



ST. PETER'S EST. 1880 EPISCOPAL CHURCH THE CROSSKEYS

October 2025

From the Rector

It's October! And at St. Peter's we begin our month with two celebrations of St. Francis, first the Transitus on October third and then the blessing of the animals on October fifth. When most people think of St. Francis of Assisi, they picture him standing quietly in the garden, forever holding up a stone bird bath. It's almost comical that this saint—whose life was marked by deep faith, radical humility, and fiery devotion—has been reduced to lawn decor. And yet, maybe there is wisdom hidden in that image. For Francis' life was, in many ways, the faithful act of holding up love for others—holding it steady, holding it open—so that they might drink deeply of God's grace and be washed clean in the waters of life.

Francis' story reminds us that Christian faith is not about power, winning, or being right. It is about service. On his deathbed, he asked for the gospel about Jesus washing the disciples' feet to be read aloud. That image—our Lord kneeling, pouring water, and touching the dirt of tired feet—was the image Francis wanted to carry him into eternity. Humility, not victory; service, not domination.

We live in a time when many are more interested in grasping power and enforcing might than in loving neighbor or welcoming stranger; when many are more interested in winning arguments than listening to other's stories; when many are more interested erasing identities than embracing differences. But Francis' life points to another way. What would it look like if, instead of rushing to defend our own positions or to claim the upper hand, we sought to offer water to others—even to those with whom we disagree? What if our first posture was not one of arguing or conquering, but of kneeling and serving? After all, the victory of Christ came through humbling himself unto death.

I know we are living in a politically charged time. And it is difficult to speak on such emotionally charged matters. But I will say this: we need more of Francis' witness in our world. We need more true Christians in this world. *For the measure of true Christian faith is humility and service in love.* In your own political engagement and reflection--and in all your relationships and life circumstances--remember that. And the next time you see Francis in the garden, holding his little basin for the birds, take it as a holy reminder. That's what Christian faith looks like: to stand ready, to hold out the love of God, and to offer cool water to weary souls. That is the kind of humble faithfulness our world needs today.

The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF

Love God

Worship & Formation Opportunities at St. Peter's and Beyond

CENTERING PRAYER AND MORNING PRAYER

Join Fr. Derek for Centering Prayer each weekday morning from 7:30am-8:00am in the church right before Morning Prayer. Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer, rooted in the early church, which deepens our relationship with God—a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Reach out to Fr. Derek to learn more about the practice or find out more here: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/>

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER

St. Peter's welcomes visitors for prayer most weekdays, between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:30 pm. You are invited to come and spend some quiet time in our sacred space for reflection and prayer.

Bible Study with the Rector In-Person and Online!

Each week on Wednesdays at 10:30am, eight to twelve parishioners gather in Bender Hall to reflect and study the Scripture passages assigned for the upcoming Sunday. Now we have added the opportunity for folks to join us online using zoom. If you would like to join the in-person meeting online, please send an email to Fr. Derek at rector@stpetersplantcity.com.

Compline

Wednesdays from 6:50pm-7:00pm

Join us in the church after Engage Cafe for a short service of compline from the Book of Common Prayer, led by choir members.

fAMILY SERVICE

Family Service is held on the last Sunday's 10:30am service of each month. All families are welcome—large and small, families of birth and of choice. Not all families include children, but some do, and making worship friendly and accessible for all ages is part of what we're called to do as members of Christ's church. The Family Service is an all-ages Episcopal worship that centers children and youth in a more obvious way. It's an opportunity to share, to learn, and to grow together as God's family through all generations. Join us!

Growing into GRACE

A PODCAST FROM
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN PLANT CITY, FL

ST. PETER'S HAS A PODCAST!

Subscribe wherever you listen to podcasts and get each week's homily (and occasionally other content) whenever is convenient to you!



You can also find videos and manuscripts of homilies at www.DerekMichaelLarson.com.

Love God

Worship & Formation Opportunities at St. Peter's and Beyond

St. Peter's Faith Formation Opportunities (for Adults, Children, & Youth)

Sunday mornings between services St. Peter's offers Sunday school for all ages. Light refreshments are available. These classes include:

PathFinders

Pathfinders is our adult Sunday school class, which gathers each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in Bender Hall for classes on Scripture, faith, theology, and living as Christians in the world. A new series, "Our Shared Prayer", will begin in October & goes until November 2. What does prayer and spiritual practice look like in the Anglican tradition? How does the prayer book work? How can I deepen my prayer life? Join us to find out! For more information, reach out to Fr. Derek.

Little Lambs

Children in Kindergarten or younger are invited to participate in a Sunday school each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 a.m., designed just for them. The class will feature simple stories about Jesus from the gospels and the story of creation. There will be time for play, crafts, conversation, and Scripture. The classroom is located down the back hallway in Bender Hall, across from the Godly Play room. For more information, contact LauraAnn Larson.

TruthWalkers

TruthWalkers is St. Peter's Sunday school class for school-aged children in 1st through 5th grade. The class meets most Sundays during the school year in the Godly Play Room, located down the back hallway of Bender Hall, from 9:15 to 10:15 am. TruthWalkers class uses the Godly Play curriculum, a Montessori-inspired way of engaging the stories of Scripture and the Church through wondering & curiosity. Group texts are sent weekly to TruthWalkers families to keep them updated on activities and changes. To join this group text, contact Cindy Gutowski at 813-763-1267.

Table Flippers

This new Sunday school class is for students in middle and high school & meets in the corner classroom adjacent to the choir room off Bender Hall on Sundays from 9:15-10:15am. The class offers students a time of fellowship, reflection, creativity, and Scripture. A curriculum called Mini Revolutions is used, which is based on the Church calendar and Scripture passages assigned for Sunday worship. For more information, contact Caleb Johnson.

Family Sunday School

On the last Sunday of each month, all ages will gather in Bender Hall starting at 9:15am for an abbreviated intergenerational Sunday School with discussions, games, and activities. At 9:45am, children and youth will leave to prepare for the Family Service.

Second Sunday Youth Gathering

All middle and high school students are invited to join us at the church on Sunday, October 12, 2025 and every Second Sunday from 5:00pm-7:00pm for games, community, food, and prayer. Get ready for the school week with a holy pause and a community of encouragement. Bring a friend!

Love God

Worship & Formation Opportunities at St. Peter's and Beyond



St. Peter's welcomes you to St. Nick's Chapel for Children!

At St. Peter's, we have a special worship space run by adult and youth volunteers for children 6 years old and younger called St. Nick's Chapel for Children. You'll see it on the south side of the church—designed just for little ones to experience worship in ways that fit them.

Children are invited to be in the chapel space with our volunteers, who help lead them in worship. Parents/guardians are welcome to sit with their children in the chapel or find a seat elsewhere in the church—whatever works best for your family. The chapel is here to support you! If you decide to sit elsewhere and leave your children in the chapel, we ask that children remain in the chapel space until you pick them up. We will help with that.

If your child needs you for a bathroom break, a diaper change, or just a tough moment, feel free to move through the church as needed. There are bathrooms available in Bender Hall, just down the ramp through the north doors. If you are sitting elsewhere in the church, we'll let you know if you are needed. No worries!

The space is also available during the week between 9:00am and 5:30pm for private prayer and play.

At St. Peter's, children are not only welcome—they belong. This space is one way we show that worship is for all of us, whether it's your first Sunday or your hundredth. We're so glad you're here.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PLANT CITY PRESENTS

THE TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS

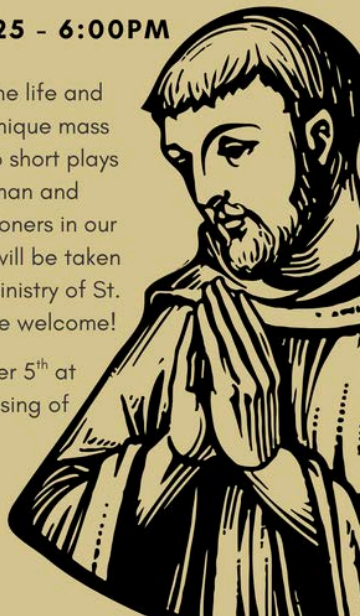
TWO PLAYS & A EUCHARIST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025 - 6:00PM

Join us as we commemorate the life and death of St. Francis with this unique mass featuring special music and two short plays adapted by Laurence Housman and performed by St. Peter's parishioners in our historic church. A love offering will be taken up to support the mission and ministry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. All are welcome!

Then join us Sunday, October 5th at 4:00pm for our annual Blessing of the Animals!

 **ST. PETER'S**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
302 Carey Street Plant City, FL 33563
www.stpetersplantcity.com



Feast of St. Luke Blessing of the Oil of the Sick

October 19, 2025

**JESUS
Heals
Brokenness**

Join us as we bless the oil of the sick and offer prayers of healing and anointing at both masses in this observance of the Feast of St. Luke. Prayer Shawls will also be available.



All Souls Requiem Mass

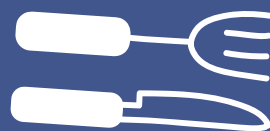
St. Peter's Memorial Garden

November 1, 2025 at 9:00am

Join us as we observe the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls for a Eucharist service outside in the Memorial Garden to commemorate those in our lives who have died in hope of the resurrection. We invite you to bring flowers and/or photographs of your loved ones as we give thanks to God for our loved ones and pray for their eternal glory.

Let's Get Social!!

engage cafe



Includes **SOCIAL TIME** (beginning at 5:30pm)
and **SUPPER** (served at 6:00pm) in Bender Hall
and **COMPLINE** (at 6:50pm) in the church.

Please RSVP by noon on Mondays using the emailed form,
or by calling (813) 752-5061
or emailing st.peterspc@verizon.net (the parish office).

Watch your weekly email for details!



Engage Cafe Oktoberfest

October 8, 2025 at 5:30pm

Put on your lederhosen and join your
St. Peter's family for our annual Oktoberfest.
Good food and fun—guaranteed.



Be sure to join us for a special
Engage Cafe
October 29th at 5:30pm

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND FLAVORS

at Margaret and Wayne's house
903 W Pinedale Dr
Plant City, FL 33563



Bring canned foods to fill our Thanksgiving Baskets to be distributed to the families of local schoolchildren.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Join us for our twice monthly game night!
Bring a sandwich or takeout,
your family,
a game to share,
and a friend!

OCTOBER
6th and 20th
6:00 pm

Share God's Love with the World

Mission & Outreach Opportunities at St. Peter's and Beyond



Laundry Love – Monday, October 13th 4–6:30pm

Our monthly Laundry Love event will take place from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at Olde Henry's Coin Laundromat, located on US 92. Thank you for your ongoing support for this vital ministry.

"Love never ends and neither does laundry"

Check out www.laundrylove.org for more information; please contact Deacon Denise (revdzz@gmail.com) to donate or volunteer.

Friends in the Park – October 22nd 5pm Shekinah Glory Cathedral 402 English Street, Plant City



We extend our gratitude for your prayers as St. Peter's and other participants in this outreach ministry worked diligently to secure a new space to assist those in our community in need. Please keep both the Friends in the Park and Shekinah Glory Cathedral in your thoughts as they embark on this new journey.

A special thank you goes to Lindsay Hunt for her dedication to Friends in the Park. Lindsay applied for and successfully secured a grant from Episcopal Charities, which will help cover expenses for food, rent, and other items distributed throughout the year.

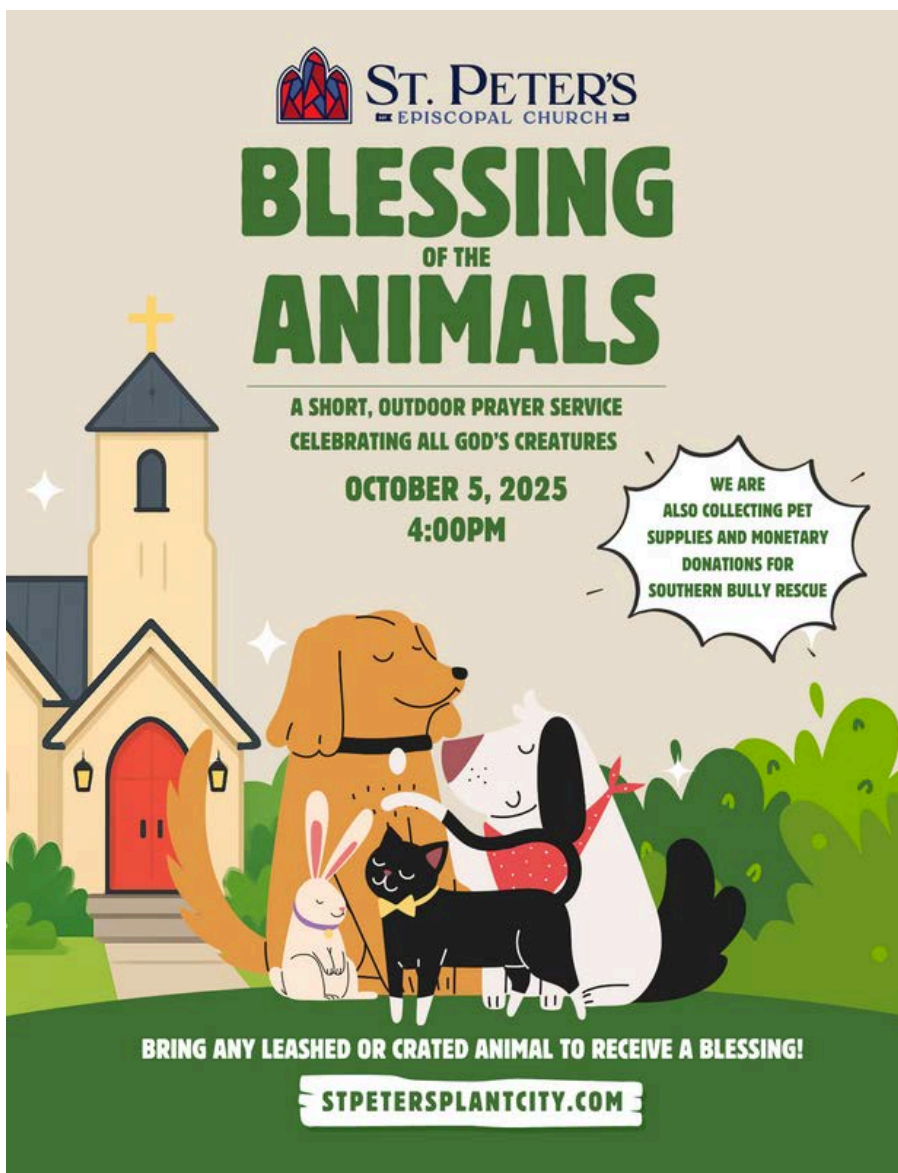
Our monthly participation in Friends in the Park ensures that dozens of hungry Plant Citians receive a square meal at no cost. If you have not experienced this time of fellowship and service, please consider getting involved by cooking, serving or greeting. Contact Lindsay Hunt for more information or to sign up (l.robertshunt@gmail.com). **Sign up sheets are in the parish hall.**



St. Peter's has long been a dedicated supporter of the United Food Bank of Plant City, collecting food donations throughout the year. We invite you to think about adding an extra item to your cart during your next grocery shopping trip. Taking advantage of store sales is a great way to stick to your budget while also contributing something to share. All food donations can be placed in the baskets located at each entrance to the church.



**Our next meeting will be held
October 9, 2025 at 11:00 am.
All are welcome to attend!**



SSBR Wish List:

- **Puppy food**
- **Dog food**
- **Leashes**
- **Collars/harnesses**
- **Treats**
- **Food/water bowls**
- **Beds**
- **Towels (Can be used)**
- **Blankets (Can be used)**
- **Puppy pads**
- **Fosters**
- **Monetary donations**

Please like and share our Facebook page!

Southern States Bully Rescue is a Florida Non-Profit Incorporation that strives to be a saving grace for 'bully type breeds' throughout the Southern States. Our efforts are based out of the state of Florida but expand to Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia. We are a foster based Rescue, meaning all of our dogs are entrusted to foster families that devote their time to saving and rehabilitating them. Many of the dogs that come through the rescue come from horrific beginnings of abuse and neglect. We are a bully breed rescue so the vast majority of the dogs coming into the rescue are Pit Bull, American Bulldog, Bull Terrier, American Bully, English Bulldog, Staffordshire Terrier or French Bulldog MIXES. Unfortunately along with rescuing the most unwanted breed comes the challenges that make them the unwanted; our rescue differs from others in many ways: a lot of our dogs require professional training to rehabilitate them from their previous lives, at times extensive & life saving medical treatment. Bullies being a highly discriminated breed (we work to change perception on the breed everyday!), we also face challenges and extra precautions when placing our pups; ensuring adopters own their homes, don't have breed regulations and understand the importance of not only being their adopted dog's safety net but because our goal is to build a better reputation for the breed, make sure their adopted dog does nothing but make the breed a better name!

We are a small but mighty organization. Run by primarily three people and a group of dedicated fosters, adopters, donors and volunteers who believe in our mission as much as we do. If trying to reach us, please be patient as we all work full time jobs as well as have dogs of our own in addition to running the rescue.

Share God's Love with the World

Mission & Outreach Opportunities at St. Peter's and Beyond

19th Annual Christmas Meals on Wheels Basket Outreach

It's that time of year again (hard to adjust to how fast time moves by)!

Our 19th year of providing personal care baskets to the MOW homebound has arrived. Once again, we will collect 20+ personal care items for each basket, wrap the basket in plastic and festively decorate them.

This year we are building 46+ baskets. Several items are donated in their entirety by long time devoted participants and are not included in the list below. These include baskets, plastic wrap, decorative bows, non-slip socks and inspirational books.

We are always hoping more of the items needed will be provided entirely by a parishioner, so if you are interested, speak to any MOW committee member.

We are in need of the below items:



- sugar free candy
- holiday theme coffee/tea mug
- tooth paste, tooth brushes, mouth wash and dental floss
- body wash, body lotion and deodorant
- shampoo, conditioner and hair brushes
- 2025 calendars, pens and note cards (not holiday themed)
- lip balm and hand sanitizer
- kleenex (the smaller boxes are easier to pack)
- lap robes

If possible, unisex items are preferred, but all donations will happily be used.

And as always, monetary donations are always welcome as it allows us to fill in the gaps.

Thank you from your MOW committee

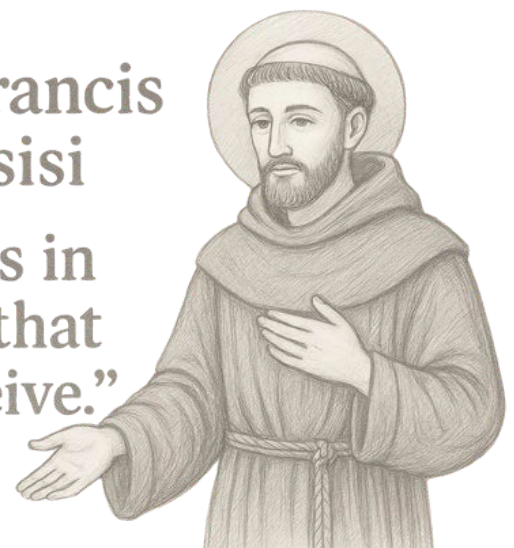
Generosity is a beautiful gift



Be generous today!

**Saint Francis
of Assisi**

**“For it is in
giving that
we receive.”**



Opportunities for Parish Leadership

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
57TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION
OCTOBER 10-11, 2025



ST. PETER'S CONVENTION DELEGATION
FR. DEREK LARSON
DEACON DENISE HEALY
SALLY FUHRMAN-DELEGATE
BETTY JONES-DELEGATE
KAREN PRICE-DELEGATE

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel, as delegates to the diocesan convention, for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
BCP

*The Diocesan Convention is open to all parishioners.
Visit <https://www.conventionswfl.org/> to learn more.*

FROM OUR BY-LAWS:

"The Clerk shall cause notice of the nomination period to be published in the church newsletter. Such notice shall provide: the positions for which nominations are being received; the requirements for each position; the method of making nominations to the nominating committee; and the time period during which nominations may be made."

**We are now accepting nominations for
Vestry members
and
Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention**

Qualifications of nominees

Adult member in good standing for a period of one year prior to the Annual Meeting, confirmed or received member of the Episcopal Church, 18 years of age or older, regular in attendance at divine services, and makes stated contributions of record to the general support of the church.

Method of nominating

Provide the name and the consent of the nominee to a member of the Vestry.
Deadline for nominations is: Sunday, December 14, 2025.

St. Peter's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 18, 2026.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION SPREAD THE WORD SHOW SOME STYLE

Purchase St. Peter's t-shirts, hoodies, hats, coffee mugs, and more by scanning the QR code or going to
<https://www.bonfire.com/store/st-peters-episcopal-church/>

Every purchase contributes to our ongoing mission and ministry!



Would you like to support the mission of St Peter's, spread the word about our community, and look great while doing it? Head on over to our new online store for all your great St. Peter's merch! We earn money for the church from every purchase. You can see samples of the products in Bender Hall, where you can also purchase old shirts for \$5.



<https://www.bonfire.com/store/st-peters-episcopal-church/>

TIME TO Celebrate

Happy Anniversary

Susan and Scott Collins	10/09
Cynthia and Greg Crumpton	10/22
Tracy and Ronald Everett	10/23
Carla and George Kordek	10/26

Flowers, Candles, & Wine

Sunday, October 5 - Flowers Opportunities Available, Sanctuary Candle given in Thanksgiving for her great-grandson Elijah's 6th birthday by Darlene Nelson, Communion Wine given in Memory of Bud Fief, brother by Darlene Nelson

Sunday, October 12 - Opportunities Available

Sunday, October 19 - Flowers in High Altar given in Loving Memory of Charles Dean, Jr. by Sarah & Family, Candles & wine available

Sunday, October 26 - Opportunities Available

To sign up for Flowers, Wine, & Candles, please fill out the sign-up sheet located in the entry hall of the parish hall, or you can call 813-752-5061 for assistance.

Happy Birthday

Gemma Sicignano	10/03
Stephanie Holmquist	10/04
LauraAnn Larson	10/04
Miles Tombrink	10/04
Marta Cavanah	10/06
John Williams	10/07
Mark Hamilton	10/07
Braden Antonio	10/07
Peyton Edison	10/07
Betty Roney	10/08
Linda Fuhrman	10/10
Yasmine Abdel-Kader	10/10
Diane Fleming	10/11
Ryan Crumpton	10/14
Laural Williams	10/16
Amanda Price	10/16
Rose Price	10/20
Andrea Camaratta	10/22
Kyle Hamilton	10/26
Ian Wilson	10/26
Justin Lawniczak	10/31



MONTHLY METRICS REPORT

95

August
ASA

##

Sunday
Visitors

##

YTD New
Members

##

Outreach
Impact

5

Last Year Total:
1

YTD
Baptisms

\$16,646

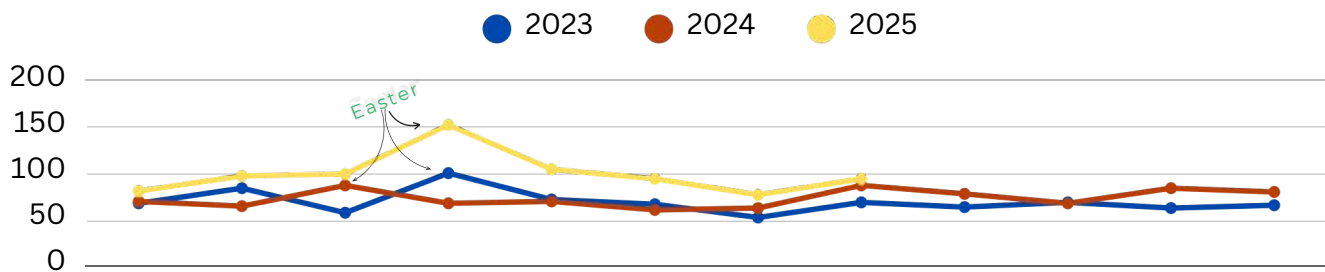
Budgeted:
\$30,691

August
Income

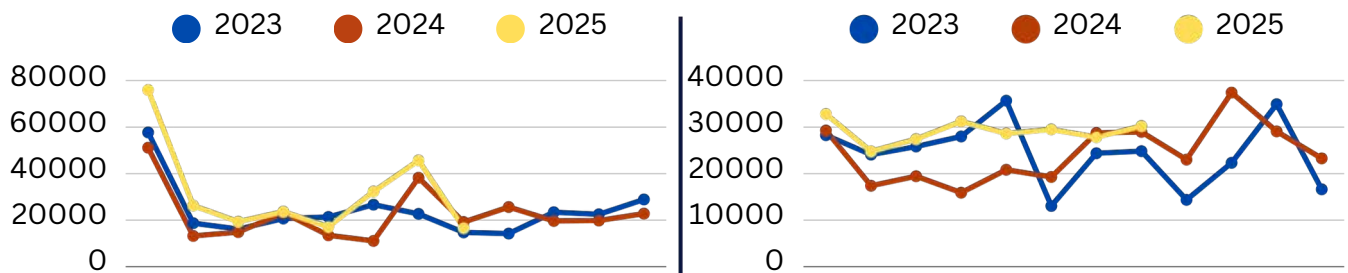
\$30,239

Budgeted:
\$30,691

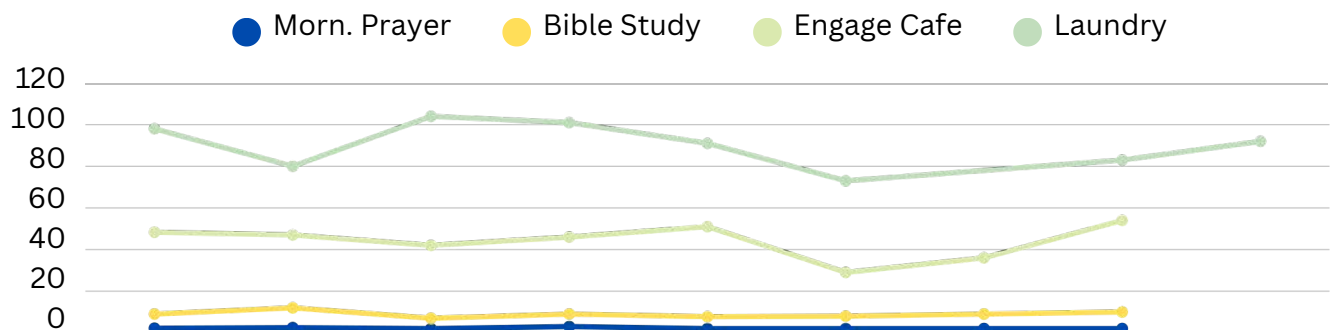
August
Expenses



AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE BY MONTH AND YEAR* IN PERSON ONLY



INCOME BY MONTH AND YEAR EXPENSES BY MONTH AND YEAR



WEEKLY ACTIVITY ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
302 North Carey Street
Plant City, FL 33563
Phone: (813) 752-5061
E-mail: st.peterspc@verizon.net

Non Profit Org
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



The CrossKeys
October 2025

St. Peter's Online <http://www.stpetersplantcity.com>

Sunday Services
8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Holy Eucharist

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

Parish Administration
Rector: The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF
Deacon: Denise Healy
Parish Administrator: Sarah Dean
Director of Music Ministries: Helen Jones
Treasurer: Trey Stevens
Sexton: Tony Wilson

Vestry
Senior Warden: Patti Booher
Junior Warden: Ron Everett
Clerk: Patty Linder
Sandy Black
Mark Conner
Cindy Gutowski
Christy Lyle
Eda Snyder
Neal Ward