



St. Peter's Anglican Church

Lifelong learning

Lifelong growing

Lifelong serving

In the body of Christ

ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT FOR 2025 ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

This document is a report to the St. Peter's Congregation, that highlights our year end reports across all activities of the parish and lays out for approval the relevant items for the current upcoming calendar year.

St. Peter's Annual Vestry Meeting

is scheduled to occur on

Sunday, February 22nd 2026,

following the 10:30am service

in the Great Hall

We invite all parish members, new and old, to attend.

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St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cobourg

Annual Parish Vestry Meeting

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026

12:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk *(Nominee: Patricia Rogerson)*
3. Approve Agenda and Signing Vestry Declaration
4. Review / Accept past year's Vestry Minutes
5. Parish Leadership Reports *(Bishop's, Rector's, BOM and Warden's Reports)*
6. Financial Presentations (2025 Actuals & 2026 Budget)
 (Please note: The Official Parish Audit is just completed and will be provided at the meeting.)
7. Appointments and Elections
8. Receive and Accept Parish General Reports
9. Motions for consideration by Vestry
 (Motions for meeting: Appointment of Auditor, Rectory Grant & BOM Thank You.)
10. Presentation & Update on Parish Construction Debt
11. New Business arising during the Meeting
12. Thanks and Acknowledgements
13. Adjourn / Closing Prayer



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT
ST. PETER'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

LAST YEAR'S
VESTRY MEETING &
SPECIAL VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES

St St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cobourg
Annual General Meeting of Vestry held in the Parish Hall
February 23, 2025 - At 12.00 noon

There were forty-seven members of Vestry present who attested to their eligibility to vote by signing the required Declaration.

The Incumbent, The Rev. Matthew McMillan, called the meeting to order at 12.20 pm and welcomed all those attending.

1. Fr. Matthew opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Patricia Rogerson was appointed Vestry Clerk.
3. **Approval of agenda and signing of Vestry Declaration.** The Declaration having been signed by all those eligible to do so, it was moved by Henry Knight and seconded by Nancy Marshall that the Agenda be approved.
Carried Unanimously

4. **Review and acceptance of Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on February 25, 2024.** Fr. Matthew referred the Parish to the Minutes as distributed, and asked whether there should be any alterations. The Vestry Clerk pointed out that one set of Minutes was missing from the bundle of documents distributed at the meeting, namely the second meeting held on October 27 2024 to approve in principle a long-term lease of part of the upstairs premises of the Parish Hall to a provider of child-care. Fr. Matthew undertook to see that the missing minutes were included in the record. Fr Matthew put the motion for the acceptance of the Minutes and it was **carried unanimously**.

5. **Parish leadership reports.** (The Bishop's letter, Rector's, BoM's and Wardens' Reports)

Fr. Matthew pointed out that the leadership reports were of two kinds. The ones we are considering first are the Rector's, Board of Management's and Wardens' Reports. These Parish leaders have to be appointed. The other reports are made by leaders in the congregation who have taken on voluntarily certain ministry tasks. Anyone who feels moved to take on a task and form a group to do it is welcome.

Fr. Matthew presented his report and repeated his thanks to all who have helped him in his ministry to the Parish and the wider community; his clergy, Will (who preached today), Michael Li, Sheila Archer, Dr. Monique Taylor, and his lay pastoral assistants. The Lis are moving to Nova Scotia this summer and we will want to thank them both for their service here, but also thank Michael for all he has done at Gore's Landing. Thank you also to Fran (who is leaving to officiate at the Golden Plough in a few minutes). We are a family, and a family is made up of many parts and you are all of special value so thank you for all you do to make the church hum.

We are focusing on welcoming and hospitality during the coming year. Debbie Elder welcomes new faces that continue to come in. Please continue to welcome people who you see in the church. You do not need to have an official position to be a friend.

Fr. Matt drew Vestry's attention to the Wardens' and Board of Management's reports and the important work they do, and asked whether there were any questions arising from these reports. There being no questions,

Susan Winfrow moved acceptance of the corporate reports, seconded by Ken Willcocks.

The motion was **carried unanimously**.

6. **Review and Acceptance of 2024 Financial Report.**

Mr Pat Rutherford, the Church's auditor, reported that he had completed the audit and had it in draft. He reminded the parish that the audited statement belongs to the Parish and we have to take responsibility for it. In addition, if we know, or suspect, any financial wrongdoing, or fraud, we should report it to the auditor.

His review of the figures for 2024 was optimistic: we have had a good year financially, and a good clean audit ending with a deficit below what was budgeted for, our membership is growing well, and we have a good anchor tenant. It was moved by Rick Stinson and seconded by Susan Winfrow that the Auditor's Report be accepted.

In answer to questions Mr. Rutherford explained that the budget figures that are in the meeting materials and that we will be dealing with next are just operating expenses. The audit covers our investments and our buildings as well as our day-to-day expenses. It covers everything except the Court and the cemetery

The question was put and the Motion to accept the 2024 financial report was **carried unanimously**.

Fr Matt commented that we have to have a full audit for Revenue Canada and for due diligence. The full audit covers everything except the St. Peter's Court and the Cemetery. Our budget focuses only on the operational side of our work.

7. Review and Approval of proposed 2025 Budget.

Rick Stinson, Treasurer, presented the proposed Budget which had been included in materials circulated prior to the meeting, and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Colleen Simon. Rick reiterated that the budget was just for our day-to-day operations. He reported that although to show a proposed deficit of \$35,000 is not ideal, it is manageable. Looking at last year's report, we had budgeted for a deficit of \$79,000 in our day-to-day operations, but in fact we had a profit of \$45,000.00. We got a lot of memorial donations and bequests last year and we do not expect this to be repeated this year. Rental income comes from our houses and the church, plus our new tenant. Under the heading of SPCA dividends, we have an income item of \$110,000.00. This was a very generous donation from the Board of SPCA which is very much appreciated by the Parish. Investment income will be lower as so much capital has been used to make capital improvements to the church.

On the Expense side of the budget, Rick directed attention to the higher administration cost; this includes all the general expenses of the office, but this year it will also include the leasing agent's fees to negotiate the new anchor tenant lease. Rick noted that our loan from the Diocese has been renegotiated and it is now payable in 25 years; The principal and interest payment of \$72,000 p.a. can come from the Fundraising Committee in 2025 and 2026, assuming that everyone fulfills their pledges. Rick referred the Parish to the Board of Management Report as the Board is addressing that 72K payment.

Rick thanked Fr. Matt and the Board of Management and the Wardens for monitoring the budget, and thanks to Eunice who does the day-to-day bookkeeping.

Fr Matt. asked if there were any questions about the proposed budget. Henry Knight enquired whether we actually had money in the operating account at the beginning of the year, and whether a cash flow analysis is done. The Treasurer responded in the affirmative. He stated that from our experience we know that it can go up and down on a daily basis, but at the end of 2024 there was a positive balance. We have a line of credit account and if necessary we use it. However we have the cheque for one hundred thousand dollars which was voted for unanimously by the Board of St. Peter's Court Apartments so we have no immediate concerns about cash flow.

The question was put, and was **carried unanimously**.

Fr. Matt thanked Rick on behalf of all the Parish for his nine years of excellent service.

8. Appointments and Elections A slate of people willing to be appointed, or to stand for election, as Officers and Committee Chairs was presented to the meeting.

Liz McCaughey proposed and Henry Knight seconded that the floor be opened to nominations, **Carried**. It was proposed by Robert Tate and seconded by Patricia Noble that the names on the ballot sheet be put forward. **Carried**. Fr. Matt asked for further nominations. No further nominations were received. It was proposed by Allan Elder and seconded by David Marshall that nominations be closed, and the slate was **accepted by acclamation**. (see slate of officers below)

Rector's Wardens: Senior Warden: **Colin Turnpenney**, Deputy Warden: – to be appointed.
People's Wardens: Senior Warden: **Susan Winfrow**, Deputy Warden: **Colleen Simon**

St. George's Chapel: **Nancy Dalgarno**

Treasurer: **Rick Stinson**

Lay Delegates to Synod: **David Smith, David Winfrow.**

Parish Tribunal: **Erica Beauchamp, Kay McLeod**

Envelope Secretary: **Eunice Cole**

9. Receive and Accept Parish General Reports The reports of the committees listed below were received and had been made available in the Vestry package circulated before the meeting. It was moved by Patricia Noble and seconded by Peter Brotherhood that these reports be received and accepted. **Carried unanimously with applause for the work of all these committees.** Fr Matthew asked for comments or questions and there were none.

Committees or Programs:	Bazaar and Tea	Jackie Kirtley
	Book Fair	Karen Stinson
	Cemetery Board	Brenda Cochrane
	Chancel Guild	<i>looking for a secretary</i>
	FaithWorks	John Lindsay
	Gardens	Michal Loeprich
	Greeters	Debbie Elder
	Health & Wellness	<i>(committee searching for Chair)</i>
	Investment Team	Doug Beauchamp, Daphne
		King, and Ian James
	Men's Club	Ken Willcocks, John
		Winkworth
	Mzuzu AIDS Orphans	Colin Turnpenney
	Parish Nurse Program	Elizabeth Vosburgh, RN
	Pre-School, Board Chair	Colleen Simon
	Property Committee	David Smith
	Rectory Committee	Jan Spragge
	Sidespersons	Cheryl Gould-Harvey
	SouperTime	Colleen Simon
	St. Peter's Court	Brenda Cochrane
	Sunday School	Jan Stapleton
	TNL	Jan Stapleton

10. Motions for Consideration by Vestry.

1. It was moved by Rick Stinson and seconded by Susan Winfrow that we, the Vestry of St Peter's Cobourg, authorize the appointment of Lynch, Rutherford, Tozer, Chartered Accountants, of Port Hope, Ontario, to be the Auditors of record for St. Peter's Financial Reports for the year ending 2025 Financial Cycle. **Carried Unanimously**

2. It was moved by Colleen Simon and seconded by Jan Spragge that we, the Vestry of St. Peter's Cobourg, authorize the Corporation to apply for a Carleton Grant in the year 2025, to help pay for costs of maintenance, renovation and repair to our Parish Rectory, located at 118 King Street East, in Cobourg.

Fr. Matthew explained that this Motion will allow us to apply for Diocesan Grants for work on the Rectory if any major or urgent repairs are required. Voting for this now means that no special vestry will be required if such an application is prepared. **Carried Unanimously.**

Fr. Matthew thanked one and all and stated that he feels it a privilege to be our friends and Minister. "Our community is growing and we can see the size of our impact. Thank you for your encouragement and for allowing me to work amongst you. As we follow in Jesus's footsteps and try to be that light to others. Thank you for our patience with the process. 2025 is going to be a good year, with sixty to one hundred kids in the new day care. This program will fill a great need in Cobourg."

Rev. Will Simon **moved the adjournment** and Fr. Matthew closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned.

February 2025

Patricia Rogerson, Vestry Clerk

**St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cobourg
Special Meeting of Vestry held in the Church
On Sunday, December 07, 2025, at the conclusion of the
10.30 am worship service**

There were 71 members of Vestry present, who attested to their eligibility to vote by signing the required Declaration.

Patricia Rogerson was appointed Vestry Clerk.

The Incumbent, the Rev. Matthew McMillan, opened the meeting at 12.55 pm, explaining that the purpose of the meeting is to dissolve the Board of Management which had been appointed to take over the management of the Church following the recon-struction of the roof and the financial liability arising therefrom. The Diocese has asked that Vestry approve the transfer of management of the Church back to the Wardens and staff with a formal meeting, as soon as possible.

It was therefore PROPOSED BY SUSAN WINFROW (People's Warden), and SECONDED BY COLIN TURNPENNEY (Rector's Warden) that

We, the Vestry and People of the Church of St Peter, Cobourg, approve the conclusion of the work of St Peter's Board of Management, and request that the Diocese formally conclude this ministry at their earliest possible convenience.

Fr. Matt asked whether there were any questions. Henry Knight asked what has prompted the Diocese to decide now that the Board of Management can be dissolved, and what has it achieved during its tenure. Fr. Matt replied that the financial situation of the church has become stabilized and the Board has been working to help the Church to define oversight roles. Now the Wardens are ready to take on that oversight. At the Vestry Meeting in January there will be some options for dealing with the construction debt, as well as stream-lining our operations. Also we will have the opportunity to consider proposals for stream-lining our use of volunteers. The Wardens and staff feel that the Board of Management has achieved its objectives.

The question was put, and the Motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dave Winfrow proposed that the meeting adjourn, the question was put, and was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 1.12 pm

Respectfully submitted

December 2025

Patricia Rogerson, Vestry Clerk



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT
ST. PETER'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

CHURCH LEADERSHIP REPORTS



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2026

to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish's annual vestry meeting

To the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the Diocese of Toronto:

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

"So they cast [the net], and now they were not able to haul it in because of the quantity of fish." – John 21:6

God's goodness to the Diocese of Toronto amazes us every day. As your bishops, it is our joy and privilege to bear witness to the rich blessings, the varied gifts, the talents and skills, the sacrificial generosity, and the deep faithfulness of the Body of Christ in this Diocese. Every parish and community, and the many devoted Anglicans who make them up, inspire us. It has been a natural response for us to "Lift Up Our Hearts" in a spirit of gratitude and encouragement in 2025.

The very first Call of our [Cast the Net visioning process](#) was a Season of Spiritual Renewal. We heard over and over again that our Diocese is hungry to know and love God more deeply. During the season, more than 40 workshops were offered, geared to priests, deacons, lay leaders and people desiring to deepen their spiritual lives, hone leadership skills and discern God's call. We held five "Lift Up Our Hearts" worship services: at St. James Cathedral; All Saints, Whitby; Trinity, Streetsville; St. James, Orillia; and St. Paul, Bloor Street. Large crowds gathered to worship, sing and pray for the renewal of the Church. Each one was a moment of grace and joy. The Season of Spiritual Renewal officially draws to a close with the end of the season of Epiphany 2026. Now a small group gathers to discern how we continue to grow disciples, enhance ministry and form servants of the Gospel, building on the foundation of what has been offered. Stay tuned!

The Netminders is a group of clergy, lay leaders and staff who continue to help parishes engage with the Cast the Net Calls and to bring them to life in each community. Every parish was invited to choose three or four Calls from the 20 – those that reflect the ministry that they are a part of now or hope to be in the future – and to bring them to Synod for discussion and mutual encouragement. With each part of the Body engaging our common Calls in different ways, we move as one.

At the annual clergy conference last May at Trent University, our speaker, the Very Rev. David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury, offered reflections based on Jesus the Good Shepherd, an image that resonated with our clergy, particularly in this time of disruption and uncertainty. Our clergy work so hard at hauling in the nets, and we say to them now, to all our priests and deacons: we see you, and we are grateful to God for the ministry that you do. The annual clergy conference is always a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones, and this year was no exception. It was also our joy to host smaller clergy retreat days in the spring and fall. These were opportunities for clergy to gather in deanery groups for Bible study, to hear from their bishop and archdeacons, to deepen fellowship with one another and to share a meal. We want to respond to Call #12 to "continue and enhance support for all ordained people" as they engage in vital ministry.

Regarding shared ministry, our partnership with the Diocese of Brasilia continues to flourish, now entering our third year of seven. Our motto, "Partners in Christ, united in mission" (*Parceiros em Cristo, unidos na missão*) is grounded in Calls #4 and #13 regarding our participation in God's healing work and ministries of service in the world. Dr. Paulo Ueti from Brasilia and the Rev. Canon Dr. Christopher Brittain from Toronto offered an online bilingual study day on liberation theology for clergy and lay leaders of both dioceses last March. The Rev.

Dr. Rodrigo Espiuca from Brasilia invited us to seek signs of resurrection in his keynote address at the Outreach Conference in October. Bishop Mauricio Andrade participated in our bishops' Advent series in December. Looking ahead, we will welcome Dr. Paulo Ueti as our guest speaker at this year's clergy conference, and we can't wait to receive a delegation of Brazilian youth for the ReCharge Youth Retreat. We also hope a small group of Toronto Anglicans can visit Brasilia this year.

We are pleased to be moving ahead with our work on inclusion with the hiring of our new EDDI Advisor, Dilesha Stelmach. Dilesha brings a strong experiential and educational background in this ministry, centered around Ephesians 4: 4-6: "there is one body, one Spirit, one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father, Creator of all, who is above all and through all and in all." With support from our HR department and the Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministries, Dilesha is mindfully engaging, both practically and theologically, with our people – volunteers, staff, clergy – and with our infrastructure – policies, practices and the constitution and canons of the Diocese. She will be helping us to see the familiar in unfamiliar ways as we build up the ministry of every single beloved child of God in our Diocese.

To all our faithful people in so many vital ministries in our Church: thank you. To our hard-working churchwardens and treasurers, children and youth ministry workers, parish musicians, office administrators and envelope secretaries, altar guilds and custodians, ACW and outreach volunteers, and countless committee members: thank you. To our diocesan volunteers, members of Synod Council and participants on bishop's committees: thank you. To the staff team at the Synod Office: thank you. Together we all make up the strong net of the Diocese of Toronto, and together, by following the ways of Jesus, we receive "more than we can ask or imagine" – so many blessings collected in our net that we are barely able to haul it in.

When the nightly news seems especially dire, when anxiety is pervasive and the future seems uncertain, God's reign can feel far away. Yet our commitment to our baptismal covenant, our tenacious acts of faith, persistent resistance to the powers of evil, small but powerful acts of kindness towards our neighbours, and a deep, unshakable, unwavering belief that "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Psalm 24) will carry us through troubled times.

Please pray for us, as we pray daily for you.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Andrew Toronto".

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Riscylla Shaw".

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Kevin Robertson".

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

Rector's 2025 Vestry Report

The 2025 Annual Vestry Report of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cobourg reflects a year of spiritual growth, organizational transition, and deepened community engagement. Worship attendance increased across regular and special services, supported by a flourishing music ministry, active Sunday School, vibrant outreach initiatives such as Thursday Night Light and SouperTime, and an expanding digital presence. The parish celebrated baptisms and offered pastoral care through funerals and visitation, while livestream participation continued to grow. Ministries in health and wellness, prayer, Christian education, youth formation, and international outreach—most notably the Mzuzu Orphan Care Program—strengthened St. Peter's witness both locally and globally.

Operationally, 2025 marked significant progress in financial stability and governance renewal. The launch of Pear Tree Preschool as a long-term anchor tenant enhanced revenue and assisted with deficit planning. The Board of Management successfully concluded its mandate after stabilizing financial oversight and parish systems, with full leadership responsibility now returned to the Wardens. Investments remain stable, budgeting disciplined, and stewardship faithful. Committees advanced property care, cemetery oversight, grant development, and long-term sustainability planning. As we enter 2026, we do so with greater structural clarity and a focused commitment to discipleship, mission, and responsible growth.

Looking ahead, two strategic priorities will shape our work in 2026.

First, we will complete the process of determining a path forward for the remaining \$1,000,000 balance of the Diocesan Restoration Loan. At our Vestry Meeting on February 22nd, the Wardens will present repayment options developed through the work of the Board of Management. Following a period of review and reflection, the congregation will vote to approve a repayment strategy on Sunday, March 15th, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. This decision will strengthen our financial foundation and position St. Peter's for long-term sustainability in ministry.

Second, we will expand engagement across the wider parish membership. Our Leadership Development Team continues to align parishioners' gifts with ministry needs, ensuring that more members are invited into meaningful and sustainable service. As we grow, our aim is not simply increased activity, but deeper participation in our shared calling — to love and serve others in the power and spirit of Jesus Christ.

With Bishop Shaw's blessing, we will also expand the Wardens' team to six members. This structural change will enable clearer portfolios, collaborative small teams, and better distribution of responsibility, reducing strain on key volunteers while strengthening accountability and effectiveness. Alongside this work, we will continue strengthening committees and cultivating broader participation across parish life.

I extend a heartfelt thanks to the Wardens, Board of Management members, clergy, lay leaders, staff, musicians, teachers, outreach teams, and community partners whose faithful service sustains the life of St. Peter's. We are grateful for those who have provided diocesan guidance and financial oversight, and for the many volunteers whose quiet dedication supports our daily ministry. Their commitment reflects the strength and generosity of this parish community.

With gratitude for God's faithfulness in 2025, we move into 2026 with clarity, courage, and hope.

The Reverend Matthew McMillan †
Rector - St. Peter's, Cobourg

St. Peter's Cobourg
2026 Leadership Structure



St. Peter's Board of Management - 2025

Background

A Board of Management was created for St. Peter's almost three years ago through an act of the Diocese of Toronto's Synod Council that put in place the actions of Canon 25 of the Diocese. This Canon is often utilized when the volunteer structure of a parish is in severe trouble. While that was certainly not our situation, it seemed like the right thing to do for a church that was moving forward but exhausted from the years of planning for the restoration and the fundraising required for this.

For St. Peter's, it meant that the Board was chosen carefully to include two Wardens, the Incumbent, three lay people from the congregation and two carefully chosen lay people from outside the parish to bring outside views and additional skills to the complex work ahead of us: to complete the restoration, reopen the church, re-energize growth, and reduce or eliminate the debt. The Board became the Corporation, the legal entity, of the parish.

St. Peter's participants were The Rev. Matt McMillan, Susan Winfrow, Colin Turnpenney, Karen Stinson, Fran Richardson (for the first year), Suzanne Lawson. Dave Toycen, a member Holy Trinity, Streetsville, and the former CEO of World Vision Canada, and Heather McGregor, a former Warden of St. Mary Magdelene, Toronto, and the current CEO of the YWCA, Toronto, were the members selected by the Diocese. Heather and Dave also are on Synod Council and so could help us with our understanding of the Diocesan processes we needed to know about. Rae Stuthers helped as recording secretary. Bishop Riscylla Shaw and Archdeacon John Anderson were kept fully informed as we went along.

We have had particular help from the newly energized Property Department at the Diocese, headed by Mac Moreau.

Initial Actions:

We had great hopes that our mandate to encourage new growth, welcome the new incumbent, and dispense with the debt could be done within these three years. We have accomplished a lot but not all those early dreams.

Initially, we got organized, deciding on a division of labour between the Wardens and the Board, with the former taking up the daily and physical operations of the church and the Board acting on the future-focused thinking and action. We went over all the work done by the previous Nuts and Bolts Group and the Vision Working Group, assessed the state of each part of our property, digested the strategic plan, and got to know each other.

Accomplishments:

1. Debt Reduction:

Hired a commercial real estate broker to find an "anchor tenant" for us. Pear Tree was found. Their full monthly rent did not come into play for several months, held up by Town requirements and fire regulations, and there were several months' delay before they could be up and running. Now Pear Tree is open, producing revenue monthly, half of which goes towards the debt.

Requested the Diocesan Finance Committee to reduce the interest rate of our loan since the severance was taking so much time and the anchor tenant could not open fully as anticipated. They did not agree.

Sold a valuable painting via auction to benefit the restoration fund.

Did extensive legwork to look at possible sale of land to offset much of the debt to the Diocese including the preparation of a severance proposal for 264 College St. The options for future action about the reduction of the debt will be further explored by the Corporation (i.e. the Wardens) and the preferred model brought to the parish for a decision as soon as possible.

2. Additional Fundraising to Benefit Debt Reduction:

Encouraged the congregation to respond extra-generously at Thanksgiving and Christmas in 2025.

Began a thank you process for memorial and honour gifts (donor cultivation). Volunteers were recruited and trained and are now working well.

Established a Planned Giving/Major Gift Team with basic policies written and accepted. A small team of volunteers has begun to meet.

Recruited a speaker for the 2026 spring to talk about Wills and Powers of Attorney.

3. Onsite Cemetery:

Registered this cemetery beside the church with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, concluding a longstanding concern about the status and responsibilities connected with the burial area. Will enable future work to utilize this land as a meditative or spiritual place, and the parish can be clear about what is allowed.

4. Enabling Church Growth:

Established a Leadership Development Team and recruited a Chair and Team members. Developed Terms of Reference. This group now working well to search for the best leadership we can find for now and future years. Team is organizing a small group to shadow the current Treasurer who has indicated that this is his last year.

Held a “Making Connections” event to bring together newcomers to St. Peter’s, those who had returned after a pause, with some of the current leaders. Over fifty attended! Organizing team planning another such successful event for the fall of 2026.

Developed an experimental draft of a volunteer organizational structure that will gradually move into being during 2026. The aim is to replace the Advisory Board, reduce meetings, increase the number of skilled leadership volunteers involved, lessen the workload for Wardens and the Incumbent, and create both stability and sustainability. Developed. Terms of Reference for this structure, open to change should implementation require. The upcoming Vestry meeting will seek affirmation of this structure.

Ongoing Work:

Although the Board of Management has concluded as decided in a recent Special Vestry, there are obviously still some major tasks to address through the Wardens and Incumbent Team and the evolving volunteer structure which is beginning to take shape. Ours is a vital growing exciting parish and complexities abound in almost all of the challenges ahead. There will be need for focus, for patience, for generosity of spirit when things don’t go as quickly as we all hope. And all will be grounded, as was the work of the Board of Management, in prayer and mutual commitment.

We give thanks for all those who served on the Board, especially Dave and Heather who gave up time they might have focused elsewhere in their own parishes or in the Diocese to walk alongside us and share their wisdom. We are so grateful.

Suzanne Lawson

Chair, St. Peter’s Board of Management

Wardens' Report - 2025

This past year saw the focus of the Wardens' team move to sustainability in the long term. At the beginning of the year, Pear Tree Preschool, our anchor tenant, began to ready the space for their operations.

To accommodate Pear Tree, several spaces in the church needed to be cleaned out and reconfigured, for both their use and ours. In addition, the Fire Safety plan required updating. Following several Inspections by the fire department, changes and upgrades were made to enhance the safety of the building. A pass key entry system was implemented, and Pear Tree's system was integrated into that of St Peter's Church. The wardens worked with Pear Tree and the town of Cobourg to meet the requirements for a fenced in play area at the front of the church. Pear Tree opened for business in October and has a 10-year contract with St. Peter's.

Finances and debt repayment continue to be in the forefront. Numerous banking procedures were updated at the TD bank. Regular payments were made to pay down the loans from both the Diocese and the Anglican Foundation. Queries were made to the Diocese regarding the use of Glebe funds.

A number of ongoing activities with which the wardens were involved throughout the year include: maintenance and repairs at 264 College Street, new contracts for snow clearing and lawn maintenance, personnel contracts, the hiring of a new cleaning contractor, new Fire Safety contractor as well as a new Parish Administrator, continued liaison with the Air Cadets who assist with spring cleaning and fall leaf cleanup, renting of space for short term uses such as AA, Yoga, weekly meetings with Fr. Matt and the Treasurer, meetings with the Board of Management, consultation and meeting with the Board from St Peter's Court Apartments, and working closely with the Parish Administrator and office volunteers.

A summer student was hired through the Federal government programme to digitize both office and music documents in an orderly fashion. Regular maintenance upgrades were made to furnaces, boilers, the kitchen hot water heater, air conditioning and thermostats and a programme to regularly monitor this equipment was begun.

Throughout the year, the Wardens worked closely with the Bord of Management. In December, a Special Vestry was held, at which time the Parish voted to end the Board of Management. This was confirmed at Synod Council. St. Peter's has now returned fully to the previous parish management model. This is viewed as the best option at this time, with a look to refining the roles of the Wardens as the year progresses.

Regular communication with various volunteer groups continues. To Parish ministries, such as TNL, Soupertime, Health and Wellness, Bible study groups, Volunteer leadership, etc., the Wardens' team is extremely grateful. Without the work being done by these groups, the many activities and programmes that make St Peter's such a vibrant place would not be possible. The Volunteer management team is always looking for new volunteers, so if you are interested, please contact the church office.

“Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine”

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Turnpenney (Rector's Warden)

Susan Winfrow (People's Warden)

Colleen Simon (Deputy Rector's Warden)



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT
ST. PETER'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORTS

*2025 ACTUALS &
2026 PROPOSED BUDGET*

The Church of St. Peter
2025 Actuals 2026 Budget

	2025 Actuals	2026 Budget
Income		
Received Donations	\$ 450,337.00	\$ 406,000.00
Bequests	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Unreceipted Donations	\$ 162,334.00	\$ 39,000.00
PreSchool	\$ 92,590.00	\$ 89,000.00
Leases	\$ 110,267.00	\$ 160,000.00
Other Revenue	\$ 63,572.00	\$ 68,000.00
SPCA Dividends	\$ 110,000.00	\$ -
Investments	\$ 54,595.00	\$ 29,000.00
Total Income	\$ 1,043,695.00	\$ 791,000.00
Expense		
Clergy	\$ 93,229.00	\$ 101,500.00
Staff	\$ 266,426.00	\$ 273,900.00
Rectory	\$ 49,521.00	\$ 43,000.00
Church	\$ 181,893.00	\$ 180,500.00
264 College	\$ 15,617.00	\$ 14,700.00
Ministries	\$ 47,054.00	\$ 55,100.00
Diocese Assessment	\$ 70,528.00	\$ 85,000.00
Administration	\$ 101,928.00	\$ 45,000.00
Mortgage Payments	\$ 104,935.00	\$ -
Total Expense	\$ 931,131.00	\$ 798,700.00
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 112,564.00	\$ (7,700.00)

Note:

Repayment of the Diocesan Loan of \$1,000,000.00 for the Roof and Belltower Restoration Project in the amount of \$72000.00/year are from the Fundraising proceeds in 2026



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT
ST. PETER'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

2026 VESTRY SLATE
&
PARISH LEADERSHIP ROSTER

St.Peter's, Cobourg – 2026 Slate for Vestry

	<i>Rectors Warden</i>	<i>Peoples Warden</i>
Senior Warden	Colin Turnpenny	Susan Winfrow *
Deputy Warden	Colleen Simon Ian James	Pat Johnson * Gil Johnson *
Lay Delegates to Synod	1. Fran Richardson * 2. <i>To Be Confirmed</i> *	
St. Georges Chapel	Nancy Delgarno	
Treasurer	Rick Stinson	
Envelope Secretary	Eunice Cole (<i>Staff</i>)	
Parish Tribunals	Patricia Rogerson * Kay MacLeod *	

St.Peter's 2026 – Committee Chairs/Program Leaders

Other Committees:

Alpha	Rev. Monique Taylor & Fr. Matt McMillan
Bazaar and Tea	Judith Tremills
Cemetery Board	John Lindsay
Faithworks	John Lindsay
Gardens	Michal Leoprich
Greeters	Debbie Elder
Health and Wellness	Elizabeth Vosburgh
Investment Team	Doug Beauchamp Daphne King Ian James
Leadership Development Team	Debbie Elder & Suzanne Lawson
Men's Club	Joe Peristy
Mzuzu Aid's Orphans Program Committee	Colin Turnpenny
Pre-school Chair of Board	Jackie Whittingham
Property Committee	David Smith
Rectory Committee	<i>To Be Confirmed</i>
Sides persons	Murray Simon
SouperTime	Colleen Simon
St. Peter's Court	Brenda Cochrane
Sunday School	Jan Stapleton
TNL	Jan Stapleton
Website	David Douglas

*The Vestry Slate Positions with a “ * ” beside them, indicates an elected position.*



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT
ST. PETER'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

PAROCHIAL REPORTS

Deacon Report - 2025

The beginning of the year, we continued with St. Peter's in-person services and conducted on-line services. Online services broadcasts were offered with the help of all our Clergy, The Reverend Matthew McMillan, The Reverend Micheal Li, The Reverend Sheila Archer, The Reverend Dr. Monique Taylor, Lay Pastoral Associate Fran Richardson and our music director Syd Birrell. We were also helped from many members of the congregation who helped in the reading the lessons and prayers. Special thanks to Sharyl-Ann Milligan for her dedicated help and support.

I am happy to report that our online presence appears to be expanding and enjoyed by all. Our Facebook page reached over 14000 people this last year averaging to around 270 people interacting and engaging every week with us. Our Facebook website having been visited over 23000 times over the course of the year.

Top interesting information facts from the report is:

- People interacting on the page are 60% women and 40% men.
- The top audience engagement is in the 55 years and up age range.
- 42% live in the Cobourg/ Northumberland County Area, other top area of engagement is from the Toronto area at 5%.
- Top country of engagement is Canada at 71%, however 6% are from Bangladesh, 6% from the Philippines, 5% from India; with the 2% United Kingdom and the United States, and 1% Australia, Netherlands, Nigeria and Italy each respectively.

Some of the most loved moments of 2025 were moments:

Holy Week celebrations including, Good Friday and Easter watched by over 1500 people online, Battle of Britain Service watched by over 700 people. Remembrance Day with the Cobourg Concert Band watched by over 900 people and the Cobourg Concert Band Christmas Concert watched by 3200 people. Finally, Christmas Eve services, attended well and watched online by over 1000 people.

This year we live streamed many funerals in the church as well and most averaged over 500 people watching and had many notable responses from the online services that we offer. In particular the funeral service for Cathy Earl was watched online by over 1100 people. This is an amazing level of outreach to our community, which is growing across the world.

Throughout the year we have had many generous people from not just the parish but the greater community of faith in our area and also the great community we live, our town of Cobourg and the county of Northumberland. This was very evident with many people reaching out through Facebook messenger offering help, financial support, and asking for information about us and our mission. Important support has been given from the community to events we have held like the Strawberry Social, concerts from the Cobourg Concert Band, the New Ventures Band, Book Sale and the Preschool. I want to thank all the members of the congregation and community who have participated as readers, either on-line or in-person over the past year. Your endeavors have really given new life to our services.

We also have our flourishing local Air Cadet 598 Sabre Squadron with us in the church and walk with us to the development and growth of our community through citizenship and outreach. This past year I was also alongside Fr. Matt, inducted as the Royal Marines Padre, to help further support our garrison church family.

With over three years now since my ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons, my work in ministry has involved the online portion of our church community, during the in-person worship but also extended into

pastoral outreach. For me, servant-hood is life long and rewarding. I was able in 2025 to attend our National General Synod meeting which reaffirmed the development of the Diaconate which for me has been a 30 plus year journey with my Grandmother being one of the first female Deacons across our country. I was also able to attend the General Diocesan Synod this past year and enjoyed my time among everyone.

I have endeavored every week this last year to do at least 3 to 4 home, hospital and hospice visits. I have also made many phone calls every week, varying every week. I am also enjoying the outreach within our community and joyful in the outreach we have through weekly events like TNL, Extendicare/Landmark monthly services, grief counseling and helping fill in at the Golden Plough monthly services. I have also had the great privilege and honour to perform several funeral services and Baptisms for the growth of our Christian family. I have also continued my work with amputees at the rehab center in Toronto and now Peterborough as it is dear to my heart. We are also continuing our monthly Night Prayers online for all to enjoy.

I am also a member of the Board of Directors for Anglican Deacons of Canada. The focus of Anglican Deacons of Canada is to unify all Anglican Deacons across the country for support, development, education, and to direct our voices together as one, to better service the church, her people and God. The foundation is not for profit and is near to my heart as my Grandmother was one of its founders and also a past board member.

I wish to thank each of you in our community, our parish, my family and to everyone who has and continues to support me in my ministries and call to service. This last year has been, humbling, challenging by times, but full of joy, wonder and God's amazing grace and mercy. A particular thanks to everyone for the support of every member of my family. Each of you, has helped me in ways you will never fully understand and each of you are a shining example of what service in the life of Jesus the Christ is. I am very thankful to each of you for all your thoughts, gifts and prayers.

As I stated before I hope each of you understand how important, how valued, and how loved you are by me but most importantly, God, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

If you would like a phone call from me or a visit please give me a call at 905-396-3759 or email at williamsimon@alumni.trentu.ca Please leave me a message as I still do work 40 plus hours a week and I will do my best to get back to you.

Thank you for your time, support, generosity, and love. I look forward to the time we will share together, and in the building up of our community. I pray, that each of you remember that you are a cherished child of God.

May the God of friendship give us love in all ways and at all times and know without doubt, the grace of God is with you always.

The Rev. William Simon, Deacon St. Peter's Cobourg.

St. Peter's Investment Committee- 2025

Our mandate is to oversee the *investment* funds of the parish and offer suggestions and recommendations on financial activities as requested by the Corporation. We work with TD Wealth who manage investments of the Sheppard Trust Fund and Church of St. Peter Endowment Fund.

2025 Objectives: 1) Review and update Policy.

By direction of chair, we continue "On Hold" of the Policy review. We were again advised the corporation may use the investments to reduce the construction debt and that continues as of today.

Please note the original policy written in 2000 and has been revised several times. Life has changed significantly in the last 25 years. Many people today do all their banking by phone, without a chord. Investing opportunities today include: ETF's (Exchange Traded Funds), driven by AI (Artificial Intelligence) that can track the activities of the 'leading' investment houses and replicate activities. We will submit revised policy to the Corporation for approval upon completion.

Sheppard Fund:

January 1, 2025: \$ 409,650.82 plus Income less fees \$32075.22 less Withdrawals \$ 13,000.00 (Restoration project, building renovation and maintenance) Balance: December 31, 2025 \$428,746.04 Vestry approved all withdrawals.

Endowment Fund:

January 1, 2025: \$ 331,851.20 plus Income less fees \$22,473.49 less Withdrawals \$ 9,000.00. Balance: December 31, 2025 \$345,324.69

Statements received from TD Wealth, dated December 31, 2025 received and shared with office and Auditors.

Submitted by: Daphne King, Ian James Doug Beauchamp.

Deanery Christian Education Team - 2025

The Deanery Christian Education Team was formed over a decade ago to offer educational opportunities for adults interested in expanding their own spiritual development and to do so with people from neighbouring churches (mostly, but not exclusively, Anglican). Over the years, these offerings have included instructional seminars, workshops, quiet days, conferences, book studies, practical skills related to being church volunteers, etc. Zoom courses became very helpful during COVID.

Members: Marion Huffman, St. John's Port Hope (Chair); Susan Sheen, St. John's Bowmanville; Fran Richardson, St. Peter's Cobourg (recorder); Suzanne Lawson, St. Peter's Cobourg; Val Whalley, St. Paul's Brighton; Lesley Barclay, St. George's Grafton (until September 2025); Rob Ross, St. Thomas's Millbrook; Helena-Rose Houldcroft, St. George's Grafton

The team met by Zoom 8 times in 2025 to discuss programming to be offered within the Durham-Northumberland Deanery.

Discussions and sharing also took place regarding offerings at various churches.

Book Studies via Zoom

If the Church were Christian by Philip Gulley facilitated by Val Whalley and Rob Washburn.

How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen by David Brooks facilitated by Suzanne Lawson

Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Taylor Brown facilitated by Val Whalley

In Person Activities

The Anglican Way: Part Two was offered on three Saturdays at St. Peter's Cobourg.

The 18th annual Advent Conference was held on Saturday, November 29th at St. Peter's Cobourg. The theme was a kitchen table discussion on Joy, Peace, Hope and Love, the Markers of the Advent Season.

Planning for 2026

Planning is already underway for additional book studies and the 2026 Advent Conference. Suggestions of workshop topics and speakers and the names of skilled facilitators in adult education are always welcome.

Submitted by the Durham Northumberland Deanery Education Team

Worship Team - 2025

During this past calendar year, St. Peter's welcomed a number of new parishioners as well as some who returned after a long absence. We were thrilled to see both new and familiar faces.

Each of the three regular services: 10:am Thursday morning, 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday mornings saw a steady increase in attendance. In addition, each of our special services: Remembrance Day, Christmas Eve, Evensong and Hymn Sing were extremely well attended.

With joy we welcomed 12 individuals into the community of the church via baptism and we walked alongside the families of 11 people whose funerals took place with the church. Both Fr. Matt and Deacon Will provided that comfort for families at venues outside of the church. Consequently, there was a significant uptick in the need for pastoral care which was ably conducted primarily by our clergy, Matt, Will and Sheila but also by members of our lay staff and volunteers.

Members of St. Peter's continued to provide monthly services at Palisades Gardens, Cobourg Extendicare and the Golden Plough Lodge. This is an important outreach ministry and serves those individuals who are unable to physically attend our church building. In addition, the continuation of the on-line broadcasts of our services at 10:30 on a Sunday enables people from far and wide to be part of our worship family.

This year we were please to bring back the ministry of anointing which occurs the second Sunday of the month during the communion service at 10:30 and as requested at the other services. This is provided by both the clergy and our lay anointers.

During the summer months while Matt is on a much-deserved vacation, The Reverend Dr. Monique Taylor, Honorary Associate, was able to lead the services for four of the 9:30 services while Deacon Will led Morning Prayer on the fifth Sunday. We are grateful for the assistance and presence of the Taylors. However, in September Monique temporarily left us to preside at St. Mark's in Port Hope while they search for a new incumbent. With our increase in membership, St. Peter's really does require the services of a second priest.

Christmas Eve once again saw the children engage with the live manger at the 4:00 service and the choir was resplendent at the 7:30 service. In addition, we held an 11pm service and one on Christmas morning. All told, over 600 people attended over the two days. The following Sunday, the last of 2025, we had a glorious service of Lessons & Carols in the English tradition.

The worship services in the church and off-site could not happen without the dedication of many volunteers who read the lessons, lead the intercessions, serve at the altar, act as chalice bearers, carry the cross, greet parishioners at the door and serve as side persons. Theses are all important ministries – thank you.

Average attendance at regularly scheduled worship:

Thursday at 10:00 am 11, Sunday at 8:30* 20, Sunday at 10: 30* 138

*Please note that for 10 weeks in the summer months there was only one 9:30 service. The average attendance for those services was 87. For statistical information, the diocese requires the total number of attendees divided by 52. This includes all special services such as Ash Wednesday, Hymn Sing and Evensong.

Sundays: 7929 for an average of 153
Mid-week: 1457 for an average of 28

Respectfully submitted: Fran Richardson, Lay Pastoral Associate

Church Office - 2025

This past September, I stepped into the Administrator role following Raquel's transition to a position within her field of study. I'm grateful for the care and support she provided during such a smooth handover which made settling into the role much easier.

Throughout the week, I've come to rely on (and truly enjoy working alongside) our dedicated office volunteers. Sue Goody supports the office on Mondays; Linda Flindall on Tuesdays, Kay McLeod on Wednesdays, and on Thursdays, the welcome addition of Joe and Jen Peristy along with Laureen Slade. On Fridays, Carm returns to help keep everything running smoothly. We are also fortunate to have many other valued office volunteers, including Jo Caragh, Carol Fisher and Eunice Cole, our bookkeeper of over ten years who continues to be a steady and reliable source of support for both the office and for me personally.

Although I have not been with St. Peter's for long, it has been a pleasure getting to know this group. They have been incredibly welcoming, and their dedication plays a vital role in the daily life and work of St. Peter's church.

I'm grateful for the welcoming start I've had here and look forward to all that 2026 has in store.

Kind Regards,

Grace Worrall, Parish
Administrator

St. Peter's Preschool - 2025



We have had another great year at St. Peter's Preschool. In June we said farewell to a wonderful group of children, many of whom were with us for two years as they headed off for Kindergarten. With a large group having left us for school, that opened up a good amount of spaces for new families. September brought us many new faces, but as always we are blessed to have such nice families and children to work with. We made the decision to add 2 afternoon programs in response to the long wait times and child care need in our community. Starting in September, we added Monday and Wednesday afternoons which run 12:15-2:45. At first we had around 8-10 children enrolled, but quickly have filled up and now the only space we have available is a Wednesday afternoon. Other than that, all our morning spaces (Mon-Fri 9-11:30) and Monday afternoons are at capacity, which is 16 children. Along with Meghan and I, we have Marcy Barriball and Linda Hayes as on our call staff to cover for Meghan and I when needed. Both are Registered Early Childhood Educators and we are thankful to have them on our team. Diane Payne and Linda continue to be our regular volunteers coming to support the program once a week.

Favourite activities continue to be sensory play-the morning group loves water play! Animals, building, singing, dress up, reading stories and gym time are all favourite things to do during our time together.

In total from parent fees we brought in \$39, 245. We spent \$6779.09 in the year on groceries and supplies for the program. We currently have 44 families enrolled in the program, which is the largest we have had in quite some time!

We continue to be a part of the CWELCC Program which helped lower our parent fees from \$15/day to \$12/day as well as makes us eligible for extra funding to support our program. The CWELCC program, continues to change and bring some challenges but working closely with Northumberland County, along with support from Eunice we are all figuring it out as we go!

We look forward to another great year ahead!

Emily Smith, RECE

Preschool Supervisor





Health and Wellness - 2025

The past year has been a busy and grace-filled one for the Health and Wellness Committee, marked by many blessings and meaningful moments of connection within our parish and the wider community.

At the beginning of the year, the Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and leadership structure. New co-chairs Barbara Snelgrove and Elizabeth Vosburgh guided the work of the Committee, while Patricia Noble faithfully continued in her role as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee extends its sincere gratitude to Nancy Marshall for her many years of dedicated service as Chair. Her leadership, compassion, and commitment have had a lasting impact on this ministry. Throughout the year, Nancy generously offered her pastoral support, expanded community outreach, oversaw Chair Yoga, and contributed to many other offerings. We are deeply thankful for her continued involvement and mentorship.

Fran Richardson supported the Committee in her role as Lay Pastoral Associate. We were further strengthened by the involvement of Marion McPherson and her birthday card ministry. The support of Ruth Ann Douglas, Sandra O'Neil Brown, Ann Hares, and Sharyl Ann Milligan is also greatly appreciated, both pastorally and within the Health and Wellness ministry.

We are deeply grateful to the many volunteers who continue to support the work of the Health and Wellness Committee. Their time, compassion, and dedication make this ministry possible.

Grief Share

A GriefShare program was offered in January 2025 that welcomed nine participants. GriefShare is a Christian-based 13-week program that provides a warm and safe space for those grieving the loss of a loved one. It offers practical tools, biblical hope, and the support of community, helping participants feel welcomed, supported, and understood during a difficult season. Feedback was very positive.

Paint Day (February Blues)

In February 2025, a Paint Day was offered to both parishioners and members of the wider community to help beat the winter blues. The birch tree paintings created during the day were beautifully varied, with each piece reflecting the creativity and individuality of its artist. With over 20 participants, this revenue-generating event was deemed a success, and many attendees have already requested that it be offered again in 2026. Sincere thanks are extended to Nancy Marshall for her oversight and leadership of this joyful and engaging program.

Every Day in May

The Every Day in May program was offered for a second year, with over 60 participants taking part. Three engaging and well-attended seminars were offered:

- Spirit: The Joy of Singing – hosted by Angie Reichenbach
- Body: Workshop on Balance – led by Heather Powell, Yoga Instructor
- Mind: Workshop on Blue Space – led by Barbara Snelgrove

The program concluded with a celebratory lunch open to all parishioners, during which prize winners were recognized. Participants expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to take part in this enriching and uplifting program.

Chair Yoga (Nancy Marshall)

Chair Yoga continued throughout 2025. Three 8-week sessions and one 4-week session were offered to parishioners and community members. The program was offered by Heather Powell, on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the Sheppard Hall. A nominal registration fee paid for our instructor and financially support H&W activities. A small portable sound system with headpiece mic was purchased so participants can hear our instructor. This is a successful program that will continue to be offered in 2026.

Pastoral Care (Fran Richardson)

Pastoral care offerings continued under the guidance of Fran Richardson, providing comfort, presence, and spiritual support to those in need within our parish community. Anointing continued to be offered monthly the second Sunday 1030am service. As part of the pastoral care initiative, worship services were held once a month at Palisades Gardens (Nancy Marshall & Ruth Ann Douglas), Cobourg Extendicare (Will Simon/Peter Brotherhood & Michal Loeprich), and the Golden Plough Lodge (Fran Richardson, Michal Loeprich & Kathleen McKellar). Individual visits were primarily facilitated by Fr. Matthew McMillan, Rev. Sheila Archer, Rev. Will Simon, Fran Richardson, Peter Brotherhood, and Elizabeth Vosburgh.

Surviving the Holidays

A new program, Surviving the Holidays, was introduced at St. Peter's this year. This Christian-based program is designed for individuals who have experienced loss and are seeking practical tools to navigate the holiday season. Facilitated by Elizabeth Vosburgh and Nancy Marshall, the program welcomed nine participants. Feedback was very positive, with participants expressing appreciation for the supportive and compassionate environment. In addition, we once again offered a Blue Christmas service on a Thursday morning. This was an opportunity to remember loved ones and consider the theme of Advent.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry, which includes Knit and Knatter, continues to thrive. We are always grateful to receive knitted crocheted or sewn items that have been lovingly crafted by individuals, Helping Hands Northumberland, and the St. Peter's Knit and Natter team. All items are blessed at a Thursday morning service. Prayer shawls can be presented to anyone by any member of St. Peter's. Receiving a prayer shawl is a hug from God and our St. Peter's family. They are freely given and if you know someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, ask at the office and a member of H&W will assist you in making the perfect selection. Shawls or other appropriate items are presented during Baptisms, to guest speakers and grief share participants and to many individuals who needed to know that they were cared for, thought of and prayed for. Generously donated small, quilted lap blankets were delivered to the Chemo Clinic at Northumberland Hills Hospital.

In addition, two sets of knitted baby outfits were donated to Northumberland Hills Hospital: one for the last child born in December, and one for the first child born in January. This prayer is included in the gift: "May your life be filled with joy, love and prosperity. We pray for your journey in life to be smooth and fulfilling, dear little one. May you always be surrounded by love and support."

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets in-person on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 11:00 am in the Chapel. Members attend as they are able. Prayers for the people on our St. Peter's prayer list constitute a daily priority for each member. Prayers are offered for our church, its clergy and volunteers, the various ministries, outstanding issues around the world, and for those who have asked for prayer for themselves or others.

If you or someone you know would benefit from prayer, and you have their permission, please contact Donna Brotherhood (donnabro1@gmail.com) or Jo Caragh (jo.caragh@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Vosburgh (vosburghelizabeth1@gmail.com) to have the name added to the list.

Card Ministry

Thanks to all who have donated extra birthday cards to our birthday greeting program. Remember, if you would like to have greetings sent by mail on your birthday, let the church office know.

Dental Ministry (Fran Richardson)

Under the support of Fran Richardson, the dental program continued monthly throughout 2025. This supportive program offered dental supplies at TNL as well as advice for those requesting information.

Caregiver Fair

Another new initiative this year was the Caregiver Fair, a community-focused event that brought caregivers and local resources together. The Fair was designed to support those who care for others, including family members, friends, and professionals caring for seniors, children, or individuals with health or other challenges.

The event was sponsored by St. Peter's Church, Cobourg, and generously supported by Executive Sponsors Flourish at Home, The Jacqueline Pennington Real Estate Team, Enbridge Gas and Vosburgh Home Décor. Over 15 St. Peter's volunteers supported this successful, revenue-generating event, which also strengthened connections between the parish and the wider community.

Powerful tools for Caregivers (6-week workshop)

A partnership with Ontario Health at Home, Self-Management Program, Central East and St. Peter's Church brought a six-week workshop offered to seven participants. Participants included both parishioners and community members. The free workshop is a highly effective, evidence-based, self-care educational program for family caregivers to build the skills caregivers need to take better care of themselves as they provide care for others.

Parish Nurse Report – Elizabeth Vosburgh

This year has been exceptionally busy and deeply meaningful, filled with blessings and grace. As a Registered Nurse, I continue to feel called to bring Christ's comfort and compassion to those in need. I maintain office hours on Thursdays and have conducted many home and hospital visits. I am grateful to now be able to provide anointing for those who request it.

Supporting parishioners as they navigate the health care system remains a central focus of this ministry, and I am continually humbled by the trust placed in me during these moments.

My role continues to evolve, and my goal is to continue to support the parish's ministries, particularly in the areas of health and wellness, by exploring innovative approaches that meet the current and future needs of our parish and larger community.

In accordance with the requirements of the College of Nurses, I continue to pursue additional education in end-of-life planning and support, enabling me to better serve individuals and families during this sacred time.

I am deeply grateful for the encouragement and support I have received from parishioners, the Health and Wellness Committee, the Wardens, Fr. Matthew, Nancy Marshall, Fran Richardson, and Will Simon. With their support, I have been able to continue this ministry, and I remain profoundly thankful for the grace that has brought me here.

Plans for 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, the Health and Wellness Committee is excited to build on this year's momentum while responding to the evolving needs of our parish and community. To support effective planning for space and refreshments, pre-registration will be required for most events. Planned offerings for the coming year include:

- Advanced Care Planning Workshop – January 29th, 2026
- GriefShare – offered in January 2026
- Chair Yoga – offered in January 2026 and again in the spring and fall
- CPR/AED Training October 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)
- Parish Nurse office hours and home visits will continue as per the past
- Alzheimer's Society in partnership with St. Peters will be presenting on How well do you know Dementia? Scheduled for May 5, 2026
- Ontario Health at Home in partnership with St. Peters will be offering a five-week program on Managing Chronic Conditions beginning April 22, 2026
- Food Train Ministry will be re-introduced utilizing a technology-based system beginning Surviving the Holidays November 2026
- Continue with the Dental Ministry
- Blue Christmas Service December 2026
- Pastoral Care Program/s

We look forward to continuing this ministry with openness, creativity, and compassion as we discern how best to serve our parish in the year ahead.

Budget 2025

Our budget year was also a success. We started with a budget of \$2,000 and ended in the black with a balance of \$5,041.38 thanks to many of our projects being self-supporting. A few of our programs ended up being revenue producing: paint day, chair yoga, and the Caregiver Fair which we were fortunate to acquire generous corporate sponsorship.

Barbara Snelgrove and Elizabeth Vosburgh

AGM Report on Music at St Peter's for the year 2025



"Thank goodness for the choir at St. Peter's church! It's been a joy to sing with everyone over the last three years. I always look forward to rehearsals on Thursday evenings as our group grows in number but also as a singing entity. Recently it seems that our congregation and guests have been quite pleased with our sound. I'm so happy to be part of the learning, the laughter and blending of voices at the church."

Carol Evans, Choir Member

Our choir has grown to 34 regular members and continues to thrive. Thursday night rehearsals are a highlight of the week, bringing together people of all ages who love to sing and enjoy one another's company. We have a great deal of fun together while working towards and accomplishing challenging musical aims.

For special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and other events we are joined by former choristers and members of the Peterborough Singers, forming our Festival Choir.

A Hymn Sing was hosted at St. Peter's by the members of the Kawartha-Lakeshore Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists on April 6. Fr. Matt was our emcee, which was fun, but what was even more fun was a cipher (stuck note on the organ) which we fixed while the crowd watched and listened. Five RCCO organists played the twelve hymns. Two anthems were sung by a large choir comprised of members of St. Peter's Anglican Church; Trinity United Church, Cobourg; and St. George's Anglican Church, Grafton.

Thanks to budgeted monies and some generous donors, we are able to sustain seven choral scholars and three choral assistants, along with an organ scholar, greatly enhancing our music program while instilling a love of choral music and the Anglican tradition to these young people. Thanks to several new donors stepping forward we have been able to grow this initiative.

Previously, in collaboration with the Royal Canadian College of Organists, St Peter's provided an organ scholarship for Ben Keith to study for his service playing exam, which he has passed. Ben now plays the organ one Sunday a month at St John the Baptist Anglican Church in Lakefield. Ben continues to play the organ at our services and every now and then conducts the choir.

Choral Scholar James Summerfeldt-Parker continues as Cantor for our psalm singing, assisted by Abbey Yates. Choral Scholars are often heard singing solos or duets.

Choral assistant Lauren Halasz offers both private and group vocal lessons for choir members. She also provides individual music theory instruction for Junior Choir participants, while Syd directs the Junior Choir rehearsals. Junior Choir has eight members, including a number of children from outside the church. This is an outreach program.

Three Junior Choir members were awarded RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) medals for proficiency in music Theory, level 1.

It has been a pleasure to welcome congregation member Amanda Beatty playing flute on occasion at St Peter's. My special thanks to Michal Loeprich who plays the organ when I am away, as well as managing the music library and music distribution, not to mention chair setup up and take down, and in general keeps me on track.

This summer our choral Scholar Ahrianna McLean, under the supervision of our choir Librarian Michal Loeprich, catalogued our choir music. It was an extensive project that required two days a week for the entire summer for her to complete.

We have been diversifying our choir repertoire by the purchase of new music, and by the generosity of local church choirs who have kindly lent us music from their libraries, and also by donations of music from church choirs that are closing. Our choir library was stocked with just 20 copies of each anthem, leaving us regularly scrambling for music with 34 in the choir. Our thanks to Tina Wheeler-Moorecroft for providing funds to purchase more anthem books.

The Handbell Choir continues to meet every week under the direction of Debbie Fingas, Director of Music at Trinity Utd. They have a lot of fun, and regularly contribute to our worship. The Handbell Choir has attracted ringers from outside the church. This initiative is made possible by the generous financial support of a St Peter's Parishioner.

Jo Carragh continues as our Director of the Tower Chimes Ministry and coordinates the team of ringers. Jo is also preparing new arrangements for the ringers, expanding their repertoire while allowing new bell ringers accessibility to beginners' material. It is a joy to hear the bells before church services, at concerts and at other special events.

We were joined by the Concert Band of Cobourg for our Remembrance Day Service, as we continue to reach out to the wider Cobourg community.

In closing, I am deeply grateful to be part of the St Peter's community. Working alongside Fr Matt and contributing to our worship is truly meaningful to me. Many members of the congregation have shared how much joy the music ministry brings to our church family, and I am often told that the music is attracting new faces. My ongoing aim is to welcome newcomers through the music program while continuing to honour St Peter's rich choral tradition.

Prepared by Organist and Choirmaster Syd Birrell

Sunday School and Kids Club - 2025

Hello everyone,

This has been a year of challenge and adjustment working hard at moving forward in St. Peter's Sunday school. As our time in the old Sunday school area came to an end as Pear Tree took over the space, we set up our space on the stage in the Shepherd Hall. I wanted the kids to be ready for the geographical change coming in the new year, so in December of 2024, I took the kids into different areas of the church for Sunday lessons in preparation for January when they would no longer be in their old rooms. The Hutton Room, the Great Hall and the Chapel were our main haunts.

In January '25 the kids moved onto the stage in the Shepherd Hall as their permanent location. It was not as bright and quite cramped in comparison, but we were fine. We had open discussions over why and now they are quite fine with it.

We had a little bit of a hiccup early on in that the stage developed a rather large leak in the ceiling. That work took us off the stage for a number of weeks, but it was finally fixed and the ceiling painted, old fittings and curtains taken away which left the space looking nice and fresh. Thank you to all those who worked on our freshened up space.

Every Sunday we have our lesson on the stage and then we spread out into the hall where other activity areas are opened up along with those open on the stage...and it works.

We held fast to a VBS. Pam spearheaded the presentation of VBS in July along with a group of us. It was titled 'True North'. Jesus our guiding light and our faithful friend. Great games, activities and learning. Thank you Pam. It was difficult this year to come up with a pageant, so we went another way with a short reading of some song lyrics. Thanks John Winkworth. It was a weird Sunday. We only had two kids, lots of sickness etc that week...but we made it through the actions as John read our words beautifully.

Our numbers are growing. When I go through my list, there are around 23 kids. We never see them all together, but on a regular Sunday you might see 8-14.



The once regular online communication with our kids during Covid and our transition back has fallen away. Most of those kids have now 'aged' out. There wasn't any return on the emails, so I hope we will see them walk through the doors again at some point. They were such a great group of people.

We maintain a children's area at the back of the church. The books back there are from our teaching library. There is another library in the Hutton room perfect for our daycare kids and for parents and grand parents to borrow to read to their children. All borrowed on the honour system. Enjoy.

And so we walk forward into a new year. Hopeful. God's hand in all things.

I'll thank you all for your continued prayers and support for our kids.

Blessings,
Jan





Air Cadets

598 Sabre Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron moved in and started renting space in St. Peter's Lower Murray Room in September of 2023. With approximately 50 cadets and staff, they mainly meet on Thursday nights, with smaller groups on Mondays and some weekends, 2025 was a busy year.

The Air Cadet program is for young Canadians ages 12 to 18. This non-profit program, delivered in partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces, allows youth to thrive and experience valuable life and work skills such as teamwork, leadership and global citizenship. Under the guidance and leadership of their CO, Lt. Matthew Slade, the cadets enjoy a full range of programs.

Some of this years community activities include helping with the town of Cobourg with sorting Christmas lights, Remembrance Day poppy sales, vigil and ceremony, Winter Tim Horton's Smile Cookies, Santa Claus parades both in Cobourg and port Hope and more.

598 Sabre staff and cadets thank St. Peter's Church, for supporting their journey in becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Regards,
Lt. Matthew G.D. Slade

Thursday Night Light – 2025

Hello everyone,
Thursday Night Light has had another successful year despite some bumps in the road and changing demographics. There have been challenges, but we continue on as a caring, accepting and loving community. All of us together.

We have amazing support from within our walls; our clergy, wardens and congregation. We also have support from people and churches outside our walls. We are fortunate in donations of money, groceries, time, prayers and other bits and bobs like clothing, coats, socks, gloves etc.

This ministry would simply not be possible without our dedicated and committed volunteers. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



TNL takes place on Thursday evening. Doors open at 3:45 and the supper is served at 4:45. It is over and tidied up by about 6:00 give or take for our Air Cadets to take over the space.

The grocery give out begins at 4:30. Our grocery are carts set including donated groceries from both donations and dollars as well as from Fare Share (on card table). Fare Share items are free choice as folks come in. The cart groceries we build each week are given out under supervision four items per family/person. They also allow a good variety of smaller portions that can be slipped into the cupboard/fridge at home or more importantly into backpacks of those who are dealing with homelessness and food insecurity.

This part of our TNL ministry has become increasingly important and needed as food prices have risen along with the number of food insecure and unsheltered.

We have only missed three weeks this year. One week for summer clean up and the other two Christmas Day and New Years Day. It was a long break over Christmas and hard on some of our folk. Very happy faces when we started up again in January.

We continue to prepare 100+ meals each week. We are trying to encourage staying to eat and develop community. The 'take out' portion of those meals we prepare are fewer each week this year. We have some folk in St. Peter's

Court and a few more for people who come in late and/or those who have a hard time handling the big room full of people thing. We do about 5-15 a week. This is less stressful on the kitchen staff who, in the past, were doing too many things at once as we came into food service time last year.

TNL has now developed four teams that prepare meals over the course of the month. The first week is Karen Stinson and her group, Second and Fourth week are Dave Henderson and Jan and their crew. The third week is Lauren Mclean and Hamish and their folk and then when there is a fifth week it is Hamish and his group. They all produce wonderful meals. We have a very lucky community of 'eaters'. You are welcome as well.

Dave continues to shop for deals and donate at least the protein portion of many of our meals and often other things that are the around the edges of producing the dinner each week. There are others who bake for us. It is so nice to have the 'homemade' touch to our deserts. Big thanks.

Also we need to again thank Baxter's Bakery for their regular donations of baked goods to our dessert table and 'take out' bags. They are very generous with us. And of course we need to thank Nancy M. For being our liaison and pick up/delivery person.

Also coming into action this year near the end was Fare Share. They send us 'bread' as well as a selection of other fresh stuff each week. We have a talk on Tuesday and they deliver it to us on Wednesday. So big thanks to them.

We also have a hand full of folks that are very dedicated grocery buyers. Soup, tuna, granola bars, fruit snacks, apples, soup condensed milk, cereal, peanut butter, pudding, etc., etc. thank you so much. You add so much to our ministry. I'm pretty sure you know who you are so... Thankyou!



And now the money part...

We have had another year that ended in the black. We had a budget of \$20,000 and ended up just below that amount. Keep in mind that the dollars are for TNL, Souptertime as well as keeping the coffee, tea, juice, milk, cream, sweetner and sugar for the 'kitchen' up and available. Our budget is \$20,000 again for this year.

It never ceases to amaze me that when things get tight or we are running over budget and I start to worry (a genetic trait) in a particular month, that a donation comes in. This is because of all of you who continue to lift us up with regular donations as well as donations that come from outside our walls. Thank you Grace Church. Sometimes the donations just fall out of the sky and are so helpful. We are doing good work here. God's hands are in it all. Many, many thanks!

We still have our little pickle jar for free will donations during the dinner. Well it's not little anymore. Adventure! The little one got pilfered one night. When the crowd found out, the number of people that went out from the crowd to look for the culprit was inspiring albeit a little scary. I was out and down the sidewalk looking for evidence or the empty jar. They were all around me and spreading out into the park and downtown areas. I felt like I was in a 'western' movie.

We have a wonderful core community. We matter to them, even those on the edge. The very next week the little jar was replaced by a very large pickle jar (try hiding that under your coat) with a lock and chain on it. Generally the jar brings in anywhere from \$60 to \$200 a night. The usual amount is \$100-\$130. I'm sure our total is around the \$6000 mark. It's amazing when you think of how tight finances can be and the expense of things.

All and all a good year...walking into this one with eyes open to what can happen, but mostly hearts open, hands ready.

Thank you to you all.

Jan



SouperTime - 2025

2025 has come and gone. This year was challenging, because of numbers of meals going up for the most part, serving between 30 to 50 soup and sandwiches.

However, as normal, our volunteers rose to the task. We even have some new volunteers helping weekly and/or monthly, plus a few on standby. I know I say this every year, but we really have the most amazing, dedicated group of volunteers.

Just a little history, did you know that SouperTime was created by neighbourlink to help people in need? Pat Weller was one of the people on board and came to me to see if I was interested in coordinating. That was almost 30 years ago. To this day almost every church in town is still running this program. As far as I know, I am the only original one still working, however I have had several volunteers who have been with me from the beginning.

When I say we have an amazing group of volunteers, I really mean it. Thank you all.

Colleen Simon

FaithWorks -2025

"I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." - Matthew 25:36

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto's charitable program, named "FaithWorks", is celebrating its 30th Anniversary during calendar year 2026! FaithWorks offers support, financial and otherwise, to our sixteen Ministry Partners along with one additional Funding Application that is 'new' for the 2026 Review Cycle. Our Ministry Partners serve the needs of people who are: Indigenous, Home & food insecure, at-risk women, children or youth, newcomers, refugees and migrant workers, those struggling with HIV/AIDS and those touched by the prison system. The impact of your donations to the "FaithWorks Campaign" on an annual basis, is felt across the Diocese and around the world. In calendar year 2024, there was a 36% increase in the number of people served by FaithWorks Ministry Partners over the previous year - almost 49,000 individuals were served!

St. Peter's (Anglican) Church, Cobourg generously raised \$1,580.00 dollars during calendar year 2025. Thank you for your care and kindness to achieve this financial amount! As a reference point, for the previous five years, our Cobourg-based church has charitably donated the following monetary totals: 2020 - \$2,570.00, 2021 - \$2,640.00, 2022 - \$2,440.00, 2023 - \$1,845.00, and 2024 - \$2,010.00.

Also last year, on Sunday, the 23rd of November 2025 (2025 FaithWorks Sunday), I was able to organize a "special guest homilist" to address the congregational members at both Sunday morning services by the name of Mr. Peter Mentis, FaithWorks Campaign Manager, who delivered a heartfelt and insightful message detailing the goals and objectives of this diocesan-wide ministry and the many different and vital programs offered by its Ministry Partners - Partners such as "A Place Called Home (Lindsay, Ontario)", "One City Peterborough, Ontario", "Migrant Workers Ministry (Orono, Ontario)" and "Alongside Hope (formerly known as the "Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF))". Peter Mentis reminded our parishioners present that day that all participating parish churches within the Diocese are entitled to retain 15% of undesignated contributions raised through their local FaithWorks Campaign, for use in their local outreach programs!

It is my intention, as our parish church’s FaithWorks Coordinator in 2026, to once again invite a guest speaker from one of the FW Ministry Partners, to address both Sunday Morning Church Services during the month of November 2026.

As a final note, the “FaithWorks Allocations Committee - (Anglican) Diocese of Toronto”, of which I am both a Committee Member now in my twelfth year, as well as serving as their “Deputy-Chairperson” in my third year - have once again commenced our group’s weekly meetings during the months of January and February, in order to review and in some cases issue to the Committee, written reports regarding our Ministry Partners’ Funding Applications for 2026. The FaithWorks Allocations Committee has been advised in late-January 2026 that the diocesan goal of raising 1.5 million dollars as its 2025 Campaign Goal has not only been met but was exceeded by an additional 1.8%. This amount of monies is a phenomenal sum of donated funds to be raised considering “today’s stressors in society experienced by all of us - such as higher month-to-month prices for essential needs as well as our local parish church’s budget challenges each fiscal year.

Thank you, once again, for your individual and collective support, along with your prayers, that continue to be directed towards the work of this successful Diocesan-wide ministry and its ongoing Christian mission!

Respectfully Submitted,
E.C. John Lindsay, ODT
2025 FaithWorks Coordinator

Greeters - 2025

St Peter’s is truly fortunate to have its Greeters. Each week, they stand at the King Street and parking lot entrances, warmly welcoming everyone who crosses the threshold of the church. With a smile, an offered hand, a hug, or a friendly pat on the back, they share words of welcome “We’re glad you’re here,” “I hope you enjoy the service,” and “See you at coffee hour afterward.”

In 2025 the Greeting Team made sure personal fans were available for use during the heat of summer, plus boxes of tissues were available at each entrance and sometimes provided bowls of candies and chocolates. Another highlight of the Greeter Ministry was the new Pew Cushions donated by Brian and Elizabeth Vosburgh. Hats off to this couple for making the pews comfortable for sitting especially during a long service. Hopefully, 2026 we will see more donated cushions paid by parishioners that want to have a soft seat in their favourite pew.

Many Thanks to the following for their committed Greeter Ministry 2025;

- Daphne King.....Carol Fisher
- Susan Goody.....Heather Wenn
- Callan Harvey.....Ruth Ann Douglas
- Helen Swindley.....Denise Johnson
- Cheryl Gould-Harvey

Blessings

Deborah Elder

International Outreach – St. Peter’s Mzuzu Vestry Report 2025

Your Canadian Mzuzu Orphan Care team are so grateful for the many donor supporters that have allowed us at St. Peter’s to send month by month funds to the orphan children at St. Mark’s Anglican in Mzuzu. Once again we have been able to assist these young children to grow in faith and in health, hopefully stronger to face the common struggles of life.

We would not want to forget the super volunteer teams on the ground in 2025 in Mzuzu who faithfully care for these little lives week by week. Paul Kamlaza is our coordinator and with his team of Mothers Union ladies and indeed also with children’s guardians bringing these little ones Saturday by Saturday to the parish church. We are able to see many children become educated and able to enter the work force eventually.

Your team are also fortunate to have a private donor foundation provide funding for the building of over 100 latrines to date. This critical initiative for the greater community is preventing water borne disease.

On behalf of the entire team, Mzuzu and Cobourg, We want to thank each person who so generously gave to this outreach program with weekly feeding, nursing care, dentistry, tailoring and spiritual teaching. In addition we were able to send 7 children to secondary school and assist 4 students with post secondary education at universities and colleges in Malawi.



2025 revenues - \$54,213.28
2025 expenditures - \$53,610.00
Year end bank balance - \$26,569.00

Respectfully submitted
Colin Turnpenney
Mzuzu AIDS Orphan Care Program coordinator.

St. Peter's Gardens – 2025

Suppose I hold back the rain or send locusts to eat the crops or make my people suffer with deadly diseases.

2 Chronicles 7.13

God withheld the rain in a summer that was plagued by heat waves. Mercifully, He did not also send grasshoppers to devour the plants nor did the spider bite result in necrosis.

Responsible for watering the largest areas, Gayle Carver and Trish Reid each spent an average of eight hours every week ensuring that the gardens stayed lush and colourful. The members of the gardening team cover their own expenses but we are grateful to St. Peter's parishioners who paid the water bill; it must have been a doozy.

Fr. Matt showed us how to access the water hookup on the cemetery side of the Great Hall. With the aid of a socket wrench, a screwdriver, 76 metres of hose and a sprayer, we can water the beds at the entrance to the sanctuary and the long bed that fronts the cemetery fence. We also can offer a shower but only one overheated pedestrian requested it.

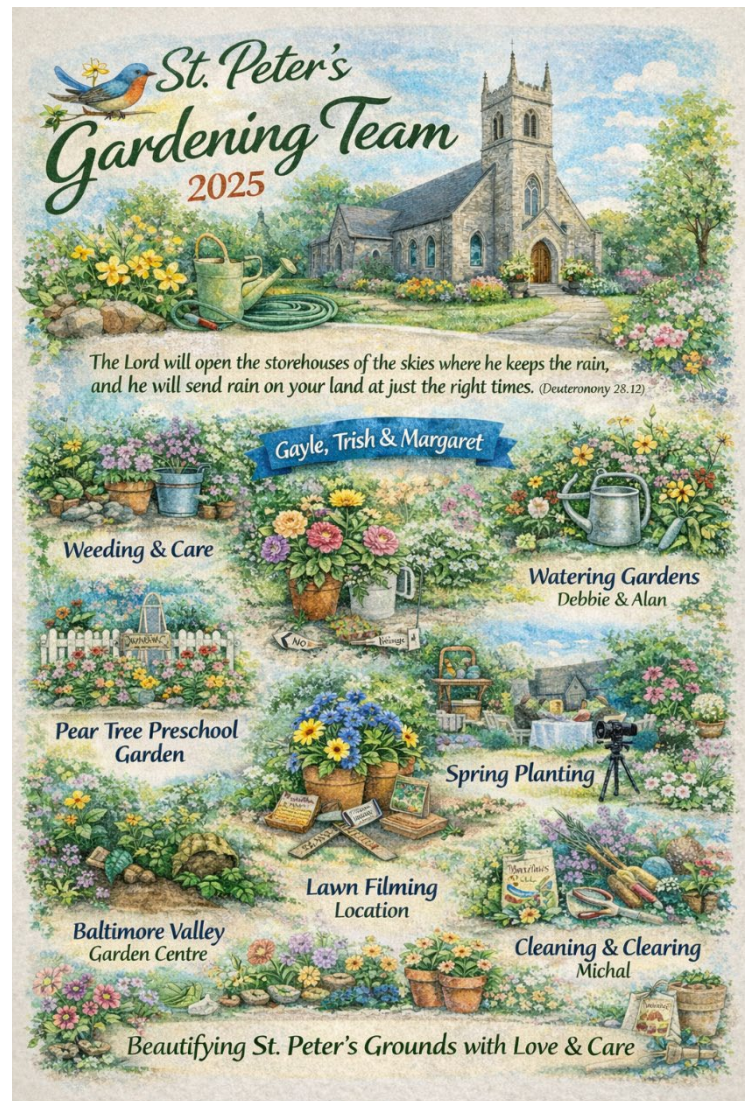
Our season began at Easter when we adorned the sanctuary entrance with planters of vibrant blue pansies and yellow daffodils. Squirrels attempted to enhance the arrangements by stealing tulip bulbs from residents' gardens in St. Peter's Court and burying them among the pansies. The white urns at the parking lot entrance featured Lenten roses until they were replaced with evergreen branches for the winter by Jackie Kirtley and festively accessorized with ornaments by Debbie Elder. We don't know who added the traffic cone that is keeping the cement steps safe from the snow plow.

The garden by the north doors was admired this summer by all age groups, from the seniors of St. Peter's Court to the toddler whose mother watched him trample plants as he plucked verbena from the garden and scaevola from the arrangements in the urns. Responding to my indignation his mother said she was sorry I was having a bad day. This garden featured two new rose bushes: Cinderella Fairy Tale and Outta the Blue which was well named because it bloomed once.

The gardens around 264 College Street delighted pedestrians because of the efforts of Trish Reid and Susan Winfrow, assisted by Tony Oomen and David Winfrow. Trish's careful nurturing revived the raspberry hydrangeas that were so attractive two summers ago that a stranger brought scissors to steal blooms. Susan seeded a bigger crop of nasturtiums this year and culled the spreading daisies. Two archaeologists arrived in mid-August, dug numerous holes, planted little red flags and reported that they didn't find any bodies buried on the property.

Kay MacLeod purchased extra colour for her garden in the forms of red vinca, pink impatiens and red and gold lantana. She arranged for the garden to be covered with a thick layer of cedar mulch to help mitigate the effects of the drought. There were fewer bees buzzing around the butterfly bush possibly because the broken cement step that had housed last year's bee nest was repaired. Margaret Wrightson is a new member of the gardening team; we are grateful for her diligent care of Kay's garden.

From beneath the hedges on College Street we removed an assortment of discarded clothing, food containers, a



bong, and twelve boxes of thawed quiche. Dumped beside the planter at the entrance driveway was an electric coffee maker that failed spectacularly as a garden ornament.

Assisted by weeder Diana Storen, Gayle Carver was responsible for the care of the five beds located below the Hutton Room windows. Because each garden was planted by design, it was stressful ensuring that every plant thrived equally and was assiduously deadheaded. Gayle aced the assignment.

Debbie and Alan Elder didn't find a nest of bunnies in their lovely garden this year but did have a concerning moment when a panting rabbit blocked access to the water tap.

Pear Tree Preschool was permitted by the Cobourg Heritage Committee to erect a fence around the play area on the lawn of the church on the proviso that it installed a garden along the south side of the fence. This flower bed diverts attention from the plastic playhouse and pirate ship. It also initiates the thought that the children are actually animated garden gnomes.

Shaftesbury Films chose the lawn in front of the rectory for the location of a scene in Murdoch Mysteries. We're sure it was Pam McMillan's gorgeous rectory gardens that persuaded the producers to film a tea party rather than a crime scene.

Baltimore Valley Garden Centre helped us to transform the beds on either side of the sanctuary doors and the garden that fronts the cemetery fence. Shrubs and perennials replaced ferns and Solomon's seal. Squirrels were thrilled. They bent the stems of the giant hyssop plants, bared the roots of plantings by redistributing mulch, and snacked on the ligularia. Sometimes it's hard to love all of God's creatures.

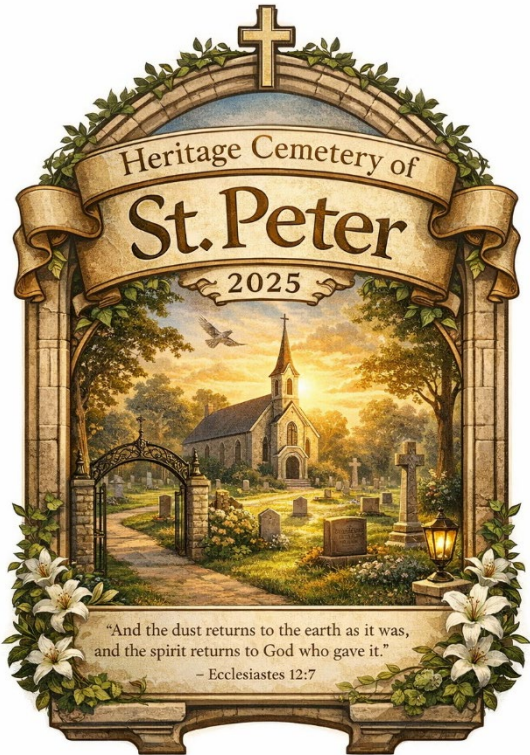
Working in the gardens in a heat wave was uncomfortable for the gardeners but clearing lilac trees from the north end of the parking lot in a heat wave was agonizing; we were downwind from the Pear Tree Preschool dumpster.

**The Lord will open the storehouses of the skies where he keeps the rain,
and he will send rain on your land at just the right times.
Deuteronomy 28.12**

We gardeners at St. Peter's pray that our time and God's time are synchronized next summer.

Michal Loeprich

Heritage Cemetery of St. Peter 2025



At the Board of Directors' Meeting held on Monday, the 16th of June 2025, I was elected as the 'new' Chairperson of The Heritage Cemetery of St. Peter, Cobourg, Ontario. Although I am accustomed to various "volunteer leadership roles" throughout my lifetime, this 'new' experience has been both challenging yet rewarding on many levels! I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the former Chairperson, Brenda Cochrane, for her invaluable efforts during the many previous years in the role as well as her shared knowledge and experience in assisting me, as this church ministry's Board of Directors creates the "next chapter" in the long history of our beloved Cemetery's property and buildings.

Since last June's first meeting following the 'extended' weathering of the storm known as "COVID-19", the current Board of Directors has endeavoured to address the challenges and opportunities facing the 'next steps' in the progress of its mission. Listed below are just some of the accomplishments by this august body of representatives:

- By the beginning of June 2025, we were pleased to announce that there was a successful conclusion to the matter involving The Town of Cobourg regarding the "Storm Water Charges". Of note, what was once an outstanding assessment of \$19,000.00 dollars was reverted to a "credit amounting to \$137.00 dollars in our favour"!
- In late October 2025, a funding application was forwarded to "The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: Cobourg & East Northumberland Branch (ACOCEN). We are seeking additional funds to commence a window replacement program as well as a wooden floor restoration project at the Cemetery's on-site "Mortuary Chapel (circa 1889)"
- As of the 31st of December 2025, Michel Cabardos, tendered his resignation as our Heritage Cemetery's Sales & Administrative Representative. At the time of writing this report, we have advertised the vacancy and a small team on the Board of Directors has been chosen to conduct interview(s) of potential candidates in the beginning of February 2026. Following an intense 'orientation period', the 'new' Sales & Administrative Representative will begin to field inquiries regarding burial requests at the site.
- In late January 2026, the Board of Directors met to begin the process of selecting a 'new site' for a yet to purchased columbarium (niche wall unit) that is necessary in order to accommodate future requests for family and/or friend burials involving cremation. We expect the planning process as well as the delivery and installation of the first of the Niche Wall units to be completed this coming Summer 2026.

During the course of the Spring/Summer/Fall 2025 months, there were a number of people who either were "paid or volunteer service providers" that helped to sustain the natural beauty of the Cemetery property infrastructure. Sincere appreciation and 'special thanks' to Ms. Meghan Brown (Gardens Care & Maintenance", Mr. Nigel Buchanan (Opening & Closing Procedure: Niche Wall Services), Mr. Bob Francis (Minor Tree Maintenance & Niche Wall Cleaning) and Mrs. Karen Sherwood-Lindsay (Cemetery Flower Urn Watering Upkeep) along with other caring individuals. Also, people can arrange to place a plant in the "Special Occasion Stand", for a week at a time, in remembrance of someone interred in the "Memorial Garden", at an established fee, by contacting Brenda Cochrane at (905) 349-3795.

Thanks to the dedicated Members of the Heritage Cemetery Board of Directors: Brenda Cochrane, Reverend Matthew (Matt) McMillan, Rob Mikel, Jan Spragge, Rick Stinson and Ann Stokes for their tireless efforts to address the ongoing business of the Cemetery. At our January 2026 meeting, we regretfully accepted the resignations

(following years of steadfast service) as Board Members, Mr. Richard (Rick) Lazure and Mr. John Winkworth. We wish them both well in the future.

The Board of Directors is always grateful to those individuals who choose to make donations to The Heritage Cemetery of St. Peter (Cobourg), as we do not receive any funding from the Church proper or from any outside sources. Those wishing to contribute to the “Tree Planting Program at the Cemetery” may contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,
E.C. John Lindsay, ODT
Chairperson - Board of Directors
The Heritage Cemetery of St. Peter

St. George's Chapel and Cemetery

We were delighted to know that Mr. Robert Washburn would be able to take our summer services. Rob has been teaching at Loyalist College in Bellville. Fr. Matt suggested that he come to take our services for the summer months and he agreed. Thank you, Rob, for your ministry to us. You were and are a blessing.

We were delighted to have Pastor Tyler Tavares from the Cobourg Alliance Church use the quiet Sunday School room during the weekday mornings, for part of the summer, to work on his Thesis. During the summer we had several meetings on how to make the Chapel more visible as a place of worship and discussed strategies to do this. This group worked at making Signage for the announcement board at the front gate, putting notices in mailboxes, advertising on Facebook on the Shores of Rice Lake group site and making announcements at the Gore's Landing Hall suppers. Next summer we are planning on some different strategies to grow our congregation.

Cory has been instrumental in having the leak in the bell tower roof repaired with the help of his friends both in GL and at St. Peter's. Thank you so much. Now to get the bell ringing again. Cory, you have worked so hard on this project. See update below.

Update on the St. George's Bell Tower

During Fall, 2024, a leak was discovered in the roof of the church's bell tower that caused considerable damage, particularly to the wooden support structure for the bell. A group of volunteers spent a Saturday in late September to stop the leak. The old, rotted roof was replaced with a new plywood roof and all of the salvaged wood around the edges of the roof was cleaned up and reinstalled. The roof was patched and a waterproof patch/sealant layer was applied.

The next step in restoring the bell tower is to initiate an engineering design to reinforce the wooden supports for the bell so that the bell can be maintained and put back into service. A fundraising campaign is being launched to help with the repair costs (estimated to be between \$25,000 and \$30,000) so that the bell can ring once again. Approximately \$11,085 has been raised to-date.

Cory Harris, Facilities Manager

Our grounds keeper, Kevin van Steijn, did his usual super job of keeping the grass cut, the grounds looking good and closing the water supply for the winter.

In terms of finances, St. Georges' opened the year with a bank balance of \$36,106.07 and closed the year with a balance of \$39,954.20.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Jean Harris who was such a blessing in her days here as well as the death of Arthur Dalgarno. He loved dropping off the collection to Eunice. He will be missed.

Our Christmas Eve Service was truly lovely and was very well attended. The children's Christmas pageant is always a beautiful thing to watch as the 70+ people who filled the pews will attest to.

Thank you everyone for all you do to keep this Historic Church open.

Thank you to all of those at St. Peter's who make it possible for us to stay open, especially Fr. Matthew, the Wardens and Eunice Cole.



(removing the old roof)



(Children's Christmas Pageant)

Blessings on you all,
Submitted by Nancy Dalgarno

St. Peter's Synod Representative Report

Attending Synod as a voting members this year was both inspiring and focused. We began with an opening Eucharist and the Bishop's Charge from the Right Rev. Andrew Asbil, who invited us to reflect on our ongoing Cast the Net vision and its 20 Calls, a diocesan discernment process aimed at renewing spirituality, inspiring faith in action, reimagining ministry and transforming diocesan culture — a theme that undergirded all discussions this weekend. Synod adopted the Consent Agenda without controversy, received reports from Synod Council, and welcomed introductions to the new Synod information and voting platform. There were Call and Response Moments with powerful video presentations, including one on the Durham Region Migrant Workers Ministry and another highlighting Trinity East's community Good Food Market, both showing how parishes are living into diocesan Calls. In Members' Time, voices from across the diocese raised important issues such as affordable housing, creation care and climate advocacy, retired clergy voting participation, regional ministry models, and the need for theological reflection on AI and youth engagement in church life.



On the motions before us, Synod passed several key decisions. We voted to extend the Reconciliation Land Tithe through Synod 2027, reinforcing our commitment to Indigenous-led initiatives and acknowledging the church's role in reconciliation work, with presentations that contextualized the historic and ongoing impacts Residential Schools. Synod also approved housekeeping changes to the Constitution and Canons intended to modernize language and clarify governance structures. We debated and passed the Priorities and Plans 2025–27 with an amendment (deferring a major diocesan fundraising campaign), thereby endorsing a balanced budget and strategic focus for the next two years. Elections were held to fill positions on Synod Council and Provincial Synod, ensuring ongoing leadership, and there was meaningful fellowship and worship throughout. Overall, the atmosphere was collegial and forward-looking, with a heartfelt standing ovation for Bishop Asbil's leadership and a shared sense of being “chosen to tell the good story” in our communities and beyond.

Submitted by; David Winfrow, Rev. Will Simon and Fr. Matt McMillan



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT
ST. PETER'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

MOTIONS

2026 Vestry Motions

Approval of Auditors Motion:

(This motion allows the parish to formally appoint our auditor's for next year's reports.)

Moved by; Rick Stinson & Colin Turnpenney.

“We the Vestry of St. Peter's, Cobourg, authorize the appointment of, Lynch, Rutherford, Tozer, Chartered Accountants of Port Hope, Ontario, to be the Auditors of record for St. Peter's Financial Reports for the year ending 2026 Financial Cycle.”

Rectory Grant Motion:

(This motion gives the parish permission to apply for Diocesan Grants for work on The Rectory for any major or urgent repairs, and ongoing maintenance, as it is required. Voting on this item now, means that no special vestry will be required if such an application is prepared.)

Moved by; Colleen Simon & Susan Winfrow.

“We the Vestry of St. Peter's, Cobourg, authorize the Corporation to apply for a Carleton Grant in the year 2026 for work in 2026/2027, to help support the costs of maintenance, renovation and/or repairs to our Parish Rectory, located at 118 King Street East, in Cobourg.”

Motion of Thanks:

(This motion formally thanks our Diocesan Members of the Board of Management.)

Moved by; Suzanne Lawson & Karen Stinson.

“We the Vestry of St. Peter's, Cobourg, recognizes with gratitude the contribution of time and skills of the Board of Management members, and is especially grateful for the contributions of the volunteer members from outside the parish, Heather MacGregor and Dave Toyce.”