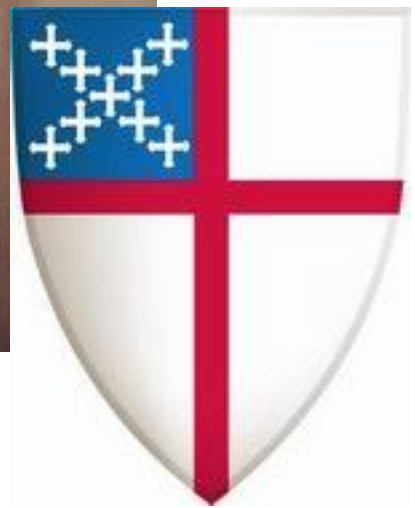




ANNUAL REPORT 2019



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Website: www.weseegodinyou.org

#churchthatgrows #WeSeeGodInYou

Tel: 765.482.2322

950 E Washington St., Lebanon, IN 46052

AGENDA - PAGE NUMBERS IN PARENTHESIS ()

Call to Order

Invocation and Prayer

Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes - (4)

St. Peter's Bishop's Committee - (6)

Recognition of Out Going Members

Voting Eligibility and Responsibilities of the Bishop's Committee & Delegates

Nomination of Candidates for Bishop's Committee

Election

Nomination of Delegates to Diocese Convention

Election

Presentation of Reports

Senior Warden's Report - (7)

Junior Warden's Report - (10)

2019 Annual Treasurer's Report & 2020 Proposed Budget - (10)

Ministry's Reports

Community Outreach Report - (13)

Grounds, Gardens, Apiary Report - (14)

Harvest House Report - (18)

Social Activities & Fundraisers Report - (20)

Christian Education Report - (22)

Intergenerational Sunday Report - (23)

Music Ministry Report - (25)

Altar Guild Report - (26)

Labyrinth Report - (27)

Generosity/Stewardship Report - (28)

Miscellaneous Reports

Q&A

Rector's Report

Closing Prayer & Dismissal



ABOUT ST. PETER'S

Clergy & Staff

The Right Reverend Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Eleventh Bishop of Diocese of Indianapolis

The Rev. Christopher R. Beasley, Rector

Carol Ann Webb, Organist

Kimberly Thomas, Nursery Attendant

Jennifer Ellis, Sexton

Diana Halstead, Treasurer & Parish Administrator

Bishop's Committee

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Luke Cremer	Shelbi Fortner	Carol Ann Webb
Bob Donaldson	Marion Ritchie	Sandra Dailey

Committee Chairs

Carol Ann Webb, Altar Guild

Shelbi Fortner, Children's Education

Carol Ann Webb, Stewardship

OPEN, Communications/Welcome

Jason Fortner, Outreach

Sandra Dailey, Social Activities and Harvest House

Chuck Dailey, Gardens and Apiary

OPEN, Green Committee



Dearly Departed

Mimi Kuhn

Baptized, Confirmed, Reaffirmation

Jasmyn Maddox (B), Elizabeth Bradley (C), David Bradley (R)

MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

(submitted by Chuck Dailey)

Fr. Christopher+ called the 63rd St. Peter's Annual Meeting to order at 11:26 am on January 27th, 2019. Senior Warden Chuck Dailey certified that a quorum was present and following Fr. Christopher+ promptly opened with prayer. Due to a snowstorm the prior week, the Annual Meeting was moved to this date. However, bitterly cold temperatures and snow have limited the attendance at today's meeting. Traditional meal and bingo were suspended in the interest of safety and time.

The 62nd Annual Meeting was held 21 January 2018. Minutes were presented for review from page 4 to 6. A motion was made by Jason Fortner to accept the Minutes and a second by Diana Halstead. No discussion and minutes were unanimously accepted, and the motion was approved.

The next agenda item was the Bishop's Committee. Fr. Christopher+ recognized and thanked Senior Warden, Chuck Dailey and Diana Halstead as outgoing members. Chuck and Diana stood and were recognized by the audience. Special Recognition was given to Cherie Donaldson for her twelve years as Treasurer at St. Peter's. Page 7 gave the requirements for being a Bishop's Committee member, which included taking a 3-year term and an active leadership role, attend all special worship services and special events, attend all Bishop's Committee meetings (3 absences allowed) and any special committee workshops. It was determined that there was a quorum to hold the election of the new members and the nominees received prior to the meeting were Carol Ann Webb and Sandra Dailey. No other nominations were received from the floor, and the nominations were closed. All nominations were approved by acclamation. The 2019 Diocesan convention will be held November 15-16th in Bloomington, Indiana. There were no delegate nominees received prior to the meeting, nominations from the floor included Jason and Shelbi Fortner. The vote was unanimous by acclamation and their names will be submitted to the Diocesan office.

Fr. Christopher suggested that we suspend with the detailed review of Committee Reports unless there was a desire to hear from one of the areas. Hearing none, we then proceeded with the Senior Wardens report.

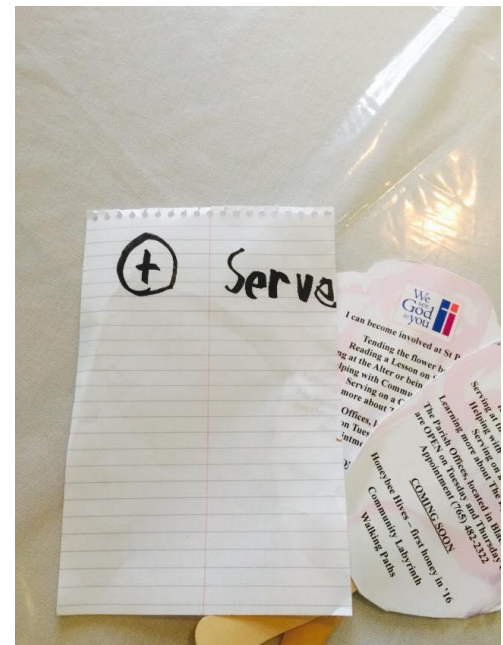
Chuck Dailey, the Senior Warden gave a brief report beginning on page 8. Chuck thanked the members of the congregation as it has been an honor and privilege to serve these last three years. He addressed the various activities including the gardens, apiary and the landscape activities with the Purdue University class. He also thanked Mike Halstead for his tireless efforts mowing and tending to the grounds during the summer months. He briefly reviewed all the activities including the gardens, apiary and Harvest House. He discussed the dramatic positive impact Fr. Christopher+ continues to make at St. Peter's .

The 2018 Treasurer's Report on pages 14-15 was the next topic of discussion. The revenue for 2018 was approximately \$118,000. This includes a withdrawal from the trust fund, which is the first time this action has been taken since hiring Fr. Christopher+ 4 ½ years ago. Over this period the special account managed by the Diocese has grown from \$70,000 to \$92,500 and now sits around \$65,000. The original plan was to use these funds to subsidize the Rectors income but has not been needed to balance the budget until now. He asked everyone to thank the Bishop's Committee for their due diligence in maintaining this account at these levels over this period of time. He discussed how we have moved from a theology of scarcity to a theology of abundance in just a few years. The average Sunday attendance has grown to 33.27 and continues to grow.

The diocesan aid remains essentially the same at \$24,000 for 2019. The Diocesan apportionment for all parishes was increased from 13.75% to 14.0% of net operating income. Fr. Christopher reviewed clergy and staff compensation and how it was calculated. All clergy and lay employees were given a 2.5% raise, which is reflected in the projected 2019 expenses. The lay employees include the organist, nursery attendant and sexton. Caroline Bradley made a motion to accept the 2018 treasurer's report and the 2019 budget (subject to audit), seconded by Diana Halstead. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to the inclement weather, Chuck Dailey made a motion to close the Annual Meeting and was seconded by Luke Cremer. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:59am.

Fr. Christopher closed the meeting with a prayer.



BISHOP COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Recognition of Outgoing Bishop's Committee Members

- Bob Donaldson
- Luke Cremer

Voting Eligibility

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a baptized individual faithful in corporate worship who has received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist at St. Peter's at least three times during the previous year. In addition, they must sixteen (16) years of age and supporters of St. Peter's through their time, talent, or treasure.

Requirements of Bishop's Committee Members

These are the requirements for eligibility per the Canons:

1. At least 18 years of age
2. A baptized and confirmed (or received) communicant in the Episcopal Church and a member of the St. Peter's parish. (This requirement may be waived if 2/3 of the Bishop's Committee already meets these criteria.)
3. Have not previously served a full term on the Vestry within the past 12 months.

These are the expectations to serve on the Bishop's Committee:

1. Agree to a three-year consecutive term unless otherwise stated and take a leadership role.
2. Attendance at regular and special worship services and parish events.
3. Attend all Bishop's Committee meetings (three absences per year allowed) and special Bishop's Committee workshops.
4. Be willing to listen, learn and lead.

Nominations

- Bishop's Committee
 - Kayla Glenn
 - Caroline Bradley
- Diocesan Convention
 - None received prior to Annual Meeting



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Over the last year, I have grown immensely in my understanding and appreciation of all that goes into St. Peter's Episcopal Church. I've learned that a sure way to get stuff done is to organize a "Welcome Back Surprise" for Father Christopher. (Everyone will pitch in to make our favorite priest in all IndyDio happy.) I've learned that we all sound better when we move toward the middle. We've heard it in our ears and felt it in our lungs as we sing on Sunday mornings, and we've felt it in our hearts as we engage in the challenging conversations around how extend a complete, thorough, far-reaching, *radical* welcome. I've learned that if you really want to pick up the processing pace of an insurance claim after your church gets struck by lightning, you mention your frustration to the Bishop! I've learned that, when you have a committed team (and the best priest in all IndyDio), you really can write a solid grant proposal in under 72 hours.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to dig into the work set forth alongside Father Christopher, as well Luke Cremer, Bob Donaldson, Sandy Dailey, Matt Hartsock, Marion Ritchie, and Carol Ann Webb on the Bishop's Committee and Diana Halstead as our Treasurer this year. The commitment required to serve in these roles is significant, and these individuals take their responsibilities very seriously.

2019 was a year of bringing vision and opportunity into focus. We developed a four point "elevator speech" to help us share our story of who we are with neighbors and "the people God has invited to St. Peter's whom we have yet to greet."

- We are a small rural church that cares for creation as we follow Jesus.
- We care for ourselves and one another by gathering for worship and meeting to support each other in our needs.
- We care for the earth by tending bees and teaching people how to plant, prepare, and preserve food.
- We work to find common ground among ourselves and within the congregation and those in the wider community that we are a part of.

The Pathways to Vitality team of Father Christopher, Caroline Bradley, Chuck Dailey, Cherie Donaldson, Diana Halstead, Carol Ann, and I have engaged in extensive learning opportunities alongside teams from St. John's (Crawfordsville) and St. Matthew's (Indianapolis) as well as various leaders and educators from across the country. The St. Peter's team has organized the tremendous number of diverse opportunities, programs, and special events into six active ministry categories and will next work to align these ministries with the four points of our "elevator speech" above. We look forward to welcoming Pathways Priest, Father Ben Wyatt, to St. Peter's in December 2020 and continuing to grow in sharing God's wildly inclusive love with even more of our neighbors.

Courageous leadership from Kayla Glenn, Brittany and Dustin Gunter, and the rest of the Engaging Young Adults Initiative Team has helped us to learn to welcome young people into all that St. Peter's has to offer. Carol Ann and Maria Shepherd have also offered an important contribution to this service by leading an Intergenerational Sunday School class on the first Sunday of each month. Amanda Cremer and Sandy have planned and organized monthly Family Night activities that offer the opportunity to gather for food, fun, and worship. As we spend this time learning, laughing, and worshipping together, it becomes even easier to **see God** in each other.

Morey and Becca Nakaya, Chuck and Sandy Dailey, and Caroline and Dan Bradley have made and fostered new relationships through the St. Peter's gardens, Harvest House Community Center, and St. Peter's Apiary. I'm confident that you'll be inspired and encouraged by the details of these reports.

I wonder whose bodies will be nourished by healthy, fresh produce from our gardens.

We've also celebrated some exciting milestones: Hailey Maddox received the Sacrament of Baptism and was also Confirmed when the Bishop was here in September. We also rejoiced in the confirmation of David and Elizabeth Bradley on that warm September Sunday. Diana and Sandy both retired from their successful secular careers, which allows each of them to share their gifts and skills in ministry at St. Peter's. Carol Gorham celebrated her NINETIETH BIRTHDAY! David Bradley completed his Eagle Scout project, and St. Peter's gained an inviting fire pit. Lucy and Kate Fortner graduated from High School and spread their wings over Normal at Illinois State University. Several individuals from St. Peter's and beyond took control of their finances through Financial Peace University at St. Peter's. For the first time in the history of St. Peter's, one of the deputies to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church is from St. Peter's. We celebrated FIFTY YEARS of Carol Ann's service as the organist of St. Peter's with deep gratitude.

I wonder what celebrations God has planned for us in 2020.

Under Father Christopher's skillful eye, we have maintained financial security far longer than expected and laid critical foundations for significant growth in the very near future. There are not adequate words to express my appreciation for his commitment to caring for each of us individually and all of us as a congregation.

As I look forward into 2020, I anticipate the installation of the beautiful, hand carved sign that was a generous gift from the estate of Cherie's beloved parents. Soon this welcome will be cradled in a foundation of life and light designed by Dan. I wonder who will be drawn in by its welcome.

In a small congregation, there is clearly no room to hide or rest on your laurels. One of my favorite characteristics of St. Peter's is the way everyone pitches in. From pulling weeds and picking tomatoes, corn, and beans (so many beans!) in the gardens to flipping pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and Tom Mohringer and the girls hiding eggs on Easter, our readers which

include Kent and Norma, our acolytes and offering gatherers (you can't get by Katie when she brings the offering plate around!) all are invited to participate in ministering to God's people.

One last thing I've learned is that while St. Peter's can't be everything to everyone, we can be *something* for *everyone*. Your consistent persistence in pursuing new ways to practice our signature ministry of **caring for God's creation** is inspiring and encouraging.

I wonder who will anxiously step through the red doors and very quickly feel the same sense of family, love, and support that Jason, the Fortnerlings, and I have felt since you first wrapped your warm, strong arms around our weary hearts on a frigid Sunday in January seven years ago.

Respectfully,

Shelbi Fortner , *Senior Warden*



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

It has been a good year.

- Contracted for installation of air conditioner for Harvest House. This included cooling tower, coils, etc.
- Installed furnace filters for the 3 furnaces in the church building and one in Blackwell Hall.
- Investigated costs for purchase and replacement of casket door in church.
- Helped Carol Webb decide on a water fountain to be installed next to the Labyrinth.
- Painted the swing set. Roof is yet to be done.
- Replaced necessary light bulbs in all buildings
- Had water softener repaired.

Sincerely,
Bob Donaldson,
Junior Warden 2019

TREASURER REPORT 2019 & 2020 BUDGET PRESENTATION

INCOME

ST. PETER'S 2020 BUDGET - (REVISED 12/24/19)					
REVENUE	2020B	2019A	2018A	2017A	2016A
DESIGNATED GIFTS	\$ 3,180	\$ 5,981	\$ 4,675	\$ 10,071	\$ 8,374
DIOCESAN AID	\$ 22,500	\$ 24,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
FLOWERS	\$ 600	\$ 409	\$ 366	\$ 669	\$ 611
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$ 1,067	\$ 1,627	\$ 1,714	\$ 1,952	\$ 2,058
MEMORIALS/DONATIONS	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 1,207	\$ 900	\$ 2,425
PLATE	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,372	\$ 917	\$ 1,001
PLEDGE	\$ 35,500	\$ 34,977	\$ 40,357	\$ 35,116	\$ 32,576
PROJECT INCOME	\$ 6,460	\$ 5,918	\$ 5,863	\$ 6,561	\$ 6,053
REIMBURSED EXPENSES	\$ 1,800	\$ 3,135	\$ 6,001	\$ 6,290	\$ 6,097
RENT	\$ 840	\$ 600	\$ 340	\$ 365	\$ 620
SPECIAL OFFERING	\$ 600	\$ 938	\$ 538	\$ 1,110	\$ 1,323
TRUST FUND	\$ 34,452	\$ 8,000	\$ 30,498	\$ -	\$ -
MISCELLANEOUS INCOMES	\$ -	\$ 410	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 35
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 108,098	\$ 87,080	\$ 117,931	\$ 88,967	\$ 86,173

Adjusting 2018 for the Trust Fund withdrawals, income was \$87,433. Adjusting 2019 for the Trust Fund withdrawal, income \$79,080 accounting for a 9.6% reduction in income during 2019. Several things are attributable to this, namely families that moved out of St. Peter's and a shortfall in giving against pledged income. We still anticipate using our investment fund to

help balance the budget for 2020, but it is our hope and theology of a God of abundance that we will be able to save that money for a bit longer.

For details on our Generosity/Stewardship Drive for 2020, please see Carol Ann Webb's report later in this document. There are many indicators (on a financial level) that St. Peter's is on the right trajectory and path forward and we are hopeful for what 2020 will bring.

	Average Sunday	Easter Attendance	Christmas Attendance
2014	25.40	44	28
2015	28.08	56	41
2016	28.10	64	45
2017	30.81	71	38
2018	33.27	56	55
2019	30.00	76	58

FUND BALANCES AT YEAR END:

Huntington Checking - Operating Acct*	\$14,089.94
Insurance Proceeds - held for organ	(\$9,688.30)
Labyrinth Fund	(\$3,928.00)
Engaging Young Adults Initiative	(\$900.00)
Other Designated Gifts (<i>Seminarian & Fire Pit</i>)	(\$895.00)
Huntington Checking - Available for Operations	(\$1,321.36)
Huntington Savings*	\$24,574.86
Rockstroh Memorial Gift	(\$10,000.00)
Memorials	(\$14,557.26)
Huntington Savings - Available	\$17.60
Special Fund held at Diocese (As of 09/30/2019)*	\$55,470.21
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents*	\$94,135.01
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>\$54,166.45</i>
<i>Huntington Checking - Rector's Discretionary Acct</i>	<i>\$611.09</i>

EXPENSE

EXPENSE	2020B	2019A	2018A	2017A	2016A
ALTAR SUPPLIES	\$ 500	\$ 363	\$ 243	\$ 1,247	\$ 232
APIARY	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 778	\$ 778	\$ 560
BULLETINS/NEWSLETTERS	\$ 402	\$ 295	\$ 399	\$ 463	\$ 311
BUSINESS/OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 970	\$ 965	\$ 840	\$ 296	\$ 571
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 800	\$ 990	\$ 397	\$ 451	\$ 666
CLERGY CONFERENCE	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ 50	\$ 122
CLERGY CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$ 500	\$ 45	\$ 585	\$ 45	\$ -
CLERGY PENSION	\$ 5,802	\$ 5,802	\$ 5,705	\$ 5,538	\$ 5,142
CLERGY SALARY/HOUSING/TAXES	\$ 32,232	\$ 32,232	\$ 31,692	\$ 30,769	\$ 28,308
CONVENTION EXPENSE	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,159	\$ 803	\$ 939	\$ 266
DESIGNATED GIFTS	\$ 2,816	\$ 2,792	\$ 3,945	\$ 1,905	\$ 4,991
DIOCESAN APPORTIONMENT	\$ 7,722	\$ 6,018	\$ 5,825	\$ 5,263	\$ 5,507
DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$ 552	\$ 932	\$ 896	\$ 1,069	\$ 695
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	\$ 4,450	\$ 1,459	\$ 2,990	\$ 2,254	\$ 2,472
FLOWERS	\$ 1,200	\$ 985	\$ 912	\$ 1,017	\$ 1,358
FUNDRAISING/PROJECTS	\$ 5,400	\$ 3,542	\$ 4,670	\$ 7,232	\$ 3,574
INSURANCE	\$ 10,381	\$ 9,434	\$ 9,179	\$ 8,496	\$ 9,484
MARKETING	\$ 1,100	\$ 817	\$ 1,454	\$ 457	\$ 1,403
MEMORIAL EXPENSE	\$ 100	\$ 3,516	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 453
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13
MUSIC	\$ 150	\$ 197	\$ 110	\$ 178	\$ 147
PAYROLL PROCESSING	\$ 362	\$ 376	\$ 405	\$ 373	\$ 341
REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	\$ 7,500	\$ 12,079	\$ 15,115	\$ 3,910	\$ 4,841
CONTRACT EXPENSES	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,493	\$ 1,113	\$ 1,096	\$ 1,146
SEXTON SUPPLIES	\$ 340	\$ 99	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ 69
NON-CLERGY STAFFING	\$ 9,907	\$ 9,689	\$ 8,630	\$ 7,883	\$ 7,511
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION	\$ 400	\$ 694	\$ 565	\$ 300	\$ 300
SUPPLY CLERGY	\$ 675	\$ 270	\$ 270	\$ 270	\$ 405
TAXES*	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ 681	\$ 2,056	\$ 1,802
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,604	\$ 1,601	\$ 1,578	\$ 1,598
TRAVEL ALLOWANCE/MILEAGE	\$ 1,500	\$ 91	\$ 424	\$ 267	\$ 454
TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER	\$ 599	\$ -	\$ 599	\$ 595	\$ 599
UTILITIES	\$ 7,064	\$ 6,588	\$ 7,101	\$ 5,728	\$ 5,499
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 108,098	\$ 104,640	\$ 108,027	\$ 92,502	\$ 90,841
PROJECTED SHORTFALL	\$ -	\$ (17,560)	9,904	(3,535)	(4,668)
* Taxes Included in Staff Line Items for 2019 Forward					
A = Actual					
B = Budget					

OUTREACH REPORT

As you know, all that we do at St. Peter's is a team effort. So, the activities mentioned in this report are in no way the fruits of my labor alone. We once again joined forces with Shalom House to prepare and serve more meals to those in need and to pack lunches for our local school children. We packed away hunger in January. In June, we unloaded food for distribution to Backpack lunches at Love, Inc. We donated four Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need. During Advent, we prepared gifts for the girls at Central Indiana Teen Challenge. We will do more of the same in 2020. If you have an idea for an outreach opportunity, please see Fr. Christopher or consider joining Jason Fortner as Outreach Coordinator.

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.'

Matthew 25:35-36

PACK AWAY
HUNGER
Life. Changing. Nutrition.



GARDEN & APIARY REPORT - 2019

Community Share Gardens

We started the growing season with over 500 vegetable plants indoors using new growing seed trays and a timed lighting system. Several new additions were planned for the growing space including straw bale, trellis, bag, and pallet gardening. Plants were also purchased for a new rain garden in the SW swale area.

Unfortunately, spring rains significantly slowed down the progress due to the ground being too wet to prepare for planting.

What turned out to be one of the wettest springs on record delayed most local farmers in the area from planting their crops; we were no exception. The sweet corn was finally planted at the end of May and 15 yards of compost was delivered for filling the raised beds. Seed and plants were ready, but the gardens were not dry enough for preparation until the middle of June. Horseradish, rhubarb and asparagus started producing and the tomatoes, peppers & eggplants were finally transplanted. The greens (Kale, Swiss Chard and broccoli) finally took off and provided produce until the late fall.

A generous donation was made for the JMG gardens which will increase them from 12 to 20 beds and include over 650 patio blocks between the 4'x4' gardens. Unfortunately, the wet spring and other growing priorities didn't allow the project to begin so it has now been rescheduled until the Spring of 2020.

People from the community, including the St. Joe's congregation who began picking from the gardens to support the Five Loaves Two Fishes food pantry and Shalom house. Becca Nakaya picked an average of 100 lbs. a week which went to Caring Center and Shalom.

On July 7th, the congregation from St. John's Crawfordsville visited us for a regular Sunday service, a talk on our Care of Creation ministries with a tour of the labyrinth, gardens and apiary.

On July 11th, Jason Fortner and I traveled to Rockford, Michigan along with Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows; staff members The Rev. Kristin White, Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale to meet with The Rev. Nurya Love Parish and several of her staff at Plainsong Farm in Rockford, Michigan. The day trip included an extensive tour of their organic CSA farming operation and a wonderful meal. The afternoon continued with discussions about our mutual ministries and a request from Nurya to present our Care of Creation story to another group visiting Plainsong Farm that afternoon.



St. John's congregation on garden/apiary tour



Visit with Bishop's staff to Plainsong Farms, MI

Once the sweet corn was picked in August the stalks were removed and a cover crop of buckwheat was planted. Buckwheat replaces nitrogen in the soil that the corn has depleted and provides a valuable food source for honeybees during a time when there is very little forage. The crop was rolled flat before going to seed which provides additional soil nutrition as a green manure.



Cover crop of buckwheat in full bloom



Buckwheat rolled flat to improve soil health

The neighbor who owns the small farm across John Bart Road offered to cut and bale the wildflower and grass fields in the fall which removed the need for us to mow. Once cutting was complete he harvested a total of 110 bales for his goats.

Kirk Freshaur, a friend and neighbor just 3 houses north of the church, volunteered use of his own professional equipment to cut down the nine large trees blocking the water run off to the ditch from the swale. He also chipped and trees and limbs then disposed of the wood chips. With Kirk's help and equipment this work was completed in less than 2 hours; without it would

have taken all weekend. Once completed the St. Peter's Master Gardener's planted 160 plants in the front swale for the new rain garden.

Members of BIG (Black Independent Growers) from Indianapolis visited in September to discuss options for using ½ acre of the field for growing root vegetables and medicinal herbs. An agreement was drafted, and the area has been staked off; the ground will be prepared in the spring so planting can begin as soon as weather allows.

We would like to thank everyone who helped weed, pick produce and tend the gardens this past year.

Apiary

In 2018 we had 3 hives that were viable by the end of November. All 3 survived thru March of 2019 but only the Martha and Cate hives were starting to thrive by April. Sarah was slow but growing.

In February I attended the State Bee School at Decatur Central HS as guest lecturer. I gave two talks on Spring Hive Management to classes of 125 in both a morning and afternoon session. This was an honor considering we attended our first bee school in 2015 as students, and now I'm being asked to present as a paid speaker.

By May both the Martha and Cate hives were thriving and were maintaining the optimum temperature for the maximum brood production. 2-3 honey supers were added to each to for additional space to keep them from swarming. While Sarah, the third hive wasn't very strong, she survived the winter and the very wet spring.

In June a local queen breeder provided us with 4 new queens which we used to create new hives by splitting the Sarah hive multiple times.

The Caring Hands Camp from the Zionsville Boys & Girls Club visited again this year in June and July. Their first visit saw temperatures in the low 50's, which is too cold for hive inspections. We opted to use our observation hive and have the event inside the main building during the cool weather.

In August we pulled 4 supers full of honey which we held in storage and extracted in September. By the end of the September the two strongest hives that made it thru the winter were queen less and failing. Fortunately, we had three strong hives going into the Fall: Jennifer, Sarah and Rebecca. Rachel, while functioning, was marginal. All hives were treated for Varroa mites and prepared with extra resources for winter.

In September we extracted and bottled approximately 120lbs of honey. We also had 50 Boone County Master Gardens visit on September 16th to hear about the bees, look at the pollinator beds and experience our Care of Creation. We wrapped up with a tour of the gardens and the apiary.

In October we attended the Beekeepers of Indiana Fall Conference. We took some of our honey for the show and learned how honey is judged in competition. I was also elected to the TBoI (The Beekeepers of Indiana) Board of Directors.

When weather permitted, we opened the Apiary for tours every fourth Saturday from 10 to 2. The following is a list of other events attended or sponsored:

June 5th	Beekeeping booth at 5th Annual outdoor Explore! In Lafayette
June 13 th /July 11 th	Apiary visit from Zionsville B&G Club
August 2 nd	Food-Con at the Harrison Center Indianapolis
August 13th	Indiana State Fair The Beekeepers of Indiana Booth
September 16th	Boone Co Master Gardeners Apiary visit
October 5th	RJ Honey Beekeeping 101 (Harvest House)
October 19th	West Central Bee Club Meeting (Harvest House)
October 25-26th	The Beekeepers of Indiana Fall Conference; French Lick Resort

HARVEST HOUSE REPORT - 2019

A JMG information and registration session was held in April at Harvest House Community Center (HHCC). That same day a Learn, Grow, Eat and GO! (LGEG) educator training session was held for seven Master Gardeners including Curt Emanuel (Extension Educator, ANR, CD & CED Purdue Extension - Boone County). They volunteered to help at HHCC. These Master Gardeners were back-ups for Valerie Jasper in case she was not able to make every session. One of the Master Gardens also volunteered to help with the share gardens and the beehives.

We held three 4-H Junior Leaders workshops:

- April 30th 6-7pm - Alternate Garden Bed
- May 18th 10-12 - Herb Gardens
- June 11th 6-7pm - Composting
-

We hosted Whitestown/Zionsville Boys & Girls Club - Caring Hands Camp:

- June 13th - Bee Stations and Service Project
- July 11th - Bee Stations and Service Project

We had six 4-H kids come to Harvest House to learn about alternate gardening methods. We presented information about straw bale gardens, raised bed gardens, bag gardens and container gardens. Because of the rain, we did not build a straw bale garden, but they were able to plant potatoes in a bag garden. The kids in May planted the kitchen herb garden on the north side of Harvest House.

In May, we picked up 400 plus native rain garden plants, but we were not able to plant them until later last summer. We had to wait for the swale to dry and once it did then we had to wait for the overgrowth and trees to be removed. The rain garden plants were donated to St Peter's. The consultant for this project had donated her time for plant selection and garden design. Once the garden area was prepped eight master gardens came out to plant all those beautiful plants and put mulch around them.

The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) and Learn, Grow, Eat and GO! (LGEG) finished up with four of the 14 participants receiving the LGEG Certificates on July 30th. None of the Boys and Girls Club participants came in July. On August 6th all four of the gardeners received three certificates each for the eight topics the participants covered in the JMG Level 1 program. We had four volunteers from Boone Co. Master Gardeners help teach the two classes and help the students.

Sixty (60) Zionsville Caring Hands Campers came to learn about Care of Creation and St Peter's Apiary. As part of this event the campers prepared 30 pounds of strawberries for the freeze dryer in July.

Multiple canning and food preservation days had been scheduled for August. Harvest House cancelled canning classes in August due to lack of produce to can.

In September we harvested Basil from the herb garden and learned to make Pesto. We had six students in attendance.

We had an Elder Berry Syrup class in October for nine participants. This is a joint class between the Community Garden Group and Harvest House. Four of the St Peter's Master Gardener Volunteers and Sandy Dailey were also in attendance.

"Frank the Bread Guy" gave a Rye Bread class for four St. Peter's members, three of St. Peter's Master Gardener volunteers and three of St. Peter's partnering members from St. Joseph's Catholic Church food pantry volunteers.

In November we held a beeswax wrap workshop and did a presentation on how to use the Freeze Dryer to three master gardeners. Diana Halstead learned how to weigh and seal freeze dried products. She also learned about how to label and preserve freeze dried produce.

Artist Carol Powers conducted a Painting on Canvas class for the kids making a snowman using their foot.

In 2020 we will be providing an eight (8) month program to Teen Challenge. This will be an upgraded Level 1 Junior Master Gardener Program. Classes will be once a week for two(2) hours. Sandy Dailey is recruiting volunteers to teach each of the 8 topics at their facility. They will also be coming to St Peter's to start our community gardens in the spring. They may be joining some of our painting classes in the Spring and volunteering to help around Harvest House.

Also, the Summer of 2020, Harvest House will be engaging the community by offering four - one (1) week all day summer JMG camps (2 in June and 2 in July) plus other educational classes that are scheduled for Harvest House.

Many more 2020 classes are being planned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Dailey



SOCIAL LIFE & FUNDRAISING - 2019

2019 Social and Fundraising Activities

Month	Date	Start	End	Social Event	Location	Coordinator
February	13	5:00p	7:30p	Italian Dinner Night	St. Peter's	S Dailey
March	16	10:00a	12:00p	Frank the Bread Guy	Harvest House	S Dailey
April	21	11:30p	12:00p	Egg Hunt	St. Peter's	T Mohringer
May	28	6:30p	7:30p	Rogation Day	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
June	30	11:30a	12:30p	Parrish Picnic	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
September	13	4:00p	10:00p	Back to the Fifties – Strawberry Shortcake & Ice Cream Sundaes Booth	4H-Fairground	Daileys
	14	9:00a	4:00p	Back to the Fifties – Strawberry Shortcake & Ice Cream Sundaes Booth	4H-Fairground	Daileys
	26	6:00p	8:00p	Family Night – Salsa Making Party	St. Peter's	S Dailey
October	3	5:30p	8:30p	Harvest House – Puffed Pastry Apple Roses (Cooking Class)	Harvest House	S Dailey
	5	4:30p	9:00p	Oktoberfest & Hayride	St. Peter's	Daileys
	19	12:30p	3:00p	Frank the Bread Guy	Harvest House	S Dailey
	24	6:00p	8:00p	Family Night – Pumpkin Painting Contest and Carmel Apples	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
	31	7:30p	8:30p	All Hollow's Eve and Trunk or Treat	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
November	9	10:00a	12:00p	Painting on Canvas - Snowmen Children's Class	Harvest House	S Dailey
	24	12:00p	1:00p	Thanksgiving Baskets	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
	26	6:00p	8:00p	Family Night – Advent Wreaths	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
December	8	10:00a	12:00p	St. Nicholas Day	St. Peter's	S Dailey
	14	10:00a	12:00p	Gingerbread Houses for Children	Harvest House	S Dailey
	27	6:00p	8:00p	Family Night – "BINGO" Regifted Prizes	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher

2020 Planned Activities

Month	Date	Start	End	Social Event	Location	Coordinator
January	11	10:00a	12:00p	Painting on Canvas Winter Scene w/ Cardinal Adults Class	Harvest House	S Dailey
	19	12:00p	1:30pm	St Peter's Annual Meeting - Kids Party	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
	23	6:00p	8:00p	Family Night – Blue Bird Houses and Bird Seed Feeders	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
February	8	4:30p	7:00p	Italian Dinner Night	St. Peter's	Daileys
	25	5:00p	7:00p	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
March	??	6:00p	8:00p	Lent Soup and Service	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
	29	?	?	St. Peter's Day of Service	????	Fr. Christopher
April	12	11:30a	12:00p	Easter Egg Hunt	St. Peter's	T Mohringer
	23	6:00p	8:00p	Family Night – “BINGO”	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
May	19	6:00p	8:00p	Blessing of the Fields, Crops, and Farm Equipment	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher
June	?	11:30a	12:30p	Picnic	St. Peter's	Fr. Christopher



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - 2019

We have continued to hold Sunday School classes from 9:15-9:45 each Sunday morning from Labor Day through Memorial Day. This shift, which was initiated in 2017, has allowed our Sunday School teachers and children to fully participate in worship each week and allows children to assist in leading worship monthly on Children's Sunday. Our volunteer teachers base weekly lessons on the *Lesson Plans that Work* Curriculum from the Formation and Vocation Ministries Office of the Episcopal Church.

This year, we also began meeting together for an Intergenerational Faith Formation Class on the First Sunday of each month. Carol Ann and Maria have led us in a variety of stimulating experiences, from learning all verses of *Jesus Loves Me* by heart to composing our own final verse, to keeping Gratitude Journals throughout Advent and Christmas. This has quickly become one of my favorite times at St. Peter's!

Throughout this year, the children were invited to use The Sunday Paper, which follows the Lectionary cycle and offers supplemental activities that children can complete during the church service.

David and Elizabeth completed confirmation classes with Father Christopher and were confirmed into The Episcopal Church last fall.

The children have continued to play a prominent role in the services on first Sunday of each month (Children's Sundays). They've served as ushers, readers, Acolytes, and Crucifer as well as assisting with Altar Guild responsibilities and hosting during Coffee Hour. Adie, Grace, and Heavena have each bravely stepped into the role of Acolyte this year, and we even welcomed one of our guests to St. Peter's as a reader on Children's Sunday.

Christmastide 2019 brought the Fourth Annual Children's Christmas Eve Pageant. This year, a handful of "experienced youth" demonstrated courageous generosity in filling key roles, and the congregation was invited to participate in each scene. I am grateful to Matt, Jacob, David, Elizabeth, Dan, Grace, Elli, Adie, Destini, Suzanne, Lincoln, Father Christopher, and Amanda for helping us all to focus our attention on the profound beauty of the Nativity.

We are also grateful to have been able to offer our children opportunities to deepen their faith through various experiences at Waycross Camp. Matt and Elli each attended a week of summer camp, and Matt again attended a weekend Youth Retreat in the fall and plans to attend another this spring. Matt also tagged along with the delegation from St. Peter's at the Diocesan Convention in Bloomington last fall. He participated in several youth activities and even led the convention in prayer. Matt enjoyed this chance to reconnect with Waycross friends and gained a new perspective on the responsibility we all share to stand with the vulnerable and the marginalized. If you're a youth, or if you know a youth who would like to

take advantage of the programs offered at Waycross in 2020, I encourage you to speak to Father Christopher about the possibilities available throughout the year.

I'd like to end by thanking Lindsey and Amanda for sharing their gifts as volunteer Sunday School teachers, Kimberly for the many mornings she waited patiently to welcome young hearts, and the core of faithful, enthusiastic children and youth who share fresh love for the stories of the many ways God loves us all!

-Submitted by Shelbi Fortner

INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH FORMATION - 2019

For back-to-school time in September, we decided to try a new intergenerational faith formation class on the first Sunday of the month (which is also Children's Sunday).

Maria Shephard has been faithful in playing the guitar as we learned to sing all three verses of *Jesus love me* by heart and then continued to imprint that song in our minds and on our hearts as we gather each month.

The last line of the 3rd verse is "on the cross you died for me. I will try to live for thee." We talked about how we can share the love of Jesus with other people. Each person was given at least one pre-stamped postcard (with a lovely purple flower as the stamp) to send to someone, letting them know that Jesus loves them, and how they are important in our life.

During coffee hour, one of our new members shared that she liked the idea of sending a postcard - and mused, "Wouldn't it be good to send one every day?" and asked how much the postcards were. When she expressed the thought that 35

cents a day might be hard to sustain with a family, we talked about the possibility of sending out a postcard a day during Advent or Lent or perhaps just once a week throughout the year. Regardless of how often postcards are sent, it is a concrete way to express our gratitude for the love of Jesus exemplified by his dying on the cross for us.

In September, participants were encouraged to write another verse to *Jesus Loves Me* to share at the October session. That day one person offered this verse, which the group learned:

Jesus, come with us today, greeting
neighbors on our way.
Joyously to each proclaim, "Jesus loves
us all the same."
Yes, Jesus loves us, yes, Jesus loves
us,
Yes, Jesus loves us, The Bibles tells
me so.

We also talked about breath - in connection with the sequence hymn from the previous Sunday: *Breathe on me, Breath of God* and the relationship of breath and the Holy Spirit. In the Hebrew, breath and spirit are the same word - *ruach* (see the Genesis creation story and Ezekiel and the dry bones, which we hear on All Hallows' Eve). We experimented with a breath prayer:

Inhale love; exhale gratitude. The observations from the class included the fact that people felt calmer after the exercise.

In November, with Maria's help on the guitar, we practiced the four verses of *Jesus Love Me*, scheduled to be the Sequence hymn on December 1st.

We talked about saints - who is a saint? - from the viewpoint of Hymn #293 (*I sing a song of the saints of God*).

We discussed a Sunday School student's definition of a saint as "the people the light is shining through" (thinking of the stained-glass windows). We had a road trip around the church, viewing and hearing about the history of our stained-glass windows. Have you read the information on the windows (in small frames hanging nearby)?

Small notebooks (with 60 pages) were passed out for participants to use as a Gratitude Notebook from November 3rd through the Feast of the Epiphany.

In December, with continued gratitude to Maria Shephard for playing guitar as we sing, we practiced the four verses of *Jesus Love Me*, which was the Sequence hymn that day.

We talked about the Bible as a collection of stories that were passed on by people telling the stories. We gathered into a circle, and then told the Christmas story (since it was the twelfth day of Christmas), each person contributing a sentence that built upon the previous sentence.

We followed up on the use of the small notebooks give to participants to use as a Gratitude Notebook from November 3rd through the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th).

Feedback included using the Gratitude Notebook as part of morning devotions, sharing the feeling of calmness that resulted from focusing on gratitude, and a desire to continue being aware of opportunities to express gratitude each day.

Shelbi explained the science of why gratitude reinforces a feeling of calmness because of the integration of two parts of the brain. Ask Shelbi how this work.

ElliSue shared her feeling of gratitude for being able to give money to homeless people and expressed her desire to continue giving money to the homeless. Thank you for your wondrous generosity, ElliSue.

There is a relaxed and joyful atmosphere in this new intergenerational class with an openness and exchange of ideas by young and old alike. Attendance has ranged from eight participants to 15 or so. You are invited and encouraged to come and see - from 9:15 - 9:45am on the first Sunday of the month. We welcome your presence and your voice.

- Carol Ann Webb

MUSIC REPORT - 2019

As has become tradition (since it's been done more than once), on Easter Sunday, the congregation was invited to bring bells, which were enthusiastically rung throughout the singing of the processional hymn, #207, *Jesus Christ is risen today*. Throughout the Easter season, we sang a Gospel *Alleluia*, which we learned in 2015.

Familiar carols were a part of the Blue Christmas service, hosted by Trinity Lutheran for the community on December 21st. Although attendance was light, the service was extremely healing for at least one person in attendance. Prior to the beginning of the service, I was thinking that perhaps this might be something that needs to be discontinued. After hearing and later talking with the person who was visibly touched, I changed my mind. If we can reach out and comfort one person, it's worth doing.

On Children's Sunday, the first Sunday of the month, we have settled in to using *Jesus loves me*, usually as our hymn before the Gospel.

We continue to use the *Gloria*, #S-278 and the *Sanctus* (*Holy, holy, holy*), #S-128 from *The Hymnal 1982* that we learned in 2015, alternating them for a couple of months at a time with our more traditional settings.

We learned several new hymns this year, including *This is the Day*, used on Children's Sunday. Two hymns were used on the Last Sunday after Epiphany: *When candles are lighted* and *O Light of Light, Love given*

birth, a lovely hymn we will sing on the Last Sunday after Epiphany in 2020.

We sang *O Lord, you give us neighbors*, a powerful text, to the tune of *The Church's one foundation. Blessed Assurance* may be a song you're familiar with, but we used it at St. Peter's for the first time.

Two other new hymns from *The Hymnal 1982* were #393, *Praise our great and gracious Lord*, and #605, *What does the Lord require*.

We reviewed hymns learned in the past couple of years as well as hymns we hadn't sung for a while. We continue to sing hymns from the congregation's list of favorites.

Please express your appreciation to Jason Fortner for his ministry as cantor.

Thanks to Maria Shephard for accompanying *Silent Night* on the guitar for our Christmas Eve service - the way it was sung for the first time after it was written (their organ was broken).

And speaking of broken organs, the Allen digital organ we bought after the fire (in 2003) with insurance money and a gift from St. Paul's in Indianapolis was ruined by the lightning strike in September. What a joy to finally (after 3 and a half months, but who's counting) switch from the piano to our fabulous, fantastic new organ on Christmas Eve. I'm amazed at all the things it can do (including letting the organist record the music for an entire service before leaving on vacation, enabling the priest to playback

each piece from the app on his phone). And I'm still discovering new things.

The other joy in December was the gracious and generous gift from the congregation of an iPad Pro in honor of my 50 years as organist here at St. Peter's. Thank you! I'm looking forward to scanning music into the iPad and playing from it without having to switch bulky hymnals around. I have acquired the Apple pencil to make notes on the scanned scores, I have a great case, and I'm awaiting a "paper-like" screen protector so that writing notes feels like it's on paper. I can't wait to actually use it!

Both the organ and the iPad present steep learning curves. I appreciate your patience in this time of learning. Thank you for allowing me to indulge my passion for music and my passion for the organ over the past 50 years.

- Carol Ann Webb



ALTAR GUILD - 2019

Our St. Peter's Altar Guild continues to be a behind-the-scenes blessing as the members faithfully prepare the table around which we gather each Sunday to feast at God's banquet - and then clean and put things away.

We welcomed Caroline Bradley to the Altar Guild and appreciate her devoted attention to detail as she has embraced her new ministry of washing and ironing the altar linens used during Holy Communion. Caroline volunteered after a plea at last year's Annual Meeting. Thanks, Caroline!

Thanks to honorary Altar Guild member, Diana Halstead, who has graciously delivered the altar cloths to the cleaners and picked them up on several occasions. Wouldn't you like to be a full-fledged member, Diana? Jason, Shelbi, Caroline and I would welcome you with open arms!

Jason Fortner and Shelbi Fortner continue to bring their devotion and energy to this ministry. Jason has been an Altar Guild member almost from his first day at St. Peter's in January 2013 and Shelbi joined the group in 2018. We miss Lindsey Dickerson's presence and appreciate her nearly three years of service.

We continue to give thanks for the men in the congregation who have taken down/put up the green banners at various times during the year, as well as hanging the purple, oxblood and white drapes on the cross during Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Christmas. I'm so thankful I don't have to climb a ladder!

Decorating and preparing the church for Easter and Christmas involves extra help from members of the congregation. Without the help of those who faithfully assist in these two busy seasons, it would be a daunting task.

If you feel God is calling you to a ministry with the Altar Guild, please let me know. It is holy work. It is a blessing. Come and see!

- Carol Ann Webb

LABYRINTH REPORT - 2019

“There is a deep understanding that walking embodies our prayer and walking in a circle has a way of moving our brains out of their desired linear course.” ~Christine Valters Paintner in *The Soul’s Slow Ripening: 12 Celtic Practices for Seeking the Sacred*.

She continues, “Take a walk today as a way to embody prayer. If possible, try walking in a circle and notice what happens to your thoughts.” Go walk our labyrinth today!

For the third year, the Labyrinth team scheduled a Labyrinth Walk on the first Saturday in May, which fell on the 5th, in conjunction with World Labyrinth Day, whose tag line is “Walk at One at 1pm.” Participants are invited to “be part of a rolling wave of peaceful energy as the earth turns” by walking a labyrinth at 1pm local time.

We invited Trinity Lutheran Church to once again participate in the Labyrinth Walk, but we had to postpone the event due to the cold, drizzly day and the soggy, water-saturated ground on Saturday. The Cremer girls had been looking forward to placing the canned goods on the path, so we had a “do-over” the next day (bright and sunny) after the Sunday service. Elli Fortner organized the younger girls as they arranged the 96 food items before 8 people

walked the path for Peace, and then the four girls helped pick up the cans and put them back in the boxes.

I was asked to explain of why canned food items were used to outline the Labyrinth path. World Labyrinth Day is a walk for peace. The canned food on the labyrinth is visual reminder of those who are hungry, those who have difficulty experiencing peace when they are worried about how to fill the empty stomachs in their families. We give from our abundance, sharing God’s love with those in need of food and peace.

It was a wondrous event, even if it was a day “late.”

Last year, the Bradley family graciously offered the pavers left from the building of the fire pit for use in creating the entry to the labyrinth. Last spring was a busy time at St. Peter’s and the paver project was postponed until this spring.

We encourage the donation of a paver, naming someone in thanksgiving or in their memory. The name will be on the bottom of the paver. A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome table in the gathering area.

I give thanks that St. Peter’s has invested in offering this labyrinth to Lebanon and the

surrounding communities as a place of peace and harmony. We look forward to completing plans-on-hold: the paver entry to the labyrinth and plantings. We have purchased signage and a drinking fountain that will be put in place this spring.

The Labyrinth Team members included Jason Fortner, Diana Halstead, and Carol Ann Webb. We give thanks to Lindsey Dickerson for her faithful years on the Labyrinth team. She had never heard of a labyrinth when we started discussing it, but quickly became a strong supporter of the spirituality of the labyrinth.

If you feel called to be a part of the Labyrinth Team, please contact Carol Ann Webb or Fr. Christopher. We are grateful for your prayers and support. Your input is welcome.

- Carol Ann Webb



Our youngest walker on World Labyrinth Day
2018

GENEROSITY/STEWARDSHIP - 2019

Two things to think about and ponder in your hearts:

- Stewardship is about using the gifts God gives us to do the work God calls us to do.
- Our loving response to God's gifts is gratitude.

Stewardship is about using the gifts God gives us to do the work God calls us to do. Romans 12:6-7 tells us we have gifts that differ, according to the grace given to us, such as prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, generosity, diligence, and cheerfulness. These gifts are given to build up the body of Christ: God gives to us as individuals and as the expression of the church known as St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lebanon, Indiana.

Our loving response to God's gifts is gratitude.

As I've been thinking, and praying, and pondering, and praying about stewardship, I keep coming back to gratitude and how vitally important it is to express our gratitude in all our relationships: to God, to friends and family, and to our church family.

This congregation is blessed with an "overflowing spirit of generosity," which I've witnessed as an integral and defining expression of this congregation since I arrived at St. Peter's in 1969. Celebrating this generosity creates a bond and encourages us to continued giving through the use of our individual and congregational God-given gifts.

This year we instituted quarterly Generosity Letters, sent to all parishioners, lifting up the radical generosity seen and expressed in the previous quarter. These letters

detailed the generous, loving actions of sharing God's gifts with our neighbor by individuals and the congregation. Going forth into the world, we see God in our neighbor.

In June, Fr. Christopher, Jason and Shelbi Fortner, and I attended The Bishop's Summit on Faith & Giving, a one-day conference on the Ministry of Fundraising (as a joyful ministry). The day was packed with valuable information and ideas. The keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, helped us to understand the "theology of sufficiency" with energy, inspiration and imagination. One of the "a-ha" moments for me occurred during his presentation.

He told about the founding in 1889 of the Evangelical Deaconess Society of St. Louis, Missouri, an outgrowth of discrimination against Germans seeking medical assistance from local hospitals. The Society soon opened the first Evangelical Deaconess Home and Hospital. One day, two orphans were discovered at the door of the hospital. "What are we going to do with these orphans?" was the question. The answer was, "build an orphanage."

Starsky encouraged us to be alert for the orphans at our doorsteps, for the orphans just might be where God is calling us in our mission and ministry. Who are the orphans at St. Peter's doorsteps that we are being called to see?

The Gospel for 14 July was the story of the Good Samaritan, who was neighbor to a stranger. During coffee hour, we played the "Be a Neighbor" bingo game, which has

squares relating to generosity and being a neighbor. Afterwards, one of the young girls enthusiastically exclaimed, "That was fun. Thank you!"

People who use Tithe.ly (or other electronic giving methods) appreciate the ease of giving to their congregation without the hassle of writing a check (if they even have checks).

Often, however, they can feel left out when the offering plate is circulated on Sunday mornings, or they perhaps sense that people are "judging" them because they don't put anything in the plate, or they mourn the loss of the symbolism of giving that comes with physically putting something in the offering plate.

In order to provide Tithe.ly users with something to put into the offering plate on Sunday, we designed and ordered "I/We gave on Tithe.ly" cards, which are in a holder on the Welcome table. These cards are designed to be put in the offering plate. After counting the offering, the usher returns the cards to the holder.

The Grant Writers in our midst were working overtime (and burning the midnight oil) to complete three (3) grants prior to 11.10.19.

And...

...a shout of halleluiah that St. Peter's was selected as one of 18 Episcopal congregations to participate in the ChurchLands pilot cohort, a ministry of Plainsong Farm in Michigan. We are still awaiting news about other grants.

Our deep gratitude to Chuck and Sandy Dailey, Shelbi Fortner, and Fr. Christopher as they have given of their time, energy and knowledge to prepare these grants.

The annual pledge letter was mailed out in November, with ingathering of pledges on December 8th. We received 9 pledge cards for 2020 with a pledged total of \$36,550, with \$32,720 going to pledges, \$1,510 for Engaging Young Adults (EYA), and the balance of \$2,270 designed for the labyrinth, gardens, our seminarian and Christopher's+ discretionary fund.

A thank you letter has been sent to those who submitted a pledge card for 2020 - or it will be in the mail in the near future.

Thanks to each of you for your partnership in stewarding the wondrous gifts God gives us - individually and as a congregation - so that we can lovingly share those gifts with all our neighbors.

I see God in each of you - in your God-given gifts that you bring and offer to St. Peter's, which are combined with the gifts of others here and outside these church walls.

Thank you for listening to God's call in your life. Thank you for being a valued and valuable part of this congregation. We need you and your gifts and your voice as we work together to become the body of Christ at St. Peter's.

- Carol Ann Webb

~From the musical setting by John Michael Talbot

[Christ has no body now but yours:](https://youtu.be/wUbxOli4Hcl)

<https://youtu.be/wUbxOli4Hcl>

