the spring of this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sarnak
Chairperson

FUNDRAISING

For 2017, we held two major fundraising events. First, our annual St. Peter's Community Pig Roast held on September 16th; and, second, our Sandals vacation raffle which kicked off at the Pig Roast and culminated in the drawing at our St. Andrew's Ceilidh on December 1st. The Pig Roast generated over \$4,200 in profit with the raffle providing an additional \$3,250.

We added Amazon Smile to our stable of purchase programs this year. By selecting St. Peter's as their supported charity, Amazon shoppers generated over \$42 in donations to the church.

The sale of Shop-Rite gift cards, also, continues to provide supplemental income to our annual events. During 2017, we purchased and resold \$30,000 worth of cards resulting in income to the church of \$1,500.

Submitted,
Kirk Bonamici, Treasurer

WORSHIP STATISTICS

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES AND WORSHIP FOR 2017

Sunday Worship	96	Other Services: Baptisms	4
Weekday Eucharist	47	Marriages	3
Home Communions	28	Burials	3 for parish; 11 outside
The Daily Office (Morning, Evening Prayer & Compline) 151			

BAPTIZED AND ADMITTED AS MEMBERS OF ST. PETER'S

Julianna Rita Dos Santos	July 23	Valmir Dos Santos & Catie Miller
Gianna Marie Brusso	November 5	James & Georgette Brusso
Jeremy Robert Harnish	November 5	James & Jaquelyn Harnish
Aubri Ella Parker	November 5	Ryan & Miranda Parker

UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY

Michael Wayne Tuchmatulin & Jennifer Frances Ransom	July 1
Alwyn Joseph Diaz & Stephanie Fatum	July 29
Dennis J. Dragon & Thiel Nicole Henessy	September 22

COMMUNION CLASS (APRIL 30)

Elizabeth Rose Edelman
Rory Christina Kraft
Daniel John Loughran
Melanie Menkes
Andrew Walden Quigley
Addison Deborah Riley
Anna Kate Shonk
Aidan Farrell Smith

BURIALS

() indicates parishioners*

*Joan Kowalski, age 81, died January 16, 2017. Funeral mass was held at St. Peter's Church, Spotswood, on January 21, 2017; committal in St. Peter's churchyard, August 15, 2017.

Tom Hockenjos, age 67, died January 30, 2017. Funeral service was held at Brunswick Memorial Funeral Home, East Brunswick, on February 3, 2017.

Herbert Lundin, age 79, died April 2, 2017. Funeral service was held at Brunswick Memorial Funeral Home, East Brunswick, on April 6, 2017.

Joann Gebauer, committal in St. Peter's churchyard, April 18, 2017.

Kelly Dawson age 47, died February 27, 2017. Funeral mass was held at St. Peter's Church, Spotswood, on May 13, 2017. Committal of ashes in St. Francis Memorial Garden.

Robert Behr, age 84, died June 4, 2017. Funeral service was held at Rezem Funeral Home, East Brunswick, June 9, 2017.

Millicent Marie, committal in St. Peter's churchyard, June 20, 2017.

Grace Pollock, committal of ashes, St. Peter's churchyard, June 29, 2017

Gail Pace, committal of ashes, Liberty Grove Crematory, Old Bridge, August 9, 2017.

Ruth Evans, committal of ashes August 31, 2017.

*Robert Wehrle, age 75, died June 30, 2017. Funeral mass was held at St. Peter's Church, Spotswood, on October 21, 2017.

*Anne Donaldson, age 95, died November 1, 2017. Funeral mass was held at St. Peter's Church, Spotswood, on November 3, 2017; committal in Van Liew Cemetery, North Brunswick.

Doris Marfitt, age 84, died November 8, 2017. Funeral service was held at Brunswick Memorial Funeral Home, East Brunswick, on November 13, 2017.

Nancy O'Keefe, age 65, died December 14, 2017. Funeral mass was held at St. Peter's Church, Spotswood, on December 30, 2017.