

St. Peter's Chelsea
In the Diocese and City of New York
The 191st Parish Annual Meeting
January 15, 2023



Annual Report for 2022
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Agenda

Prayer

Welcome

Appointment of Recording Secretary

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting

Senior Warden Report

Priest-in-Charge Report

Q & A

Financial Report and Proposed 2023 Budget

Vestry Election

Election of Parish Delegates to the 2023 Diocesan Convention

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessing over Vestry

St Peter's Annual Meeting - January 23, 2022

- Christine opened the meeting asking congregants to express gratitude and with an opening prayer.
- Meeting started promptly at 11:30am via Zoom.
- Yahaira was appointed as recording secretary for this meeting.
- Poll launched to accept minutes for 2021 annual meeting. Vote passed to accept minutes as presented.
- **Senior Warden Report** (Melissa Morgenweck)
 - Melissa discussed the burden carried by clergy to deal with the pandemic. Despite the challenges, the community witnessed the life growing at the church in 2021 from the events that took place on the church grounds outdoors. She asked that the church give the staff grace during this time as they deal with the continued challenges to keep people safe.
- **Priest-in-Charge Report** (The Reverend Christine Lee)
 - Christine is starting her third year as Priest-in-Charge at St. Peter's. Two of those years have occurred during the pandemic. She mentioned the acronym VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, chaos and ambiguity) discussed in the annual report, as a method of managing the uncertainty of this time. It has required letting go of expectations rather than letting anxiety lead, to let the call of Jesus guide the congregation to renewal and God's call to co-create. She also discussed how the limited resources foster creativity. She focused on three key areas: leadership, home, and community.
 - **Leadership:** A new Operations Director started, Kelly Parker. The search continues for a children's ministry and worship ministry. New staff was hired to help with technical activities and custodial work. Lisha's pastoral fellow position has ended. She is now our pastoral associate through 2022. Some reflection is taking place on how to serve the children who are now entering middle school.
 - **Home (Church grounds):** Maintaining the church grounds is a lot of work. Christine mentioned that sacred spaces are precious in New York City, but the challenge lies in how best to steward places that need to evolve in lieu of preserving them as originally built. She is in conversation with Trinity Wall Street about hiring a real estate consultant for religious spaces, about how to use the St Peter's space. She was particularly drawn to the Mental Health and Wellness category, and how St Peter's spaces and community may help with that work. Trinity Wall Street gave a \$50k grant for a feasibility study to help St Peter's through this process. Jimmy

Lee is leading this project. Christine also mentioned Hudson Guild, Fulton Houses, The Highline, General Theological Seminary, and the Food Pantry. She thanked Alice and the volunteers for their work with the Food Pantry. Alice continues to run the pantry for St Peter's Church.

- Community: We are doing programs for Spiritual Formation and provide as many touch points as possible for the community.

- **Treasurer's Report (Matthew Lillvis)**

- Matt was not able to attend due to a family event, but left a recorded visual message explaining the budget. Revenues in 2021 surpassed the budgeted amount, especially plate donations, rental incomes, and grants for the Food Pantry. Spending on people was generally online with the budget especially since Rev. Lee's salary is covered by the diocese. Some expenses were lower than budgeted due to virtual meetings. The year ended with a positive \$120k balance thanks to the extra revenues and the savings from virtual meetings. The parish should expect higher capital expenditures ahead.
- The 2022 budget has higher expenses for extra staff particularly for tech support. The net total for the 2022 will be \$83k. While this looks positive, Matt explains that St Peter's continues to get financial assistance from the diocese that will not continue into 2023, so the parish will need to prepare for significant increases in 12 months.
- Poll launched for Motion to approve presented budget. The vote passed with only two abstentions.

- **Vestry Slate**

- Warden: Melissa Morgenweck
- Vestry member: Ian Trevethan and Catherine Kramer (3-year term) taking over Leslie Paik's position. Leslie moved away to Arizona. Christine thanked Leslie for her service.
- Poll launched to approve vestry slate as presented. Unanimously approved with only one abstention.

- **2022 Diocesan convention**

- Christine presented Melissa Morgenweck as delegate for St Peter's Church at the 2022 Diocesan Convention, and Mitch Kramer as alternate.

- **Closing Prayer and meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.**

Present at Annual Meeting, January 23, 2022:

Ryan Berry	Sylvia Junghardt	Yahaira Lorenzo
Alice Blount-Fenney	Catherine Kramer	Kimberly Malone
Brenna Case	Mitch Kramer	Eileen Morgenweck
Gregory Conarro	Nora Lane	Melissa Morgenweck
Jenna Conarro	Bryan Langlands	Aaron Niequist
Julia DeLashmutt	Christine Lee	Rich Osborne
Michael DeLashmutt	Jimmy Lee	Kelly Parker
Lisha Epperson	Jin Lee	Rachel Rim
Rodney Epperson	Martha Lee	Blake Rook
Michelle Henderson	Beeca Lin	Ian Trevethan
Amy Hitotsubashi	Tony Lin	Christopher Windom

Wardens' Report

This past year we continue to be grateful for how we see God at work in strengthening us as a relational community. We give thanks as we have moved from a place of impermanence to one of stability and from a period of transition to a time of growth. And with Christine's guidance we have developed a structure and framework for our congregation and vestry to thrive and flourish. It is clear we are creating something special at St. Peter's.

Our Sunday attendance remains strong and each week we are seeing and meeting new faces. Our members are volunteering to help in a variety of roles - as greeters, readers, musicians, singers, dancers and this past summer by sharing the word during a special preaching series. The addition of Aaron as our musical director has enhanced our Sunday worship music.

Our community is regularly participating in spiritual formation programming and on a deeper level through group spiritual direction and our family table series. We are excited to see where this series takes us in 2023. Our womens' group has also become a wonderful gathering for spiritual connection, community and support.

This year we look forward to celebrating baptisms, confirmations, and the ordinations of Lisha and Michelle.

Finally, we are grateful to our clergy - Christine, Michael and Lisha- and how God is calling them to lead us.

-submitted by Melissa Morgenweck and Bryan Langlands, Wardens

Priest-in-Charge Report

This past October, we passed the three-year mark of this church revitalization effort at St. Peter's and it put me in a reflective mood, not only about the past year but the past three years. What a time it has been!

What has struck me is that our experimental little community, just starting out its life together, was forged in the fire of crisis. We were all just getting to know each other when the pandemic hit. It was like being shipwrecked with strangers and everyone suddenly jumping into "help the group survive" mode. To hold onto each other and stay connected in our shared experience. To be experimental, creative and resourceful with what we've got. To be open to the Spirit's leading, attentive and adaptive as we're floating in unpredictable waters and needing to change course with the winds. To stay hopeful and keep our sense of humor and our spirits up in the process. And always, to keep it real and make space for what's real, even when it's hard.

These were qualities that shined at St. Peter's and I see them now as an essential part of our DNA, not just crisis-specific qualities. 2022 was a year of shifting, from trying to survive COVID to accepting it as part of our lives and learning to grow and thrive in the midst of it; from opportunities and practices specifically created for pandemic times to figuring out what our new normal would be - what to keep, what to retire, what to return to in this season; continuing to experiment with different ways of engaging in transformative worship, spiritual formation and reaching out to our neighbors.

The only constant was change, this community called St. Peter's (which was constantly changing!) and the presence of God in our midst. After these three challenging years that saw so many churches closing and clergy quitting in droves, we are still here. I never want to take that for granted. We survived and that is no small thing. As this new year begins, let's hold on to all of those amazing qualities that characterize St. Peter's as we follow Jesus in this adventure of God's renewal of the church and in our world.

-submitted by Christine Lee, Priest-in-Charge

Pastoral Fellow Report

As pastoral associate I've shared in the responsibility in the needs assessment, decision-making, planning and implementation of parish ministries at St. Peter's Chelsea. To this end and under Christine's direction, I assist with the liturgical planning and execution of all worship services and support the spiritual and pastoral needs of the parish. I support church ministries and activities such as the Creative Arts Project - a 2-week arts program for children aged 6-12, our Youth Formation series, Yoga+Prayer - a weekly 30 minute gentle movement class that ends with noonday prayer and Thursday spiritual formation classes. I continue to assist with the parish's outreach efforts as well as with communications, creating content for our social media platforms and weekly newsletter. Additionally, I support volunteer ministries (altar guild, food pantry) and serve as a resource and support in vestry and clericus meetings. I continue to represent St. Peter's as a faith leader in the Chelsea community and the greater New York diocese.

-submitted by Lisha Epperson

Spiritual Formation Report

In 2022, we continued to host events on Thursday evenings to support spiritual formation at St. Peter's. During Epiphany, Christine, Lisha, Kirstin Swanson, Aaron Niequist, and Ian Trevethan took turns leading people in different iterations of the prayer of examen. This included known and familiar versions, as well as more inventive ones, such as a photo examen, in order to help us perceive God's presence and activity in our lives. In Lent, our theme was *Jesus, Re-Member Me* and it consisted of stories of how we have experienced both darkness and light, alienation and redemption in our bodies. During the season of Easter, we met to say Evening Prayer together. In the fall, we led four opportunities for group spiritual direction. We called it *Family Table* and it consisted of a light dinner and an opportunity to prayerfully listen and communally reflect on an experience, question, and desire. In the new year, we will build on Family Table by providing opportunities to grow in group spiritual direction and discernment.

Additionally, Nhaca Schulze started the Tuesday night women's group with bimonthly meetings held in the Schulze's home, borne out of a desire for deeper community and prayer. Each meeting started with dinner, followed by sharing, reflecting on the Sunday sermon and praying together. This fall, the meetings moved from bimonthly to weekly, held in the rectory, with new members joining. The group read a book on spiritual practices to deepen their prayer lives and are looking forward to this new year of growing together.

-submitted by Ian Trevethan and Christine Lee

Music and Worship Formation Report

Over the last year, we've been prayerfully experimenting with the idea of "flow" in worship. Rather than approaching the liturgy as a series of parts, we long to experience it as a seamless journey connecting our minds and hearts to God, each other, and even ourselves. To use Rev Christine's imagery, we desire to get into the River (spiritually and liturgically) and let God do what only God can do.

The liturgy is the backbone of our worship, and music plays a role as the connective tissue. God is the Great River, the liturgy is the boat, and music is like the oars that keep paddling us forward. Accordingly, we're trying to choose songs that give voice to the movements of the liturgy. When the opening acclamation calls our hearts upward in worship, we respond with a song or refrain of praise. It is one seamless experience as the gathered body of Christ.

Our worship team is having meaningful conversations about the balance between historic hymns and modern worship songs. Both are helpful in their particular ways and have a place at St Peter's. The diversity of our team's experience and perspectives on this topic is a strength.

We are also trying to take a few meaningful steps forward in quality (both A/V and music) without compromising St Peter's core value of authenticity and humble humanness. We will always bring our best to worship, but know that church is not a show, it's a community. Our goal is to serve the experience skillfully without being a distraction, and trust God with the rest.

Beyond music, we are including moments of reflection, space, and spiritual practices in the liturgy. Words and music take us a long way down the river, but there are moments only for silence. And there are prayers that cannot be spoken, only embodied. We're finding that holy space and embodied practice plays a needed role in the "flow" of worship.

Finally, in the next six months, our worship team will gather on a handful of Thursday nights to pray, sing, connect, discern, and open ourselves to the ways that God may want to lead us and the community. Please pray for our conversations and times spent worshipping together.

-submitted by Aaron Niequist

Children's Ministry Report

This year at St Peter's Chelsea in the children's ministry we've had quite a full year. We average about 6 kids at each service. This year we completed the Storymakers rendition of Joseph, Exodus, Advent, and more. We are currently gearing up for the new year curriculum and coming off of our Christmas season. This year our students participated in our Christmas pageant. They were an array of sheep, angels, townspeople, and narrators. During children's ministry the kids enjoy doing arts and crafts after we finish our lessons, which are both activities from the book and activities I create for them. Moving forward, I plan to incorporate the students periodically into the main service. We are looking into activating the student's artistic capabilities in this effort through gallery walks, skits, poetry, music, and more. All of these projects will be inspired by the Storymakers book we're learning from. This year in our lessons I was able to get the kids moving more. After our arts and crafts, we would do anything from chalk art to musical chairs to dance parties. I plan on continuing this throughout the year. This past summer we also hosted a creative arts camp. The students learned about Joseph and created a short play that they performed for their friends and family at the end of camp. They also created beautiful art with guest artists we had come in and helped. We had a Storymakers class, music class, art class, dance class, and of course various activities sprinkled throughout the curriculum like creating Joseph's dreamer jacket. The camp was such a success and the kids really enjoyed the activities and classes we had. I am very excited to see what this year holds for the Children's Ministry and continue to work with the kids!

-submitted by Ila Epperson

Our fastest growing demographic at St. Peter's are babies and toddlers! We have begun conversations with the young parents about how we can better support this age group. Given the spectrum of readiness to be dropped off is quite varied, we decided to hold off on starting a new nursery and instead experiment with a few ready parents bringing their child over to the rectory, supported by an adult volunteer, during children's worship. We will continue to see how this experiment goes, how the children respond, and hope to recruit more volunteers over the course of the year.

Additionally, this fall we wanted to start something for the junior and senior high kids and see if we could get some traction around youth formation. We focused this fall on prayer and introduced the kids to various prayer practices such as prayer walking, examen, embodied prayer, healing prayer, among others. We paired each participating youth with an adult mentor and are looking forward to seeing how creating these connections can strengthen inter-generational community.

-submitted by The Rev. Christine Lee

Buildings and Grounds Report

There is never a shortage of projects around here! A few of the projects from 2022:

Rectory Building

- Basement hallway was painted. The carpet on the stairs was taken out and they were painted. The walls were plastered and repainted.
- A large shelving unit was built at the foot of the stairs.
- The kitchen was painted.
- Outlets were added throughout the Rectory.
- A lot of furniture was assembled for offices, meeting rooms, and children's room, as well as the new garden furniture.

Sanctuary Building

- A number of walls in the sanctuary were plastered and painted.
- The baptismal area and the small altar area on the east side of the building each had a makeover, with removal of carpet and paint walls.
- Outlets were added in the sanctuary, as well as an updated, converted circuit breaker.

-submitted by Troy Austin, Sexton

Operations and Administrative Report

In looking over what I'd written last year I'm tempted to reuse– “a work in progress as we try to evaluate systems currently in place- from space use to financial coordination and stewardship... to ministry partnership and volunteers- updating and streamlining when possible.” Still happening!

The Buildings and Grounds team continues to work on projects at St Peter's, to repair and improve, as well as make St Peter's a welcoming and hospitable space. (See Troy's report above). It's been great to see increased use of the spaces- both by our community to quite a few outside concerts and film shoot rentals- including in our revved up garden. This space is a gift and it's a delight to be using and sharing it.

We continue to work on our finances with Tower Ministry, to support, be involved with, and learn about all that goes into making the Food Pantry run smoothly from Alice, and the managing the life of a church from all those who help us faithfully. A hearty thanks to Tony Mahn, Nora Lane, and Nhaca Schulze for their weekly assistance. We could not do it without them!

-submitted by Kelly Parker

Food Pantry Report

Clients Served, Food Pantry Funding and Other Program Support

St. Peter's Food Pantry provided essential food services for our community. In 2022, many food pantries including St. Peter's faced supply chain shortages and increasing food prices. In 2022 we were awarded additional food credit support via Episcopal Charities Bulk Buy Grant and the Nourish New York City Program.

Through generous support of volunteers, St. Peter's parishioners, and continuous support from funders including Food Bank for NYC, Episcopal Charities Basic Human Needs Grants, Emergency Food Assistance Program, Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program and NYC Human Resource Administration, we were one of the city's Food Pantry Programs which continued operations considering increasing client requests without interruption, in spite of COVID-19 and a weakened economy.

We also continued to partner with St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church for food drives. Each month, Reverend Dr. Nicholas Kazarian and his parishioners donate boxes of collected food, including baby food and diapers to the St. Peter's Food Pantry. Our partnership with various high schools and local colleges and universities has continued as a source for our volunteer base.

During 2022, our clients received hot meals thanks to a \$5,000 grant we received from New York's Restaurant Resiliency Program. We engaged the services from El Nuevo Caridad, a Spanish-Cuban Restaurant, as our hot meal provider. With restaurant partnerships, the Food Bank for NYC pays for the meals that are provided for the Food Pantry. The clients received the restaurant packages as well as the regular grocery bags each week.

Our client base consists of seniors, single individuals, and children. In 2022, we implemented the online Plentiful system to track clients served and other food services statistics. In 2022, a total of 16,511 pre-packed bags of groceries were distributed as well as client choice groceries where the clients select their extra items.

For Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's we gave out special items from the holiday menu. This included salmon, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, beans, and macaroni and cheese.

Other Professional Partnerships and Compliance Requirements

We actively participate in Episcopal Charities meetings and scheduled trainings. We have also been able to meet the criterion for safety and administrative reporting set by the Food Bank for New York City and thus all contracts have been renewed.

We continue to engage with Hunger Free America and Episcopal Charities for volunteer recruitment and maintain our operations in line with industry best practices.

-submitted by Alice Blount-Fenney, Food Pantry Director

Accounts	Estimated 2022		
	2022 Budget	Actual	2023 Budget
Revenues			
Pledge Contributions	\$ 191,556	\$ 190,859	\$ 236,212
Plate Contributions	\$ 20,000	\$ 49,623	\$ 20,000
External and Other giving	\$ 125,000	\$ 179,905	\$ 50,000
Diocesan Support	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 78,628
Property Income	\$ 263,000	\$ 306,000	\$ 267,500
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 10,498	\$ 5,000
SUM OF OPERATING	\$ 689,556	\$ 826,885	\$ 657,340
FOOD PANTRY	\$ 37,000	\$ 47,951	\$ 40,000
DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$ 5,000	\$ 280	\$ 2,000
Total Revenues	\$ 731,556	\$ 875,116	\$ 699,340
Expenses			
Personnel Expenses	\$ 320,984	\$ 337,098	\$ 381,153
Sunday Worship Expenses	\$ 36,090	\$ 15,654	\$ 13,500
Ministry Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,978	\$ 8,000
Holiday & Special Services	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,670	\$ 34,000
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 46,200	\$ 32,241	\$ 46,000
General	\$ 31,450	\$ 36,129	\$ 37,200
Professional Fees	\$ 36,000	\$ 39,138	\$ 42,500
Insurance	\$ 43,716	\$ 42,004	\$ 45,000
Technology Expenses	\$ 3,150	\$ 6,016	\$ 5,000
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 38,391	\$ 31,000	\$ 34,000
Mission	\$ 5,000	\$ 610	\$ 5,000
Ministry Expenses	\$ -	\$ 668	\$ 1,000
SUM OF OPERATING	\$ 591,731	\$ 579,207	\$ 652,353
FOOD PANTRY	\$ 35,800	\$ 32,156	\$ 37,450
DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$ 5,000	\$ 49	\$ 2,000
Total Expenses	\$ 632,531	\$ 611,412	\$ 691,803
Net Total	\$ 99,025	\$ 263,704	\$ 7,538

Qualified Voters for St. Peter's Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 15, 2023

A qualified voter is a person 18 years of age or older, who during the past year:

1. Has been a regular attendee at services of worship (Sunday or weekday services at least once each month)
2. Has been a regular contributor to the parish (either pledge or plate offering given at least when attending church and/or time and talent given in a recognizable and distinct manner)

If your name is NOT on this list and you feel that it should be, or appears in a manner not to your preference, please contact Christine immediately.

LIST OF QUALIFIED VOTERS

Nick Appice	Hyatt Howard	Michael Malone
Allie Beach	Sylvia Junghardt	Maureen Martin
Ryan Berry	Mitch Kramer	John Merriman
Poogy Bjerklie	Catherine Kramer	Dirk Meyer
John Bjerklie	Carol Kuruvilla	Norma Milligan
Alice Blount-Fenney	Jennie Lai	Caitlin Mitchell
Elaine Chang	Nora Lane	Amy Morgenweck
Ti-Hua Chang	Bryan Langlands	Eileen
Julia DeLashmutt	Christine Lee	Morgenweck-Schwartz
Michael DeLashmutt	Jimmy Lee	Melissa Morgenweck
Ila Epperson	Jin Lee	Scott Moy
Lisha Epperson	Martha Lee	Aaron Niequist
Rodney Epperson	Sarah Leñador	Richard Osborne
Giovanni Gaetani	Thomas Leñador	Rachel Rim
Eliana Haas	Beeca Lin	Karen Schrage
Andrew Haas	Tony Lin	Isaiah Schulze
Jessica Hall	Ken Litt	Nhaca Schulze
Corey Hayes	Leone Litt	Catherine Siemann
Marion Hayes	Matthew Lillvis	Ian Trevethan
Amy Hitotsubashi	Vina Lillvis	Christopher Windom
Michelle Howard	Kimberly Malone	Riley Wilson
		Renoj Zachariah

POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

The slate will include:

1. One warden to serve a 2-year term
2. Two vestry members to serve 3-year terms
3. Two delegates to the Diocesan Convention (1 regular, 1 alternate)

Eligibility for Parish Office and Qualifications and Duties of Parish Officers

Vestry Members: There are multiples of three.

Nominees for Vestry Members:

- Must be Baptized and
- Must be regular attendants at the worship of the parish and contributors to its support for twelve months prior to the annual meeting.

Duties of Vestry Members

1. Are elected for three years unless elected to fulfill an unexpired term.
2. May serve no more than two full consecutive terms.
3. Must attend regular monthly meetings unless excused.
4. Are expected to be members of parish task-force committees.
5. As a body, together with the Rector and Wardens, have a responsibility for the property and finances of the parish, and adopt a yearly budget.
6. Are representatives of the parish in all matters concerning all legal relations of the parish.
7. Should the Rector's position become vacant, the Vestry, under the direction of the Bishop of New York, is responsible for calling a new Rector to the parish.

Warden: There are two, with one elected each year.

Nominees for Warden:

- Must be members of the Episcopal Church, who have been confirmed or received by a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.
- Must be regular attendants at the worship of the parish and contributors to its support for twelve months prior to the Annual Meeting.

Duties of the Wardens

1. Are elected for a two-year term (unless elected to fulfill an unexpired term).
2. May serve no more than three full consecutive terms (six years).
3. Must attend scheduled Vestry meetings unless otherwise excused.
4. Should the Rector's position be vacant, a Warden is chosen by the Vestry to preside at Vestry meetings.
5. Meet regularly with the Rector to provide leadership for the parish, promote parish unity, and further parish growth.
6. Facilitate and promote good communications and feedback to all levels of parish life.
7. Should have pastoral ability and skills and be available to the parishioners.