

Promoting Faithful Stewardship

Stewardship is defined as “what I do, with all that I have, after I say, I believe” and “using the gifts that God has given to us, to do the work God is calling us to do.” Participating in activities to help promote a complete understanding of how the church develops its resources is an essential means to promote faith and strengthen witness.



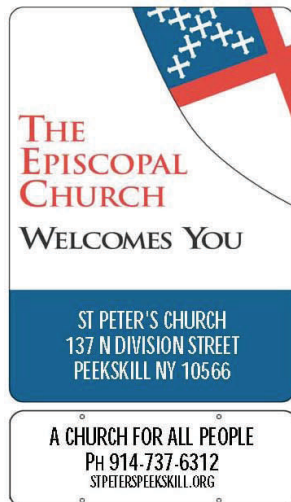
Developing Future Church Leaders

If you have interests in the development of each member’s promise through baptism and the development of aspirants to ordained ministry, we have a committee that oversees such issues.



Where Ministry Flourishes

Our red doors are symbols of the sanctuary offered by the church to all those who seek safe refuge in turbulent times. St. Peter’s Church continues that tradition as we share God’s love for all people within and far beyond our red doors. We hope our invitation to join us in ministry beckons to you as vibrantly as our red doors and that you will discover your gifts for ministry.



St Peter’s Episcopal Church

Ministry:

What Is Your Call?



A Church for All People

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ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministry: Serving the *Body of Christ*

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all of the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. . . .” (1 Corinthians 12: 12)

A common misunderstanding of ministry is that it is solely the responsibility of the ordained. In fact, the task of ministry is not reserved to any one office or person. It is the work and responsibility of all people. We minister to each other through the sharing of Christian love. For we are the body of Christ. We must care for the body in order for the body to be nourished, strengthened, and sustained. As Charles Price and Louis Weil (P&W) state:

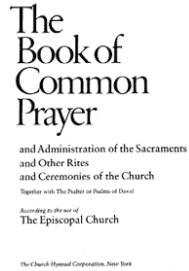
“Ministry is the activity of the Body of Christ, Each person has a special ministry, shaped to fit the given reality of the person’s life. An individual or a parish or a diocese may be called upon to minister in unexpected ways, since ministry is always a response to a given situation. Ministry is the way in which communities or individuals respond to the persons or situations in which they find themselves, in obedience to the command proclaimed by the liturgy: to love one another as Christ loved them. Ministry is not to another person in another time. It is here and now. It is not what we would do if we had greater resources or if the situation were somehow different. Ministry is what is done with existing resources in obedience to Christ the Lord.” (*Liturgy for Living*, Morehouse Publishing, 1979, pg 40).

We gather in worship to confess our faith, renew our baptismal promise, and feed our hearts and minds through Word and Sacrament. Afterward, we reenter the world to “love and serve with gladness and singleness of heart”.

Our doors are open for you to come and discover the possibilities for ministry at St. Peter’s!

Where Ministry Begins

Ministry begins in the liturgy. The word liturgy, from the Latin word *leitourgia*, means “the work of the people”. We experience the “liturgy” in worship through the forms of service contained in *The Book of Common Prayer*. In worship, we gather to strengthen our Christian understanding and promote peace and reconciliation so as to return to the world to exercise “the liturgy after the liturgy” – ministering to others, spreading the Good News. “Liturgy leads to the ministry of the entire people of God in the world. Liturgy expresses the mutual ministry” (P&W, 40).



Where Ministry Occurs

Ministry is organized in many ways in which the people of God can express their Christian witness. It could be as simple as sitting in the nave and helping a fellow parishioner with the service bulletin, the hymnal, or in greeting others during the Peace. For others, it may involve participating in various activities within the church itself. Some may feel empowered to express their Christian love through care and of the church’s physical infrastructure. For people with commitment to the social gospel, ministry may be expressed in liturgy and theology but delivered outside of the church buildings through the church’s social witness.



Ministry Through Worship & Liturgy

Since liturgy means “the work of the people,” all people have integral roles in which to participate in the proclamation of the promise of God through Word and Sacrament. Consider these possibilities:

- Are you comfortable with public speaking? Serving as a *lector*, reading the lessons from the Bible, or leading the congregation in the Prayers of the People as the *intercessor*, are excellent ways to glorify God in liturgy.
- If public speaking does not speak to you, perhaps serving as an *acolyte* (lighting the candles), a *crucifer* (carrying the cross in procession), a *thurifer* (carrying the incense), or a *torch bearer* present opportunities for you to participate in the liturgy.



- If you would like to help with the distribution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you could do so as an *Eucharistic Minister*.



- Serving as a member of the *Altar Guild* would give you an opportunity to help prepare the church for worship in overseeing the altar, baptistery, sacristy, and all appropriate appointments such as sacred vessels, linens, and vestments.
- Do you like to sing? Singing is a wonderful way to express one’s faith. Our church choir could use your talent!



Christian Education

Do you like to teach or lead discussion groups? Participating in our *adult education forums* and classes throughout the year would give you an opportunity to serve in an purposeful role in the encouragement of community, faith formation and sustenance.



Do you like dealing with children in a teaching vein? Our *Church School* provides basic Christian instruction during the school year for children through high school age and is a means for you to help in the Christian formation of children.



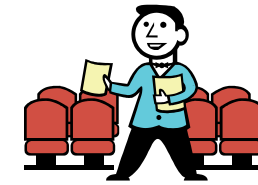
Managing Our Properties

Maintaining the main church building, Howard House, and the courtyard and gardens, are important tasks to ensure that we have a safe and comfortable place in which to worship and express our Christian faith. Maintenance is a public expression of how we value our environment and manage our resources and is a tangible witness to faith and commitment to the surrounding community. Of specific interest is the oversight of Old St. Peter’s Church, our original, 18th century building on Oregon Avenue.



Developing/Fostering Community

One of the essential tenets of Christianity is community. If you have gifts/skills to make new or prospective members feel welcome, or to reinforce existing community relationships, serving



as an usher, assisting with or hosting a coffee hour after Sunday worship, and participating in our book club are particular avenues to do so.



Mission/Outreach

The church’s mission extends beyond the church walls to the surrounding community and the world. Serving those in the community that are in need is a major way in which to share our Christian witness



and “love and serve God with singleness of heart”. Once a month, we prepare a meal that is offered the following day in the local soup kitchen. On the third Thursday of the month, we open our doors, prepare and provide a Community Dinner.

