

Saint Peter's Church

Comings, Goings & Doings in 2020

Welcome to The Rev. Sarah Hedgis!

Births: Lucia Colberg, Audrey Courtney, Andrew Fitzgerald, Nick MacGregor, Sam Triebwasser

Confirmations: Andrew Blum, Jayson Blum, Lauren Colberg, Caroline Fenton, Robert Gavin, Matt Hall, Nicholas Hardy, Kat McGee, Michael Robb, Claire Waugh

Marriages: Jerome Whitehead & Scott Whitefleet, Sanjay Nath & Lori Craven

New Members Welcomed: Judy Buck-Glenn, Nora & Lauren Cruz, Mark Heim & Paige Carlson Heim, Barbara Matteucci, Joyce Wood

Departures: Jane Baumgardner, Jessica & Kristin Benson, Bill & Maureen Cass, Dick & Nancy Grove, Lynn McCormick, Lathrop Nelson, Allison & Zach Phillips with Louisa & Wendell

Deaths: Janice Freeman, Ejner Jensen, Emily Lukens, Jim Trimble, Ann Wilkerson

Ministry leaders in 2020:

Adult Education – Sarah Hedgis

Altar Guild – Johanna Ettin

Bell Ringing – Gail Hauptfuhrer & Ben Cornelius

Book Group – Gretchen Cowell

Children's Ministry – Sarah Hedgis

Chorister Academy Steering Committee – Elaine Markezin & Darryl Roland

Churchyard – Jill Minick, Anne Eiswerth, Elaine Markezin & Meredith Piotrowski

Eco Committee – Amy Cornelius

Finance – Jared Cram

Food Cupboard – Ben Bookman

Greeters – Cordelia Biddle

Historic Church Committee – Keith Betten

Hospitality – Kate Randall

Investments – Allen Hall

Knitting Group – Pat Fusco

Monday Counters – Pat Fusco

Music Committee – Jonathan Miller & Hannah Poole

On Being – Marjorie Muecke

Pastoral Care – Kate Randall

Personnel Committee – Elaine Markezin

Property – Gaylord Holder

Sages – Walt Peters

Stewardship – Lauri Cielo

TNT – Sarah Hedgis

Ushers – Steve Zettler

Vergers – Rob Taglieri

VIA – Tina Hogan & Nigel Richards

Weekday Prayer Leaders – Marianne Lipson, Christy Santos & Joe Tatnall

Writers Group – Cordelia Biddle

Youth Group – Emily Porcelli & Sam Jones

Vestry: Jared Cram, Accounting Warden, Cordelia Biddle, Secretary, Jennifer Childs, Rector's Warden

Nora Adelman, Lisa Di Cicco, Peggy Hatch, Sharon Haynie, Jay Newlin, Christina Santos, Marjory Spraycar, Tony Weber, Michael Zullo

Thanks to Jen Childs, Lisa Di Cicco and Mike Zullo for their dedicated service on the vestry.

Thanks to **all ministry members** including

Sunday morning liturgical ministers & volunteers

Chorister Academy volunteers

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work in 2020!

Response to COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic surged through Philadelphia, St. Peter's Church closed its building on March 13 and remained closed throughout the remainder of 2020. All worship and fellowship activities moved online through the use of Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom. As we made decisions during the pandemic, St. Peter's was guided by love: love for God and love for neighbor, with special consideration and care for the weak and vulnerable. We committed to remain closed to in-person worship until all of us could safely gather.

Social Justice and Anti-Racism Work

This summer as our nation roiled with acts of violence and Black Lives Matter protests, St. Peter's spoke out publicly against systemic racism and committed to being actively anti-racist. We hung Black Lives Matter signage on our building and urged our congregation to attend the digital justice gathering in June called the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. We offered an Anti-Racism series over the summer, where we listened to and amplified the voices of black leaders, and continued our conversation about the Poor People's Campaign during our Adult Education hour through the fall.

Associate Rector Joins St. Peter's

St. Peter's welcomed its new Associate Rector, the Rev. Sarah Hedgis on Sunday, January 12. As Associate Rector in 2020, Sarah has been instrumental in leading our Family Worship, guiding our TNT (20s & 30s) group, and organizing Social Justice and Anti-Racism efforts within the parish, among her liturgical and other responsibilities.

Getting Creative

St. Peter's found creative ways to stay connected despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We put on a virtual Talent Show in July, invited parishioners to share photos of their pets for an online Blessing of the Animals in October, and organized an outdoor scavenger hunt in the churchyard in the fall. Music staff and parishioners produced many special virtual events, including a July organ recital, a Halloween organ concert, an All Saints' Evensong, an Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols, a virtual choir Christmas anthem, and special Compline services for the Feast of St. Francis and Advent.

St. Peter's Food Cupboard

In March, we made the difficult decision to close the St. Peter's Food Cupboard and it remained closed throughout the remainder of 2020. Our space in the Parish House did not allow us to receive, unload, organize, and distribute food in a way that would protect our guests, volunteers, and staff from close contact and possible exposure to COVID-19. We diverted our Food Cupboard funds to support other local nonprofits that feed Philadelphia families.

St. Peter's Chorister Academy

After the disruption of the church building closure in March and the cancelation of the 2020 SING Philadelphia summer camp, the St. Peter's Chorister Academy rebounded in the fall with a robust virtual program that engaged 18 choristers. Our music director and an enthusiastic team of volunteers worked with our young people to provide singing/rhythm work and music theory each week.

New Parish House Progress

The tumultuous times in 2020 didn't put a stop to our planning of a new Parish House on the parking lot at Third and Lombard Streets. In order to reduce the anticipated cost of the new construction, St. Peter's Vestry decided to pursue a design-build with a single contract to see the building from design through completion. We worked with Wolfe Scott Builders and SMP Architects to make changes to the building design to fit our needs and budget.

Staying Connected

When our activities transitioned to virtual, we organized small online support groups, called Heart Check groups, and created an online Prayer Wall. Many of our ministries moved online during the pandemic, including our TNT (20s & 30s), VIA (40s & 50s), Sages, Book Group, and Writers Group. Our Churchyard Gardeners continued to maintain our grounds, and we continued to ring the bells in St. Peter's steeple, a constant source of comfort.

Stewardship Campaign

During our stewardship campaign in the fall of 2020, 176 households pledged to financially support St. Peter's Church in 2021; altogether pledges totaled \$466,905. During a challenging year, we were heartened to receive 18 pledges from new families and individuals. Overall, this stewardship season saw a decrease in the number of pledges (8 percent decrease) and revenue (3 percent decrease) from last year.

Family Worship

Over the summer, St. Peter's collaborated with several other Episcopal congregations to offer a virtual Vacation Bible School. In the fall, families picked up Worship Boxes complete with prayer mats, battery-operated candles, and music makers for children to use during our virtual Zoom worship. Also in the fall we welcomed back Children's Musician Danielle DeFassio to help lead worship. In December, St. Peter's partnered again with other Episcopal congregations to present a virtual Christmas pageant.

Adult Education

Our Adult Education kicked off 2020 with sessions preparing us for Lent, a Social Justice Bible Challenge, and a series on white colonialism. When the church buildings closed, we restarted our Adult Education on Zoom as we explored the book "The Universal Christ." We spent much of the summer and fall focused on Social Justice and Anti-Racism work, and then spent some time exploring the history and traditions of prayer and cultivating imagination.

Bishop Gutierrez Visit

On February 9, the Rt. Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, joined us for our worship service, presided over the sacrament of Confirmation and received people into the Episcopal Church.

St. Peter's Financial Report Annual Meeting February 2021			
	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	Proposed 2021
Sources of Cash - General Operating Fund			
Contributions Pledged	490,715	479696	466,905
Routine Non-pledge	2,295	520	10,710
Plate, Easter, etc.	23,826	28184	25,704
Contributions	516,836	508400	503,319
Routine Transfers from Endowment Funds	230,149	233252	240,128
Other Income	94,039	81663	98,924
Subtotal	841,024	823315	842,371
Non-routine transfers from Endowment	63,662	14200	0
Use of Restricted Funds			
Surplus from Government Grant*			12600
Total Sources of Cash	904,686	837515	854,971
Uses of Cash - General Operating Fund			
Clergy	275,606	282973	310,687
Music and Choral Scholarships	169,455	152051	160,105
Education, Fellowship and Development	59,102	63026	71,211
Outreach: Parish Ministries	**	**	7500
Outreach: Diocesan Support	66,282	67282	67,282
Administration	155,852	165633	163,574
Property (including projects)	149,884	151928	74,400
Total	876,181	882893	854,759
Difference: Sources and Uses of Cash	28,505	-45378	212
* This represents the conversion of PPP loan funds into a government grant. An additional \$105,000 is earmarked for retention following conversion.			
** In 2019 and 2020, Parish Outreach will be funded from a bequest designated for outreach			