

Annual Congregational Meeting 2019

Alphabetical Listing of Standing Committees with reports to follow:

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Please take time to read how these various ministries, in spite of this year's adversities, have continued in the mission of building a community of faith by God's grace.

Archives Committee - Carol Esbenshade, Chair

In 1880 our church started out as the dream of a handful of fervent Lutherans living in the Neffsville area. Traveling by horse-drawn wagon up to the Kissel Hill church was difficult, especially in bad weather. Their dream became a reality! Today, we worship in our third church building that was dedicated in 1959 with additions in 1987 and 2006. Just four years ago the Archives Committee was busy preparing historical displays for our modest 135th anniversary celebration and in the year 2030, St. Peter's will observe its 150th anniversary! The current location of our archival collection is a walk-in closet in the Christian Education wing. We are somewhat limited with this small space, but will continue to save documents, photos, council meeting minutes, Heralds, Sunday bulletins and more. Back in 1959 some of our historical items were lost or given to church members when we moved from our old church in Neffsville to our current location at the corner of Delp Road and Lititz Pike. We are grateful for the items we still have and want to preserve them for future generations. We encourage everyone to consider donating documents, photos or other items that may have historical value to our church or the Neffsville area. We will continue to share historical news items from Lancaster Newspaper's archives that pertain to St. Peter's. Watch your monthly church newsletter, *The Herald*.

Boy Scout Committee – Randy Wirth, Chair

It has been an eventful year where we were stretched to keep the troop strong and active, but we are doing very well and are thankful for St. Peter's support as we continue to prepare the boys to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling the values of the scout oath and law.

We are a large troop with 45 boys and a fully trained adult leadership team. Our core adult leadership team is:

- Chartered Organization Representative: Brad Ayars
- Committee Chairman: Randy Wirth
- Scoutmaster: Dave Martin
- Treasurer: Ted Vedock

We had a total of 15 boys join our troop from 3 packs in early March and many of them did not get a chance to join us in a meeting due to COVID-19. After a few weeks, we began virtual troop meetings and Merit Badge classes. Over 75% of the youth attended the meetings and/or worked on Merit Badges during this time. In early June, we received permission from St Peter's to restart meetings at the Neffsville Community Park. Despite summer camp being canceled and all the other issues, the scouts have been very busy.

Since our last report in October 2019, the boys have earned 42 rank advancements including 7 reaching the Eagle rank! In addition, 131 merit badges were earned. The Boy Scouts provided fewer service hours this year, but still managed to provide over 450 hours in the past 12 months, both at St.

Peter's (Scout Sunday & Cookie Walk) and in our surrounding community. All those Eagle projects accounted for over 160 hours.

We continue to search for other ways that Troop 84 and the church can work together to achieve our common goal of preparing young people to be good citizens who uphold the scout oath and law. We invite members of St. Peter's Church Council to stop in at our monthly Troop Committee meeting (3rd Monday, 6:30-8:00 PM) or just about any Monday for our regular Troop meeting (7:00-8:30 PM) in the Café. We hope to be back using the church for our Monday meetings at the end of October.

A Scout is Reverent.

Cemetery Committee – Lois Benton, Chair

The Cemetery Committee administers and maintains the Cemetery and administers the Memorial and Meditation Garden (which is maintained by the Church's Property Committee). Funds for maintenance and perpetual care are the responsibility of, and dependent upon the faith and good will of, the Church.

St. Peter's offers three burial options – Cemetery conventional burial interment, Cemetery Cremation Garden interment, and Memorial and Meditation Garden interment. Church and Cemetery Committee Member George Groff is responsible for the sale of lots, maintenance of the Cemetery, and working with funeral directors for any interments in both the Cemetery and the Memorial & Meditation Garden. His assistant is Church and Cemetery Committee Member Larry Miller.

The Committee is regularly attentive to: (1) normal operational and maintenance issues; (2) working with the Property Committee to improve the landscaping and maintenance of the Meditation and Memorial Garden; (3) updating and consolidating of the rules, regulations, and procedures of the Cemetery Committee into one document; (4) identifying requirements and procedures for memorial headstones or tombstones and the placement of those stones in the Cemetery; (5) the writing of the history of the Cemetery and the Meditation and Memorial Garden for placement on the Church's records; and (6) updating of the Cemetery Committee's and Church's Records on past issued deeds, burials, interments, lot sales, and the current availability of lots. Brochures containing additional information about the Cemetery and the Memorial and Meditation Garden are available in the Narthex rack or the Church office.

The losses of Barry Caldwell in June of 2018 and President Paul Rager in December of 2019 forced us to put a couple of long-term goals on hold while we regroup as a Committee. We are pleased that Lois Benton has accepted the call to serve as our chairperson for the coming 2021 year.

The Committee members are Donald Aurand, Lois Benton (Ch.), Mark Burkholder, George Groff, Rick Groff, Bob Hollinger, Kathy Caldwell (Sec.), Larry Miller, Dennis Sitler, Gary Williams and Pastor Craig.

Children's Ministries Committee – Julie Gotwald, Chair

The Children's Ministries Committee provides educational, worship, and

fellowship opportunities for members of St. Peter's that focus on, but

are not limited to, children from age 2 to 4th grade. Our focus is to

teach the Word of God and to nurture spiritual growth through varied

educational experiences for our youngest members. Our programming for

the past year included Sunday School for age 2 through 4th grade until March when the pandemic caused a lapse in face-to-face Sunday School instruction. However, we were able to offer virtual lessons via YouTube beginning on September 20th. First Communion Instruction and Recognition, Santa Workshop, Breakfast with Santa, Virtual Take Out Vacation Bible School, Worship Bags, and Bible Presentations were accomplished. The committee plans and implements these activities annually, supervised by the Director of Children's Ministries. This year, we experienced continued growth in attendance at our community events when we were able to host them. We are always in need of more volunteers to be on the committee or

to help teach and lead Rotation Sunday School. In addition, we are currently in need of a chairperson for this committee. Please consider these opportunities to serve this important educational ministry.

Communications Committee – Jill Kerchner, Chair

The Communications Committee facilitates the management of the overall public image of St. Peter's. Our goal is to raise the level of awareness about the church, our ministries, and our events to our members and the community.

In a year that has presented incredible unforeseen challenges, we have seen an excellent return on our previous investment in online resources. The website is a hub of timely information. The homepage is frequently reconfigured via banners, links and drop down messages to accurately represent the current reality of worship and learning opportunities. To fill a void left by the absence of a printed weekly bulletin during church closure, an enhanced announcement section was also added. The Worship and Learn pages are also kept current. Our Facebook page continues to be lively, providing several weekly posts, access to blogs, and alerts to upcoming events or schedule changes. The addition of a Wednesday weekly update to disseminate late breaking news has been particularly useful. Without a doubt, the use of our already established YouTube channel has been invaluable to the ability to provide virtual means of worship and connection during the pandemic. We monitor the metrics of our online communication to help hone our efforts to get the word out about our ministries.

We have actively sought and used various other means in an attempt to keep all of our membership informed. Direct email, postal mailing, the Herald newsletter, church signage, press releases, and LNP ads, as well as worship service walk-in slides, have been employed.

Endowment Committee – Stephen Gegg, Chair

The mission of the Endowment Committee is to consolidate, manage, and utilize, in a responsible and effective manner, all existing and future bequests, memorial gifts and other gifts designated for the endowment.

This is accomplished by:

- 1) Investing the endowment assets in a prudent manner that allows for a maximum return on the fund investments, while at the same time diversifying the portfolio to mitigate risk.
- 2) Distributing income generated for benevolence or other church expenditures that are not part of the annual budget and that meet specific guidelines established by the committee.
- 3) Educating the congregation and others about the endowment in order to encourage and generate future contributions.

Endowment Committee members include Stephen Gegg (Chair), Scott Glassford, (Treasurer), Karen Peiffer (Secretary), Beth Soslow, (Church Council President), and Pastor Craig Ross.

2020 has proven to be a volatile year due to COVID and the impact the virus had on jobs, the economy, consumer spending, and equity markets. Swift and immediate Fed actions in March reduced overnight interest rates to near zero while the Federal government took significant financial actions to stabilize the US economy and the American consumer. Strong 2019 market gains were quickly eroded during the first quarter as the S&P tumbled 19.61%, the S&P MidCap lost 27.07%, and the Russell 2000 fell 30.61%. Corporate bond funds, which typically show gains in market pull-backs, generally reported losses during the first quarter. High credit quality US government bond funds showed positive returns.

Combined assets in the Endowment and General Fund portfolios closed 2019 at \$918,735.09. By March 31, 2020, combined assets decreased by \$93,087.07 to close the quarter at \$764,906.74. Total 2019 income was \$19,944.51 but with the reset in rates and early market losses, 2020 income is likely to be reduced by about \$6,700 (about 33%) year-over-year. We should stress the reduction in market values and income is not the result of poor investment selection but is indicative of the market environment.

After the extreme and historic volatility in the first quarter, equity markets rallied with very strong performance from April through August. September took a few of the gains off the table, but combined assets that started the year at \$918,735.09 closed September 30 at \$932,488.86. The closing combined portfolio balance is net of fees and distributions and reflects a growth in investable balances of \$13,753. Total year-to-date distributions through September 30 were \$8,000 while portfolio management fees payable to Fulton Bank were \$6,243. Gross income collected is \$9,893.

During 2020, the Committee worked with Fulton to update the Investment Policy Statement (IPS) for the two portfolios. The IPS is the most important document in an investment management relationship since it outlines the client's risk tolerances, asset allocation expectations, diversification needs, and acceptable investments and benchmarking. The primary changes to the IPS included updating all language and terminology to reflect the management process applied to the portfolios, updating index and benchmark expectations, restating what are acceptable investments, and adjusting the equity and fixed income/money market asset allocations. The updated IPS was approved by Council and signed by the Committee and Fulton Bank in June 2020.

Asset allocations are in line with commonly accepted standards for long-term portfolios. Reasonable limitation caps were applied to small cap, developed international, emerging markets, and high yield investments. All asset holdings are mutual fund investments that are under Fulton's professional oversight. As of September 30, the Endowment equity exposure was 66% while the General Fund was 61%. Both are allocated at target levels and both portfolios are well diversified.

The Endowment Committee is charged with overseeing these portfolios in the best interest of the Congregation. We will continue to work with our investment manager by meeting with them semi-annually to ensure that proper due diligence and oversight is applied to our accounts. We will continue to look past short-term volatility to maintain a long-term perspective on market risk and appropriate asset allocations.

Evangelism Committee – Judy Logan, Chair

The mission of the Evangelism Team is to assist prospective members in their journey from the door, to the pew, to faithful engagement in the church.

To that end, some highlights for 2020 include:

- The database system of tracking and connecting church leaders to visitors continued through spring when in-person worship was suspended.
- Update on Sponsorship Program:

Created a streamlined system of identification and communication

to ensure that sponsors are identified and are given the right tools to ensure that our new member households continue to feel welcomed.
- Last March, after the traditional two member orientation sessions, we welcomed 11 new member households. Within weeks of their reception, in-person worship was suspended, so we reached out to our assigned sponsors to encourage ongoing contacts. As in the past, new members were invited to reunite this fall. A group gathered safely outdoors to socialize and to receive an updated list of worship opportunities.
- In October, new member sessions were conducted virtually and in-person.

Despite our 2020 challenges, five new member households were received into membership. One family will continue to worship virtually as they travel out-of-state. Opportunity borne out of adversity. God's blessings!
- In May, Christine Healy provided a series of Yoga videos that could be accessed via our website. Consideration for a winter Yoga Session II or potentially a Zumba Session I is being considered.
- Finally, we are excited to work with church leaders as we explore additional ways to engage in creating a culture of invitation as we transition back from virtual to in-person gathering.

Fellowship Committee – Lynn Fyfe, Chair

Fellowship got off to a great start in 2020, before many of our planned events were cancelled due to Coronavirus.

- We started the year with a fun game night in January. Attendees taught each other some new games, and others played some old favorites.
- Fellowship hosted the reception following the Hymn Sing in February, which was a great success!

Several small fellowship groups have been started in the last year, some before and others during the shutdown. Among those are the Widows' Group, Beverages and Hymns, Moms of Young Children Bible Study, Volleyball Fellowship, and Moral Mondays discussion group. Thanks to Zoom meetings, several of those groups, as well as Book Club and Pub Theology, have been able to continue to "gather" virtually without missing a beat! Many thanks to those who started these groups and have worked to keep them going!

We were unable to host the remaining planned activities for spring, including Bunco Night, the Mid-Week Lenten Meals, Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday, and the Fall Picnic. We look forward to planning those events in the future.

In addition to the above activities, there are many other functions that the committee serves.

- Neil Snyder makes sure our kitchen is well stocked for all who use the supplies, and he organizes the cleaning crew for the yearly deep cleaning of the kitchen.
- Donna Aho and Nancy Pokopec organize a large group of volunteers who operate our coffee bar in the Narthex each week.
- We are currently searching for a chair or co-chairs to organize the group that provides a coffee bar for New Day services each week, once we are able to return to normal.

This year's greatest challenge will be finding and planning activities that are safe for our church family. Please reach out with any suggestions!

Finance Committee – Sherry Moul, Chair

The Finance Committee is responsible for the stewardship of church assets and provides financial oversight, through the creation and implementation of internal controls and policies, to ensure financial accountability. The Committee is also responsible for setting the annual church budget, based on individual committee budget requests, to be presented for approval by both the Church Council and the congregation. In 2020, the Finance Committee continued to monitor our income and expenses and began working with other committees and Council to develop a plan to meet the church's long-term capital needs. The Committee also worked to pay off and maintain a zero balance on the church's line of credit throughout the entire year, while maintaining a healthy balance sheet.

Human Resources Committee – John Kerchner, Chair

The mission of the Human Resources Committee is to support the Council and the staff by assisting with human resource-related tasks including calculating benefit cost changes, reviewing salary recommendations, ensuring that staff evaluations are completed, and any other human resource-related issues. Our responsibilities include, but are not limited to: reviewing and updating job descriptions for all church staff as needed; determining and setting staff salaries and benefit packages; formulating and proposing the HR budget for the upcoming year; reviewing all rostered leaders with input from the Council president; auditing all non-clergy staff reviews; reviewing a list of

official holidays for the upcoming year; submitting a report of yearly activities for the annual congregational meeting; and, upon recommendation of the Preschool Committee, providing for preschool personnel, salary, and benefits adjustments.

Under the leadership of our new chair, John Kerchner, the 2021 HR budget was prepared and submitted to the Finance Committee.

Plans for 2021 include investigating staff health insurance plan options, standardizing the employee evaluation process, and incorporating staff comments into a final draft of the employee handbook.

Local Social Committee – Molly Olmstead, Chair

The ministries of the Local Social Committee are working on finding their footing in this new reality. Community Meals are now being served as a “To Go” option to avoid gathering indoors. Lydia’s Closet has an online order form so that orders can be filled and families can utilize a contactless pick up option. Quilters are working at home and have only briefly met outside to trade fabrics.

We have found in all these areas that we are able to continue our work, but it is becoming more difficult to reach those who need our services. Attendance has been down at Community Meals and fewer than half of the families who we usually aid are utilizing our clothing order form. As this pandemic drags on, we will continue to try to be flexible to meet the needs of our community.

On a housekeeping note, the Community Aid bins that support Lydia’s Closet in our parking lot and that of Neffsville Mennonite will be removed by Community Aid and we will need to drive our donations out to the store to receive credit for them. Because of this change we will now receive 6 cents for every pound instead of the 4 cents we had been receiving.

Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ of Lancaster County) receives referrals daily from social service agencies and pastors, in addition to receiving calls directly from those in need. St. Peter’s is partnering with Love INC to aid those right in our own neighborhood. St. Peter’s received 73 requests from Love, INC between Oct 2019 and Sept 2020. 39 of the requests were filled (53%). Activity was reduced this year due to COVID-19 concerns. Most requests have been for transportation to medical appointments. St. Peter’s currently has 6 daytime and 2 evening volunteers. **Additional daytime volunteers are needed** to support Love INC’s client needs in our MT neighborhood.

MT Homes of Hope is an ecumenical project through the Manheim Township Ministerium where churches from MT (Lancaster Brethren in Christ, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, and Landis Valley Christian Fellowship) work together to support transitional housing for a homeless family in need. An apartment in the MT School District, housed its first family April 2017. Mentors and Budget Coaches work with the family for approximately 4 - 6 months to nurture, guide, and teach them methods towards being self-sufficient.

A 6th family entered the MT program in February 2020. Two mentors and two budget coaches are meeting regularly with the family, via phone or virtual means due to Covid. The family has stayed in the program longer than anticipated because the pandemic did affect the father’s employment for several months. The family is successfully adapting to tracking and monitoring their expenses, while saving for their move to an apartment in December.

The MT HOH Board is in need of gift cards from grocery stores, Walmart, or Target in order to be prepared to restock the home with household items after a family completes the program. There is an ongoing household need as linens and personal items are gifted to the families when they successfully exit the program. Gift card donations may be dropped off at the church office in an envelope marked "Homes of Hope."

Long Range Planning Committee – Janet Roberts, Chair (Retiring)

Long Range Planning coordinated the effort to have committees review their 2019 goals and create 2020 goals. These were compiled and delivered to Council.

In coordination with the January Council meeting, Betsy Linn and LRP brought committee chairs together to meet with Richie and Rachel Musser from Kirby-Smith Associates in preparation for the pending Mission Campaign. The lively meeting brought together many good ideas and built relationships.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic restrictions beginning in March, the committee put all activities on hold for the remainder of the year.

After serving as Chair of Long Range Planning Committee for the last six years, I am retiring from this position. I want to thank the Council and church staff for their support and the opportunity to serve St. Peter's. I trust the members to move forward and invite new participants into the committee. After we all emerge from the pandemic restrictions, I believe God will give us the opportunity to spread His Word in new and exciting ways. God bless.

Mutual Ministry Committee - Sherry Weller, Chair

The Mutual Ministry Committee continues to function as the liaison between the rostered leaders, the congregation and the community.

The Committee:

- Is Mission oriented – representing the congregation and supporting the rostered leadership
- Builds on a broad vision of ministry
- Embraces a healthy practice of inclusion and develops mutuality
- Listens & observes the life of the congregation, recognizing areas that may warrant attention, and serves as the conduit between the congregation/community and Pastor Ross, Pastor Teichmann, and Sister Almoney

- Shares feedback from the congregation and community with the rostered leaders, to further the church's growth and vision

We strongly encourage members of the congregation to share their concerns, both positive and negative, with members of the Committee or with the pastors or Sister Dottie. This open dialogue is critical to the health of the church. Without the opportunity to share opinions regarding all types of concerns, they might go unnoticed and therefore not be addressed.

Even with COVID's impact on personnel and the church, the items discussed this past year included: church safety, computer upgrades, and HVAC needs

Meetings occur every other month. The Committee has 9 members, including Pastor Ross, Pastor Teichmann and Sister Almoney. Each member plays an important role, including presenting Bible study, offering prayers, and leading the meetings. While many committees have specific goals, the Mutual Ministry Committee serves as the eyes and ears of the church, keeping a pulse on any issue. We hope that we function in a way that supports all people, the mission/vision of the church, and the community at large.

Membership: Sherry Weller (Chair), Pastor Ross, Pastor Teichmann, Sister Almoney, Mary Ann Frontz, Mark Aho, Mark Beauregard, Angela Moshos, and Cindy Stauffer.

Parish Life Committee - Christine Smith, Chair

Parish Life includes several smaller committees and groups: WELCA, Library, Funeral Hospitality, Flower Deliveries, Sages Special Events, Meal and Transportation Requests, and the Prayer Chain. Most have been put on hold since March, but a highlight to share is with the Prayer Chain that has been able to function at its fullest.

Funeral Hospitality: Funeral receptions are on hold for now. The Committee grieves over the loss of Paul Rager in December 2019. Paul and his wife Sally were longtime members and chairs of the Committee. Paul and Sally stepped down in 2019, but Paul's loss is still strong within the Committee. When possible, the Committee looks forward to serving again.

Prayer Chain: (from leaders Ginny Gerhart and Angela Moshos) The Prayer Chain continues to pray for all of our members and for requests as received. To accommodate the ever-growing number of requests, we made a few adjustments this year. Most notably, we are now praying for received requests daily for one week instead of two weeks. We have seen an increase in online requests, but overall requests are down a bit, probably because folks aren't in the physical church building. We welcomed Christine Ponti last October, through the Volunteer Fair, and June Crisp in September, as members of the chain. We've also lost a few members over the past year from illness and joining the church triumphant. We would LOVE to have some more members! Because of restrictions, we didn't have our annual Spring Book Study, but are hoping we can resume it this spring. We also hope to have an All Member Meeting in the spring. We thank the congregation for continuing to entrust us with your prayer requests, especially during a time of stress. For more information, please contact either Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 or Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201.

WELCA: The attendance was running strong prior to March's suspension of activities. WELCA was able to pack and deliver 90 Personal Care kits this fall for distribution to Lutheran World Relief as part of its yearly service project. The kits delivered were most welcomed and needed. WELCA is being led by Katharine Caldwell and Sally Rager with Nancy LeFevre serving as treasurer and Ann Larrick leading special projects. WELCA members did make Sages' Easter gifts, but they weren't able to be delivered so they are on hold for Easter 2021.

Library: Activity at the library is on hold, along with helping with Pre-school story time. Mary Ann Frontz continues to oversee the Library activities.

Sages Special Events: We hosted a record number of Sages for the December 2019 service and luncheon. Maundy Thursday event probably would have been the same, had it not been cancelled. For the August birthday/anniversary reception, plans were altered and gifts were delivered to the "new Sages" along with a mailing to the seasoned Sages. This seemed to be a good adaptation for this year.

Meal/transportation Requests: Not many requests in 2019 and 2020. Committee is able to handle all requests, but would like some new members.

Altar Flower Deliveries: Was working well prior to March, plenty of volunteers. This is on hold for the time being.

Pastoral Care Ministry – Nancy LeFevre, Chair

The mission of our Pastoral Care Committee is offering mutual care to the people of St. Peter's parish. We call and offer concern and help after a significant event in their life has occurred. The event could be a hospitalization, a death in the family, an illness, or a transition in their life experiences. We extend and enhance the pastoral visitations. The suggested contacts are primarily directed by the pastors. We also contact people who have not been in church for a while. Sometimes we learn about a reason or can offer help to them.

The coordination between the different groups and the recording in one report has been very helpful to the pastors. Everyone in these groups has become aware of how important these contacts are. As our parish has grown, these extra contacts and coordination have become important in keeping our parish members connected. Thanks to our Assistant Secretary, JoAnn Harriger, this year we started a slightly different online format to record our Home Communion visits. Hopefully, this proves to be easier to read for the pastors in the future.

The contacts made by the Card Group continued this year in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. We received positive written responses and calls of appreciation for the beautiful handmade cards which we send. We send thinking-of-you cards, get well cards, and congratulations cards for babies or weddings.

The care calls made by the In-Touch Team have also continued this year. In fact, they have increased because of the pandemic. Since we cannot visit any retirement villages, homes, or hospitals, the Nightingales, the Home Communion Team, and the Pastors have all communicated more through telephone calls. They have also been appreciated a lot. Our pastoral staff has done seven graveside services with just family members instead of our usual church services. They have also had eleven funerals - three on site before the pandemic, the other eight in funeral homes.

In spite of the challenges we have faced this year, we have been keeping connected with our parish members, and the feedback from our efforts has been positive.

Preschool Committee – Lorraine DiBernardo, Chair

Our preschool life was going well, and we were enjoying a year with buzzing classrooms and looking forward to the 2020/21 school year at peak enrollment. Then, as everyone experienced, our world came to a sudden halt on March 13, 2020 when we heard that the pandemic was forcing us to shut our doors. We didn't even have a chance to say goodbye to our students in any meaningful way, as we were sure things would resume within a few short weeks. It was a devastating reality to soon realize we would not see our students and each other in person for the foreseeable future.

While we could not see our students in person to finish out the last 7 weeks of our school year, our teachers quickly set up an online story time so that we could all remain connected, We all took turns reading to our kiddos and that gave us a sense of purpose while we waited for the world to go back to *normal*, which, as we all know, hasn't quite happened yet. We Zoomed with some of our classes, which is quite challenging with preschoolers, kept parents informed through our Remind texting system, sent out surveys to families, and had a DRIVE THROUGH reunion in June so that we could wave to our students and provide parents with year-end journals, projects and classroom belongings.

Working with our Safe Church Task Force, church staff, community preschools/programs, the surrounding school districts, the Lutheran school community, and medical/science professionals, we were advised to make the difficult decision to remain closed to physical attendance through January, 2021. Our teachers and staff once again rallied to provide a more comprehensive virtual component for our students and, after many Zoom meetings together, we were able to design and implement (starting on 9/8) a twice-weekly series of videos called St. Peter's Preschool Time, which offers (free of charge) online activities, stories, songs, and creative art experiences for children of preschool age. We do understand that we cannot replicate the blessings and dynamic interactions that occur in classrooms. However, our teachers are challenged by the determination to find new and different ways to connect and engage such young students.

At this time, we have over 75 families signed up and participating in our online ministry. We are thrilled with the response and enjoying the photos and videos that parents send to us, so that we can see our students working hard and joyfully engaged in learning.

Our aspirational plan is to reopen our preschool physically in time for the January-May semester, but our definite plans are uncertain. We will be operating at about 50% enrollment and have lost many beloved teachers to unexpected retirement due to the COVID crisis. Our remaining staff continues to work together virtually with great purpose and we are making tentative plans to return to our classrooms as soon as we are able to do so safely, and in a fiscally responsible way as well.

The spirit and mission of our preschool remains strong and resilient. We ask for your support and your prayers as we all face a challenging future.

Property Committee – Rob Morrison, Chair

The Property Committee has committed countless hours over the past year ensuring that our church property is maintained. We have invested in achieving long-term energy efficiency and reevaluating our facility's maintenance programs. The property committee takes on various jobs including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, mulching the property, and general handyman services.

Our most determined efforts continue to be in restoring the serviceability and reliability of our HVAC systems in both our new and old church areas. This year we replaced the HVAC control system for the south side of the building and are getting familiar with how to use the new system. The new system has many upgrades and features that our old system did not, and we are seeing more reliability with it. We also have replaced a couple of the HVAC units on the roof that service the north side of the building, as they were very outdated and parts were no longer available. We believe that with these upgrades, we have restored some reliability to the HVAC systems.

A major repair/replacement concern is the parking lot. Our parking lot is rapidly deteriorating. This repair is also very costly and one that the Property budget cannot handle. The parking lot is also a major safety concern. We are hoping that we can get this replaced as part of the Mission Campaign, if that moves forward.

Our building and internal systems are getting old and it is no longer cost effective to just continually repair them. We continue looking to see what systems and equipment need to be replaced before they break down completely. We know that this will be very costly and we are exploring how to fund these projects with hopes that the Mission Campaign will fund them. We will continue our efforts to make the building look in pristine condition and feel comfortable and welcoming to all who enter our space. 2020 has been a year like no other and the Property Committee has gotten somewhat of a much needed break with the facility not being used day in and day out. Thank you to all who serve on the Committee; we are always looking for new faces to join the Property Committee.

Risk Management - Safe Church Report – Sister Dottie Almoney

This past year has been very busy for our committee. While we began in January with discussing intruder drills, fire drills, and safety procedures, we quickly shifted to COVID-19 protection.

We meet monthly to discuss updates from the CDC, Governor Wolf, and Bishop James Dunlop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. We keep track of spikes in COVID Cases and how that affects our church community.

Mark Beauregard has worked diligently on preparing ushers for our Drive-In Worship and on putting procedures in place for indoor worship as well.

We have purchased hand sanitizer stations, gloves, masks for those in need, cleaning supplies, and signage, and established office protocol. We recently purchased a commercial fogger for use in our church for disinfecting.

We currently keep track of who attends our worship services, as well as who comes into our building, for contact tracing in the event that we need to alert others due to an outbreak or a positive case of someone who attended a church activity.

We continue to work to adjust protocol for our classrooms and worship spaces, following best practices from the CDC. We will also continue to work on volunteer and staff child abuse and police clearances as updates are needed.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Stay Faithful!

Our committee members include: Joe Almoney, Kris Armitage, Mark Beauregard, Kathy Berkebile, Lorraine DiBernardo, Cindy Geesey, Geoff Groff, Cheryl Laub, Rob Morrison, and Gary Williams, with Sister Dottie as staff liaison.

Stewardship Committee – vacant chair

Mission Statement - St. Peter's Stewardship Committee's mission is to inspire church members to share their God-given time, talent and treasure to enrich their personal faith journey (and the lives of others).

Activity - As for many committees, 2020 has been a strange year. The Stewardship Committee has met a couple of times during the pandemic for the purpose of assessing congregational financial support, along with planning the Fall 2020 Stewardship Campaign in support of the yet-to-be approved 2021 budget. Our new Volunteer Steward position, staffed by Betsy Linn, has entered its second year of existence, and has been an excellent resource for staff members and lay leaders in leadership recruitment.

Transition - after six years of excellent service to our committee and the congregation, Steve Roberts has stepped down as chair of our committee. Steve has been a champion for a broad and multi-faceted stewardship ministry, emphasizing regular offerings, planned giving, Time & Talent ministries, and Spiritual Gifts assessment. We are assessing whether we have our next chair from within the committee, or whether we will search in the broader congregation.

Committee Members - Lynn Fyfe, Betsy Linn (Volunteer Steward), Jennifer Schlener-Thomas, Randy Shue, Barbara Tolbert, Adrian Young, Pastor Craig and Pastor Sarah.

Tanzania Mission Committee – Alan Swanson, Chair

TMC's three goals for this year were:

1. Raise \$9,500 for the Busoka orphans, Church, and Itete Hospital.
2. Raise and donate \$5,000 or more to help build the new Busoka Lutheran Church.
3. Pray for the Busoka community and the orphans at all of our church services.

2020 started out like all other years for the TMC. We sent the funds that were raised in 2019 to Busoka, Tanzania, to assist the orphans and to help rebuild their church. We were also able to send some money to Itete Hospital, located close to Busoka.

Through the generosity of everyone at St. Peter's, we have sent \$20,000+ so far to help rebuild their church. And the Busoka people have made great progress constructing their new building.

Peter Murdock visited Busoka in March and brought back pictures and stories of the Busoka people and construction activities on their new church building. Peter continues to receive new photos of the construction and the recent dedication of the work completed on the building.

The village fortunately has not been impacted by the COVID 19 virus.



Laying foundation stones in March 2020



Walls being erected in August 2020

The TMC began our annual Sub Sale in March, just as the COVID 19 virus was heating up, and we had to stop the sale about halfway through when St. Peter's closed down. Fortunately, we were able to raise over \$1,200 from the subs we had already sold.

We also received the second of three \$5,000 grants from St. Peter's Endowment Committee. The funds were sent to Busoka this spring for the new church building.

Although the COVID 19 virus has slowed down our committee's activities, the communications between people from Busoka and the TMC and Peter Murdock have continued highlighting the church rebuilding activities and the Busoka people's on-going prayers for the people of St. Peter's.

The TMC will receive \$3,700 from the Christine Mummert Memorial Fund, and those funds will go towards the new church building at Busoka.

The Tanzania Mission Committee is planning a Drive-Thru Cookie Walk in December, pending getting clearance from the St. Peter's Safe Church Committee. The Cookie Walk has many obstacles to be removed before we can make it happen. Additional communications will be made in early November on the status of the largest annual fundraiser the TMC has for the people of Busoka.

The people of Busoka and St. Peter's continue to pray for each other each Sunday strengthening our relationship and the bond that is now 13 years old.

The committee leadership will change beginning in January 2021.

Worship Committee – Traditional and New Day - Jordan Lambert, Chair

The church has had to make huge adjustments to our liturgy, worship style, and schedule during the outbreak year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We shifted from a full Sunday schedule in the church on Lent III (March 8, 2020) to a state-enforced shutdown that is only now being relaxed. With the large and diverse congregation that we have, such dramatic change had its own risks of lost community and people feeling that their worship needs are not being met. The entire staff and the Worship, New Day, and Safe Church committees have responded to the challenge in creative ways that are keeping our spiritual as well as physical health foremost. Here is a list of the changes we've made:

a. The rostered staff moved quickly to create a weekly streamed "Church@Home" service that mixes elements of New Day and Traditional worship. Pastor Sarah, Erik, and Adam deserve enormous praise for their creativity in combining live and prerecorded segments in a friendly, lively Service of the Word including familiar music, the Children's sermon, and even occasional (safely produced) performances by the choirs and New Day band. Week to week, we have had steady "virtual congregation" attendance in the hundreds, and one unexpected benefit is that friends and relatives are also able to participate, either in "real time" or by watching the recording.

b. Recognizing that a church service occurring on a small screen via Internet connection is not comfortable for everyone, the staff collected survey input at the beginning and end of the summer to explore what worship needs are not being met. A significant proportion of the congregation (between

a quarter and a third of respondents) signaled a desire to go beyond the streamed format and return to a safe form of indoor worship as soon as possible. As the county began to settle in with social-distancing restrictions, we moved the live Sunday broadcast back to the main sanctuary with only the worship leaders in the church. Because the conditions for reopening the church building have been delayed, we also added a weekly “parking lot” service where people can at least see each other from our cars. Blessed by good late-summer weather, we have offered a simplified Communion service each Sunday afternoon since Labor Day.

c. As soon as the initial shutdown occurred, members of the Traditional and New Day worship committees merged forces in order to support and guide us through the journey back to “new normal,” which of course we have not yet reached. Meeting monthly by Zoom, the blended committee has advised on evolution of the live stream and drive-in services while also making plans for the eventual resumption of “Church@Church.” We can all be thankful for the resilience and optimism of this group as we faced difficult issues and state guidelines that shift from month to month.

So, what can we say about plans for returning to indoor church? Assuming that the public health conditions do not deteriorate, we hope to begin by resuming an 8:00 Traditional service in November. As long as the virus poses a threat of community spread, this service will be fairly brief, will require masks and widely spaced seating, and will not have any choir or congregational singing. We will offer communion using individual “fellowship cups” which have been successful in the parking-lot worship. The popular “Church@Home” service continues weekly at 10:45 for people to participate from home. Needless to say, we have quite a challenge to offer the range of Advent and Christmas services that we normally would.

The Worship goals for 2021 will depend on Lancaster’s progress in controlling the spread of the virus in group settings. At whatever pace St. Peter’s is able to move back toward a full Traditional/New Day service schedule, we will continue to offer our newly enlivened live-stream alternative (pioneered by New Day in the past) because we have learned its value to expand our worship experience and evangelism. We expect that there will be exciting possibilities for new worship developments throughout the coming year. I thank retiring committee members Jill Pretz, Dick Schaefer, and Stephanie Palic for their many years of faithful, sage advice. Now is an excellent time for anyone to join the discussion as a part-time or full-time member of the committee, which meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. Please contact Adam (adam.hughes@stpeterslanca.org) if you would like meeting notices.

Youth and Family Committee – vacant chair

What can I say but this has been a year like no other! November 2019 thru February 2020 was pretty “normal” – youth group, dinner theater, retreats, youth Sunday. However, the coronavirus brought all of this to an abrupt halt!

After a week or two of trying to restructure and gain some normalcy as is pertained to church and its activities, we quickly went into "Zoom" mode. We created virtual classes for grades 5-8, grade 9, and grades 10-12, along with virtual adult classes. Pub Theology met weekly for a few months than gradually went back to monthly as our restrictions of movement were eased. At this point, we have both a Zoom meeting and an in-person meeting at a home or in the church until we are able to once again eat at a restaurant safely.

We created a new group, Moral Monday book study, which began reading *White Fragility* in June led by Jennifer Schlener. Our group has decided to meet the first and third Mondays of the month. Our current reading is *Dear Church*. The goal of this group is to educate ourselves on systemic racism and to ultimately educate the church community on this topic as well.

We began Sunday school in September with options through Zoom or in person. The Hosler family is hosting a small learning pod for youth in grades 5-8, along with their younger siblings and parents, who also have a learning opportunity on Sunday morning. We are currently looking to form more small learning pods either here at church or at homes of parishioners. This gives us new opportunities for learning, both here at church and remotely, and fosters community through small groups.

Our youth group events will also look different, as we hosted a corn maze and trunk or treat in October, and will be looking at outside activities or other socially distant events for our youth. Retreats for 2021 are scheduled but we will continue to discern whether we are able to have these due to the virus. The health and safety of our youth and families is the highest priority that we have right now.