

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

505 Main Street

Spotswood, New Jersey 08884

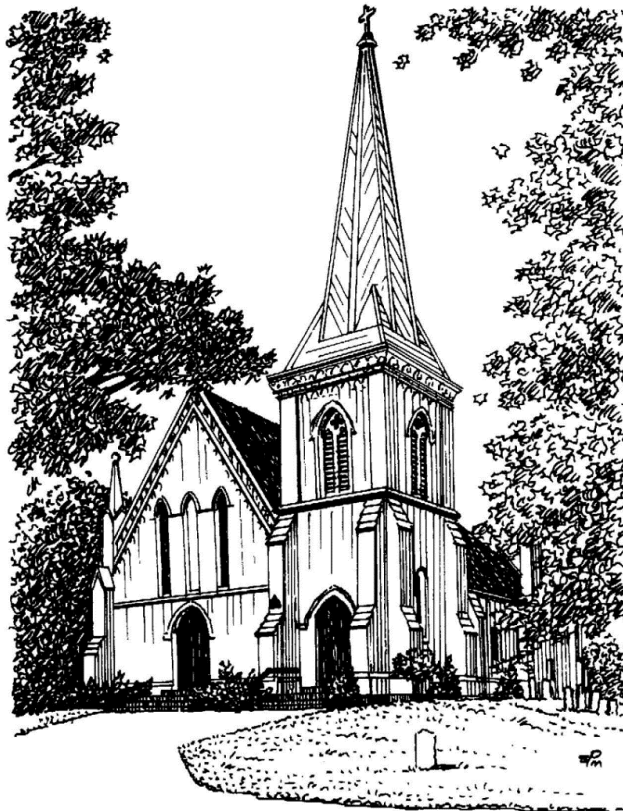
732-251-2449 Fax: 732-251-4019

Pastoral Emergencies: 732-539-2535

Rector's Study: 732-251-2695

Email: [administrator@stpetersspotswood.org](mailto:administrator@stpetersspotswood.org)

Website: <http://www.stpetersspotswood.org>



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Spotswood, N.J.

**Annual Report for 2023**

**Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting**

**January 28, 2024**

*Clergy*

**The Very Reverend Marshall K. Shelly, *Rector***

*Staff*

**The Rev. Elizabeth Marshall Casasola, *Associate Rector***

**Christine Sickels, *Parish Administrator***

**Jessica Paiva, *Minister of Music***

**Eva Dalzell, *Seminarian***

*Wardens*

**Beverly Stott and John Grennen**

*Vestry*

**Class of 2024**

Gene Dabrowski

Ron Panico

Alice Meyers

**Class of 2025**

Kathie Evans

Bill Drake

Mary LoSardo

**Class of 2026**

Alison Hyland

Katie Belko

Niels Johnson

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**January 28, 2024**

**Agenda**

---

- ❖ **Convening of Annual Meeting**
- ❖ **Appointment of Recording Secretary**
- ❖ **Minutes of January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting**
- ❖ **Acknowledgment of Retiring and Departing Officers**
- ❖ **Nominations for Election of Warden, Vestry and Convention/Convocation Delegates and Alternates**
- ❖ **Notice of Canonical Qualifications of Voters**
- ❖ **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)**
  - **(Nominations from floor will be moved by resolution as referral to Vestry for Special Appointment)**
- ❖ **Report of the Finances and Stewardship Ministries**
- ❖ **Wardens' Address**
- ❖ **Rector's Address**
- ❖ **Commendation of Annual Report**
- ❖ **Concluding Prayers: A Celebration of Life at St. Peter's for 2023**
- ❖ **Closing Prayer, Blessing and Dismissal**



St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
505 Main Street  
Spotswood, NJ 08884

### **Minutes of Annual Meeting 2023**

January 29, 2023

The Rev. Marshall Shelly, Rector, opened the meeting with a prayer and convened the Annual Meeting of 2023 at 10:40 AM following the morning church service. Father Marshall made a motion for Alison Hyland to be appointed Recording Secretary for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Motion was accepted by all in attendance.

The minutes of the 2022 January Annual Meeting were presented and unanimously accepted by all in attendance. Father acknowledged outgoing Warden, Maureen Barlow, who was completing her term as well as the continuing Warden, Beverly Stott. Father Marshall thanked Maureen for her service and outlined some of her accomplishments. Maureen was given a gift certificate.

#### **BALLOTS**

Ballots were submitted with the names of the Vestry Class of 2026.

Warden – John Grennen

Vestry Class of 2026 – Alison Hyland, Katie Belko, Niels Johnson

Diocesan Convention – Craig Kafafian, Rosita Hamilton, Gene Dabrowski

Diocesan Convention Alternatives – Bill Carr, John Hamilton

A motion to accept election results was moved by Bill Drake and seconded by Kathie Evans with unanimous approval.

The reports began with the Financial and Stewardship by Bev Stott. The budget was not on hand due to printer issues and will be posted by pdf for viewing. Bev thanked the Finance Committee for their work. Alison was thanked for her work on Stewardship. Bev reported that we had a great year well above expectations of \$140,000 congregation giving. The Thrift Shop brought in \$123,000 over 11 months. Income received for 2022 saw a catchup of \$8800. Misc. income of \$13,000 was more than budgeted for 2022. Expenses included the calling of a part-time Associate Rector, the Rev. Elizabeth Marshall Casasola. The position of organist was reinstated. In looking forward, the Capital Budget is expected to include a number of projects, including a new church roof and siding, driveway repairs, and AC reinstallations and repairs for the Parish Hall.

Stewardship Campaign – 47 total pledges of \$89,000 out of 55 proposed pledges. Stewardship will continue all year round instead of once a year. Stewardship projects will include a church brochure in English and Spanish, birthday, thinking of you and anniversary cards and Stewardship events. Giving Statements will be online, upon request and available in hard copy. Father thanked Bev. Stott for her hard work.

Outgoing Warden, Maureen Barlow, offered the Warden's Address:

There was a ribbon cutting for the Community Room, Craig Kafafian was thanked as well as past Wardens for their service. The thrift shop was renamed The Shop at St. Peter's. Thrift shop volunteers, parishioners and non-parishioners, were thanked for their hard work. Maureen reported that St. Peter's returned to normalcy after the pandemic with Chalice Bearers and Women's and Men's Breakfast and

Wednesday suppers serving hundreds of people. Maureen further reported that Rev. Liz's ordination is planned for February 11, 2023. Coffee hour will return, and the thrift shop will be open one Sunday every month. Maureen stepped down as Warden and wished Beverly Stott and John Grennen good luck.

Father Marshall offered the Rector's Address:

The pandemic has reached "endemic status" resulting in some losses for the parish. We have also received and welcomed new members with our reopening in person worship and service. St. Peter's is experiencing growth with online bible study, in addition to Confirmations and Baptisms. St. Peter's is seeing an increase in new parishioners, with a welcome extended by inception of bilingual worship. There has been progress with the thrift shop operating at its full potential. Father thanked Christine Sickels, Administrator, and Wardens Maureen Barlow and Beverly Stott. Father announced St. Peter's new Minister of Music, Jessica Paiva. Special thanks was given to Father's wife, Laura, for her support. Father announced upcoming celebrations in the life of Christ with a Lenten Series. Two co-Treasurers will be voted in at the next Vestry meeting. The meeting attendees sang "Jesus Remember Me When You Go to Your Kingdom" as Father remembered those who passed away in 2022, those who were baptized, Confirmed, Received and weddings.

Father Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion for adjournment was made and seconded concluding with a unanimous vote. Father Marshall closed the meeting with a prayer at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Hyland

## RECTOR'S ADDRESS

As noted below by our departing warden, Bev, this has been a year “rooted in abundance.” So much has happened at St. Peter’s, in our common life and shared call to ministry in Christ that I stand humbled and tongue-tied before you, composing an annual address that finds me humbled and awed by the work that God is doing through us all. St. Peter’s has been a haven of comfort and care for me and for my family in the midst of a year of impossible loss. Even as Laura and I traveled to Pittsburgh and Columbus to attend to family in crisis, you were there to assure us that all would be cared for at home. With my mother and sister passing away, your prayers and support have meant the world to us. On behalf of my family and our journey, we are so very thankful for the support of the wardens, Vestry, and you. Thank you and bless you. For over a decade, I have been honored to care for you as your priest. For the past year, you have cared for your priest and his family. We thank and bless God for you.

A special note of thanks is due our wardens. Bev Stott and John Grennen have lent their wisdom, skill and grace to a leadership of lay vocation that has been exemplary during my tenure as the 36<sup>th</sup> rector of St. Peter’s. Bev completes her term having accomplished as a leader in our parish some of the most challenging transitions one can imagine. She has led us through the financial transitions of both a change in treasurers and a transformation of our stewardship ministries. She has restored our counter ministry and overseen the streamlining of our contributions and record-keeping. Her steady hand and passion for the health and well-being of St. Peter’s have been a gift to us all. John and I have been blessed to walk with her as a colleague in leadership. Please join me in thanking Bev for her many contributions to the life of St. Peter’s, and for her continuing leadership in the Stewardship, Shop and Fellowship ministries of the parish.

John’s returning wisdom has also been a blessing to us. In the midst of particular challenges in regard to our buildings and grounds, he and Bill Drake have continually gone above and beyond the call to lay the groundwork for our coming efforts to restore our capital resources to full health. Caring for historical properties requires much from all involved, and John’s experience and deep institutional knowledge are a continued blessing for our parish.

We also rejoice in our diocesan life, as we welcome and celebrate the consecration and installation of the first diocesan Bishop of New Jersey who is a woman. Bishop Sally is also, we believe, the first diocesan Bishop in the Anglican Communion to have been ordained Deacon, Priest and Bishop by female leadership in the Church. May God bless our Bishop and her family, as we of the Diocese of New Jersey welcome her home!

My thanks must also extend to our incredible and remarkable staff. Our parish administrator, Chris, marks her 5<sup>th</sup> year with us, and her support and care for the needs of this parish has seen us through times light and dark, we are blessed! Our clergy staff has been growing, with the addition of our Associate Rector, Reverend Liz’ growth as a priest of the Church feeding us with her passion and love for the ministry and her vocation as a counselor and licensed social worker. She stands tall here and in the diocese as a leader in the bi-vocational ministry of many priests, whose gifts bridge the open places between the Church and the world around us. She has brought us the gift of both Blue Christmas and Supper Church, and her creativity and enthusiasm for St. Peter’s lifts us all up. Her renewal of our grief-counseling ministry and her support with our formation and fellowship ministries build us up in our call to form and make disciples of Jesus.

Our minister of music, Jessica, has reminded us of the joy we take in singing God's praises. A return of song and a renewal of our choir ministries have been a joyous witness of her talent, faith and grace in leading us in worship and song. As she departs for a time on maternity leave, we also look forward to her return to us sometime before Holy Week. We are blessed to have her with us, and to welcome her home to St. Peter's! We also must lift us and give thanks to God for our seminarian, Eva Dalzell. Eva came to us from the Diocese of Massachusetts (via connection with Rev. Liz), and Princeton Theological Seminary. Her walking alongside us as seminarian has meant us all being gifted with new, fresh eyes for the ministries of preaching, formation and service. Eva will be working with us through the end of the academic year, and then she will be pursuing Clinical Pastoral Education training and looking forward to her candidacy interviews next year. Our hope is that she will continue to find St. Peter's a fertile garden of ministry that will help her in her discernment toward ordination and service in the Church.

Our ministries have weathered immense change through the course of the last three years. We have met the challenges of being a faith community in the face of a pandemic and have also met the struggle of the changes in our world and society as humanity struggles with war, economic distress and upset amid profound transformations in our culture and society. St. Peter's, even as we contend with the vicissitudes of climate change, hunger in our local community and insecurity in our social systems, we strive to be a welcoming community, celebrating the love of Christ that draws us all together. We might not know the future, but we know who we are in Christ, and that faith gives us hope as we endure together the wondrous and dynamic tumult that is our human journey in this life we share.

We would not have been able to work through all the challenges of the past years without our prayerful and considerate leadership that rests with our Vestry and the Community of Hope Board. On the parish side, the Vestry has served as a council of advice to the Rector and Wardens. They have rooted our common work with a vision of faith that has supported growth in our ministries, the inception of new ways to serve God in Christ and to keep us going in the midst of great change. Jennifer Alexander and the CoHM Board have kept, and grown, our feeding ministries. The Suppers and Kellie's Cupboard feed the hungry on Wednesday evenings. Alice's CUP feeds our community Tuesdays through Thursdays and our Parish Garden under the leadership of Ralph Evans grows tons of fresh vegetables for all. As well, a new ministry created by our youth CoHM volunteers, the Lunch Bunch, meets monthly to pack bag lunches for our feeding ministries.

This is a season of hope and growth for St. Peter's. I do not offer that simply as aspiration, even though my dreams for us are great. It is a prayer of thanksgiving for our ministries and our community. We are a church that welcomes all home to a richer life in Christ, and that grace is found in our fellowship ministries, our formation groups (Sunday School, First Wednesdays, the Breakfasts, etc). We have found it as well with the inception and embrace of bilingual worship. In that stead, this my annual report is offered both in Spanish and English. We continue to grow, and to welcome all.

This year, I was also able to begin study for a Doctor of Ministry, with the support of the wardens, vestry and my family. Without you, this next step in my training and education would have been impossible. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to grow and evolve as a priest of the Church. I close with a benediction on behalf of my spouse, Laura and me for the honor and privilege of being in your midst. Without Laura, my ministry would not be possible. Without all of you, we would not have as wondrous a spiritual home as this, our beloved St. Peter's.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Rev. Marshall K Shelly, 36<sup>th</sup> Rector of St. Peter's  
Dean of the Northern Convocation, Episcopal Diocese of NJ



## WARDENS' REPORT

*Rooted in Abundance* was the theme this year and we certainly have lived up to it. We have a lot to celebrate at St. Peter's. We started the year without an organist and soon welcomed Jessica, our very talented and energetic organist. Jessica has restarted the music program, and it will only continue to get stronger.

We then had the privilege to witness Reverend Elizabeth's ordination- what a day it was! We should consider ourselves blessed to have Reverend Elizabeth leading us. She was essential to our parish to allow Father Marshall to turn his attention to his own family's health and bereavement.

In 2023, we transitioned to two new treasurers, Brian Shonk and Carter Quigley. They agreed to take over the monumental and time-consuming task of overseeing the parish finances.

The Wednesday Night Suppers and the official opening of Kellie's Cupboard, an attached food pantry that provides supplemental food to the Wednesday Night supper participants have witnessed an uptick in activity.

The SHOP at St. Peter's continues to thrive and is considered a vital part of the community. The SHOP has not only had a record year financially but has also provided many people in the community with resources, beyond the goods that can be purchased. For example, we have been able to provide warm coats, hats and gloves to organizations in need. The volunteers should be celebrated for their hard work and commitment.

Many of our post-covid ministries have returned. The Men's and Women's Breakfast continue to provide fellowship and friendship. The Youth Group, Church School, and return of the passing of the offertory plate have been re-energized.

Most importantly, we truly are *Rooted in Abundance* by all who attend, volunteer and participate in the life of St. Peter's. Today as I step back as the Warden, I would like to thank everyone for supporting the vestry and the parish. I can't wait to see what 2024 brings to St. Peter's.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Stott, Warden

## ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear St. Peter's Community,

I write this with immense gratitude for the multitude of blessings that St. Peter's has shared in my first full year of ordained life. Last year started with immense joy & a deeply felt sense of the Holy Spirit as Bishop Chip ordained me a Priest with you all consenting. Thank you for hosting such a sacred day & celebration. My extended family & friends who traveled & zoomed in from around the country (& world) have continued to note how strongly they felt St. Peter's hospitality in the service & incredible reception afterwards.

I want to give particular thanks for the mentorship of Fr. Marshall as I have learned & become more comfortable in celebrating the Eucharist, leading liturgy, preaching, & engaging in the multiple facets of congregational life. I have felt empowered both by you & by Fr. Marshall to listen deeply to ways God is calling & stretching us together into new ministries & opportunities.

One of those ministries that I'm grateful you said *yes* to was engaging in a dinner church service for Maundy Thursday, where our meal was the service very much like the life of the early church. One of the many reasons I appreciate this model of worship is that it creates space for deeper connection with one another.

Another of those ministries that you said *yes* to are our quarterly Saturday formation retreats. We began in June with a half-day on "*How do I Pray?*" engaging in reflection & different forms of prayer. In October, we gathered again for a retreat on bread baking as a spiritual practice, preparing & reflecting on the ways our faith connects to table bread, communion bread, & pizza. In December, we gathered for an Advent Quiet Day of prayer, reflection & contemplation.

I'm also grateful that you all have allowed & encouraged me to incorporate my gifts as a bi-vocational Priest & Social Worker. As a trauma focused therapist, it's been deeply meaningful to open up the space of the monthly grief group and Blue Christmas as ministries to hold the weight of trauma & grief in the context of the St. Peter's & larger communities. My initial call to ministry was a call to work at the intersections of trauma & the church & it's been so rich to be able to live into this call here at St. Peter's.

Looking ahead to the next few months, I'm particularly excited to be working with Eva, Fr. Marshall, & 5 lay members of St. Peter's as they step into the pulpit this Lent. In Lent we also look forward to another Saturday formation gathering surrounding Henry Nouwen's book *Return of the Prodigal*. I have heard that there has also been energy surrounding getting outdoors, so we're considering a hiking retreat in June. As we grow these new ministries, please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any ideas or energy around deepening our formation as St. Peter's.

With gratitude & hope for our continued service to God in 2024,

Liz+

### **SEMINARIAN'S REPORT**

It is a delight and a privilege to serve as the seminarian for St. Peter's. From getting to know members of the community through Men's and Women's Breakfasts, Grief Group, and Community Suppers to learning the ropes of Sunday and Wednesday services and home visits alongside Rev. Liz and Fr. Marshall, I have really loved getting to work and learn in this wonderful community. In the Fall, I got to facilitate a Rector's Forum on faith and storytelling, as well as to help facilitate our two adult formation retreats. In the spring, I am looking forward to continuing to preach and help with Sunday school, supporting Rev. Liz with her Lay Preaching series in Lent, and working with a few community members on a longer-term adult formation program. I'm deeply grateful for this community and excited to see what the next months will bring!

Respectfully submitted,  
Eva Dalzell, Seminarian

## **COHM ANNUAL REPORT**

For Community of Hope Ministries (officially St. Peter's Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization) 2023 was a challenging year. Entering our 4th year of navigating the difficulties stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to the rising cost of goods and the increasing needs of our community, COHM, Alice's CUP Food Pantry, and the Wednesday Night Community Supper spent the year attempting to find new ways to feed our neighbors, while maintaining safe and healthy environments for our clients and volunteers.

In 2023, Alice's CUP Food Pantry served an average of 254 households per month. This is an increase of over 50 households per month over 2022. It should be noted that during the last quarter of 2023 alone, CUP saw an increase of approximately 30 families per month. We continue to serve our community using our Client's Choice model. Thanks to Andrea LoSacco, our Volunteer Coordinator, the pantry has remained well staffed each week. COHM continues to be blessed by a wonderfully generous community, having been approached by many businesses, local schools, Scout Troops, and individual families, all interested in hosting food drives to benefit Alice's CUP. We have been so blessed that many weeks we have been able to share our abundance of donations with surrounding pantries who needed extra supplies. The pantry continues to be well stocked thanks to pantry MVPs Rich Doran & Joe Kelly, who spend countless hours accepting donations, making runs to pick up from REPLENISH and ShopRite, and ensuring the shelves are always ready for clients.

The Wednesday Night Community Suppers have continued with their take-out services. The suppers continue to serve upwards of 120 meals each week in their "drive-thru" setup. In October, Kellie's Cupboard, an extension of Alice's CUP on supper evening, hosted its official ribbon cutting. This event was attended by Kellie Baker's daughter, Samantha, and her closest friend, Nancy. As always, we are so grateful for Jeannie Fitzpatrick, our dedicated kitchen staff, and the many runners who work so tirelessly to keep the Wednesday Night Suppers running successfully during a time when they are so greatly needed.

This year also saw the birth of the Lunch Bunch. Created by our youngest board members, Chris Alexander and Casey Stephens Seickel, this group has made it their mission to find other ways to feed our community. Each month, teens ages 12-17 gather to make bagged lunches that are distributed in the pantry.

The ever-changing world we live in keeps us on our toes, but COHM continues to grow and improve. The most immediate goal for this year is to continue to increase Pantry and Supper visibility in our community, not with the goal of increasing donations, but in the hopes of reaching families and individuals who may be in need of assistance. 2024 goals include but are not limited to: unveiling the new and improved COHM/CUP website, working to increase community education about our CDC by developing an online donation system through the new COHM website and Facebook pages, working towards even better relationships with local groups and businesses, and discovering ways to increase volunteer opportunities in our community for students and teens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jen Alexander, Executive Director, CoHM

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT**

The building and grounds committee spent considerable time and financial resources keeping up with the aging state of the campus in 2023. We were able to repair small areas of the parking lot, restripe the parking stalls and twice repair a damaged light fixture. The vestry was unexpectedly obliged to replace the air conditioning systems in both church and the Parish Hall, which placed a financial damper on our other lofty goals for 2023. We continue to check blockages in our sanitary sewer system blamed on the old pipes and low flow fixtures and have set up a regular maintenance schedule to prevent backups into the basement of the Parish Hall. During 2023 we continued to investigate long term solutions for the roof leaks in the church, with the understanding that a capital campaign will be needed to address this issue as well as several other pressing issues with our historic, but aging, campus buildings. We continue to make repairs and upgrades to life safety systems, including the fire alarm system, EXIT signs and emergency lighting as required by the Town Fire Inspector.

Our focus for 2024 will be on continued safety improvements, specifically redirecting the roof drain/ sump pump discharge, from the parking lot directly to the grassy area below the parking lot, which will necessitate additional parking lot repairs. The committee will also undertake replacing the south stairs of the Parish Hall, which have reached an untenable state of deterioration, while also stabilizing the roof leaks in the church. We will continue to address other repairs as necessary when they arise and work with the Vestry on a capital campaign to provide funding for these and other long-term repairs.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Drake

## **MUSIC REPORT**

This past year has seen the exciting return of the music ministry at St. Peter's Spotswood. Father Marshall and I began slowly introducing hymns and service music into the liturgical service before officially bringing back the adult choir. Janette Borawski, Sandy Donaldson, John Grennan, and Rosita Hamilton have made up the foundation of our small, yet mighty sounding choir and their dedication has not gone unnoticed through their commitment to rehearsals and practicing with their rehearsal tracks if they were unable to rehearse. They have also been a great help in supporting the start of our children's choir, who have occasionally learned songs during Sunday school and would lead them at least one Sunday a month. We even saw a few new faces interested in singing with us during the Christmas Eve anthem: Alice Meyers and her granddaughter Isabella, as well as Jayne Miller.

Joining the music ministry, whether through singing with the choir or playing an instrument during a service, is one of the best ways to grow closer to God and each other. The enthusiasm for music that I hear in both the choir and congregation gives me hope that we can grow the music program in new ways throughout 2024. Everyone has a gift that they can offer, and all are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Paiva, Minister of Music

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the 2023 school year, St. Peter's Sunday School offered the children of our church opportunities to learn, ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions about our faith. The students gathered every Sunday at 9:15 in the chapel space in the Parish Hall to meet with Father Marshall, Reverend Liz and our Seminarian Eva Dalzell to listen to stories connected to the lectionary for the week and share their own thoughts and experiences about a specific topic connected to the readings. Parents were always welcome to participate as well. Our year included many highlights. We analyzed and discussed various works of art depicting scenes from the lectionary readings through guidance from a curriculum developed by Father Marshall and his mother, Dr. Ann Shelly for the Diocese of New Jersey. During Lent, Reverend Liz taught the students how to bake Lazarakia cookies which they were able to share with the congregation on Palm Sunday. Our music minister, Jessica, taught the students several fun and joyful songs over the course of the year so that they could contribute to our church services with their singing and musical abilities. We are looking forward to the coming year and the chance to learn from each other and grow as disciples of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Maffa-Johnson

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Our Stewardship Campaign "**Rooted in Abundance**" yielded 42 pledge commitments totaling \$83,242.00. In comparison, the final numbers for the 2022 "**More Than Enough**" campaign resulted in 50 pledge commitments totaling \$91,419.50. In 2023, the Stewardship Committee sent birthday and anniversary cards to parishioners. Please let us know your birthday or anniversary date. Although publishing a hardcopy of a parish directory was a goal, we fell short, hopefully we will be able to pull this off in 2024.

## COUNTERS

A vital but frequently unheard ministry are the counters. The counters are the folks who count and record any money received. They work in teams of two to count, record and process the funds received in order to deposit them into the bank. A huge thank you to Alice Meyers, Terri Baran, Ron Stott, Sandy Donaldson, Gene Dabrowski, Jane Tomaine, Gloria Crum and MaryAnn Grennen. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bev Stott at [bstott510@gmail.com](mailto:bstott510@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Bev Stott, Warden and Chair

## **THE SHOP AT ST. PETER'S REPORT**

The Shop at St. Peter's had a successful year in 2023. This year the focus was to open up opportunities to enlarge our volunteer group and increase our outreach to the community with various sales including our Christmas in July. We rewarded our customers with hotdogs, hot chocolate, and Halloween candy. We also were able to help families in need with clothing and household items. We have increased our donations to Toys for Tots, Helping Hands and Veterans groups. We are continuing to give to the animal shelters, and churches in Perth Amboy partnering with St. Lukes and Altar's Gate in Middlesex county. We are working to have more visits from various Senior Citizen's groups from Monroe Township and East Brunswick to give seniors the opportunity for low cost clothing and housing items. Various school groups are seeking volunteer opportunities, and we are encouraging the concept of "Serving Others" as the norm for youth groups. Come and explore the Shop at St. Peter's. Our door is open, and everyone is welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosita Hamilton

## WORSHIP STATISTICS

### Sacramental Services and Worship for 2023

Worship Services are qualified by in person attendance, online participation and online views.

Sunday Worship 88

The Daily Office (Morning, Noonday, Evening Prayer & Compline) 305

Home Communions	34	Other Services:	Baptisms	10
Mid-Week Communions	44		Marriages	3
Total Communions	3,919 Administered		Burial Offices	7 total (2 for parish, 5 outside)

### Baptized and admitted as members of St. Peter's

Avery James Colón	February 19, 2023
Adeline Harder	February 19, 2023
Raül Michel Justo	February 19, 2023
Addison Hoover	April 8, 2023
Robert Ascher Drako	April 16, 2023
Knox Bradley Girvin	April 30, 2023
Isabella Caroline Garib	August 20, 2023
Mason Anthony Garib	August 20, 2023
Leonardo Garib	August 20, 2023
Juliet Adeline Harris	November 5, 2023

### United in Holy Matrimony

Robert W. Benhardt & Joanna J. Kubas	June 1, 2023
Christopher Hager & Alyssa Guglietti	September 2, 2023
John C. Wehrle & Jennifer Lawless	November 24, 2023

### Burials \*indicates parishioner

\*Josephine Swentko died on February 27, 2023. Burial Office with Holy Eucharist was held on March 6, 2023 at St. Peter's Church, Spotswood followed by committal at Forest Green Park Cemetery, Morganville, NJ.

Dolores Anne Peters died on June 13, 2023. Burial Office was held on June 20, 2023 at Brunswick Memorial Home, followed by committal at Holy Cross Burial Park, South Brunswick, NJ.

Lynn Jackson died on June 26, 2023. Burial Office was held on June 29, 2023 at Brunswick Memorial Home, followed by committal at Franklin Memorial Park, North Brunswick, NJ.

George Vogel died in July 2023. Burial office was held on August 12, 2023 at the American Legion in Spotswood, N.

\*Suzanne Helen Wilgus died on August 4, 2023. Burial Office was held on August 12, 2023 at Brunswick Memorial Home, followed by committal of ashes in St. Peter's churchyard on October 15, 2023.

Renee M. Romatowski Holtz died on October 6, 2023. Burial Office was held on October 17, 2023 at Brunswick Memorial Funeral Home.

Gertrude Anne Johns Horne died on November 25, 2023. Burial Office was held on November 30, 2023 at Brunswick Memorial Funeral Home.