



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

NOVEMBER 2025

From the Rector

I have never been a morning person. No matter how many times I've tried to get up full of joy and energy, I tend to wake up groggy, slow, and with a general feeling of "don't talk to me just yet...". A shower helps. Coffee is a nice addition. But what really changes my overall feeling of the day is walking into our quiet church for Morning Prayer. This morning I could still smell the faintness of incense in the air. The wood floors and walls somehow still carry an echo of Sunday's joy. The quiet presence of God fills the place. And as my Spirit awakens to the presence of God, my body and mind awaken to the day before me as well.

I announced a few weeks ago at the start of our stewardship campaign that St. Peter's is leaning into its Episcopal tradition and reclaiming its Anglican heritage by expanding our offerings of Morning and Evening Prayer, a significant section of the prayer book largely forgotten. In 2026, every weekday will begin with Morning Prayer at 8:00am and end with Evening Prayer at 5:15pm, and we are inviting everyone in the congregation to make a commitment to support these prayers with your presence and participation in some way, whether that means attending once over the course of the year, once a month, once a week, or signing up to serve on the rotation of officiants.

If you haven't experienced Morning or Evening Prayer before, I wanted to share a little about what it is like. I've written a lot in other places about where it comes from and why we do them, but perhaps you want to know more about what to expect when you come.

First we enter the church to find it quiet. It is a different experience than on Sundays when we enter to find lots of people coming in and saying hello to one another, when we see acolytes getting ready and children settling into St. Nick's Chapel, when Helen offers us an organ prelude and we look through the service program at announcements. Instead, on the weekdays we encounter a still and calming--yet powerful--presence of quiet.

We then find a seat up near the altar in the Corpus Christi chapel below the stained glass triptych of Jesus on the cross. Normally 2-5 people are in attendance. Candles are lit, the church bells sing, and we quietly prepare ourselves for prayer. Rather than using a service program we use The Book of Common Prayer itself, guided to each page number by the officiant. We start with a confession and absolution and some opening Psalms. Then we hear two passages of Scripture, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. We continue with the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and other beautifully crafted prayers from the prayer book. Then we add our own prayers either silently or aloud, naming before God everyone on our parish prayer list and the events of the day on our calendar. We close with a prayer of thanksgiving and then greet one another and sometimes spend a little time in conversation. The whole thing last about 25-30 minutes.

This pattern of prayer is one that has been used for almost 2,000 years of Christianity. It is very simple, but profoundly transformative. In sharing in these prayers we are shaped by Scripture, and our ability to remember the presence of God throughout our day is sharpened. We read aloud all 150 Psalms every seven weeks and hear all of Scripture every two years. The purpose of Morning and Evening prayer is less about the individual and more about the Church praying for the needs of the community, however the individual's personal faith life deeply benefits from our shared prayer as well.

For most of us when we leave the Church on Sunday we go to lunch and spend the afternoon in leisure with family or working on home projects. For weekday Morning and Evening Prayer, many of us leave and go straight to work or we come straight from work where we hold a long list of tasks and appointments and often stress. For many of us, we don't go to Church on weekdays because of those obligations. There is too much to do! But isn't that exactly why it would be so beneficial for us to participate in the prayers of the Church on weekdays? Isn't that when we most need the prayers? What would it look like to begin or end our day of obligations and responsibilities in the quiet stillness of God's presence at St. Peter's?

I'm not a morning person. I wake up with my groggy brain overwhelmed with the coming day's tasks and a desire to snooze the alarm and roll over. Morning Prayer at St. Peter's is the place where I lay down all of that at the altar of God and pick up the peace I need to go about my day.

I pray you'll consider supporting our parish commitment to Morning and Evening Prayer in the coming year as we lift up the world's concerns to God which so desperately need our prayer. I hope you'll also consider coming for your own needs, that you might find yourself refreshed and strengthened for the work of each day.

Peace,
Derek

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 at the last Sunday's 10:30am service 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

HOME AGAIN By John Santosuosso

Let me tell you about my surgery. OH, NO!!! Not that! Let's start over. Dear members and friends of Saint Peter's. Thank you so very much for your notes, cards, prayers, and visits during my recent recovery. Because of your love and support I never felt that I was alone or separated from you. You raised me up when I need it most, and now I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

During my recovery there were several days I cannot recall at all, but there were also some times that I will always remember with thanksgiving. There was my new friend I knew only as Mi Amigo. All he needed to brighten your smile along with his for the day was a friendly "Que tal" (how are you). There was the young lady with whom I had the opportunity to discuss our mutual admiration for the Gospel music of CeCe Winans. If you have never heard CeCe, listen to her music sometime on the web. She has a talent that rivals that of the late, great Mahalia Jackson. And, yes, I actually got to sing an Elvis Presley song on one occasion. I chose "I Can't Help Falling in Love with You."

But as memorable as those occasions were, they were not what left the greatest impression on me. Not for one second do I believe that God was responsible for my accident. However, maybe God was thinking, well as long as he has to recover anyway, he might as well learn something. That is when the miracle happened. You see I entered the hospital and rehab with a broken hip. I left with a renewed understanding that despite all the tragedy in this world, it is filled with countless people full of compassion and unconditional love. Many people ministered to me in many ways. Ironically it is often those with the worst jobs and the most work who are first by your side. They are not without their own challenges, but they have a deep rooted faith that is much like a palm tree. When the storms come they bend, but they do not break. I learned to say thank you more times than I can remember.

There were other gifts given to me. When facing the potholes and storms of life, if you can meet them with faith that is a wonderful thing. However, if you are unable to muster even the slightest amount of faith please do not despair. God will still be there. God rejoices in our faith, but God will meet us where we are, full of faith or with none at all. You see grace is truly amazing. From our first breath to our last God is walking beside us whether we are aware of it or not. And if you want to give God some help by also walking with someone, no matter where you are, how fast or slow you travel, you will make all of Heaven rejoice.

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 that meets each Sunday in Bender Hall for classes on Scripture, faith, theology, and living as Christians in the world.

Our Christian foundations series wraps up this month with Our Shared Ministry. After reflecting on the theology and history of the Anglican tradition in "Our Shared Faith" and the practice of prayer in "Our Shared Prayer", beginning November 9th, we begin a new series, "Our Shared Ministry". In this three-week series, we will explore our common vocation as Christians, reflect on our individual gifts and callings as ministers of the gospel, and learn more about ministry opportunities at St. Peter's. Each week, some of the ministries of St. Peter's will be spotlighted!

Little Lambs

Children in Kindergarten or younger are invited to participate in a Sunday school 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. TruthWalkers class uses the Godly Play curriculum, a Montessori-inspired way of engaging the stories of Scripture and the Church. For more information, 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. 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.

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Love God

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

Family Sunday School

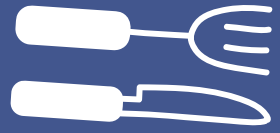
Join us Sunday, November 30, 2025, and every last Sunday of the month for an intergenerational Family Sunday School! This month, we are celebrating New Year's with the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year.

Second Sunday Youth Gathering

All middle and high school students are invited to join us at the church every Second Sunday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for games, community, food, and prayer. This month's youth gathering will take place at Starr Anderson's house for our regular rhythm of games, activities, and food, with a special focus on the identity and future of our parish. As we write a strategic plan for the next 10 years, we are looking for input and feedback from our youth! Do you have dreams, hopes, and ideas for St. Peter's future? Do you want to learn more about what's next in the chapter of our common parish life? Join us!

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!



NOVEMBER 16TH AT 11:30 AM

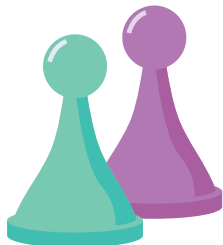
JOIN US AFTER THE 10:30AM SERVICE FOR AN
OUTDOOR PARISH POTLUCK AND FALL FESTIVAL,
INCLUDING CHICKEN ON THE GRILL, GAMES,
ACTIVITIES, AND A MEN'S BAKE OFF.



**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!



NOVEMBER
3rd and 17th
6:00 pm

Share God's Love with the World

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

Plant City Empty Bowls Project November 8th

Robert W. Willaford Railroad Museum in Downtown Plant City

10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

\$10/per ticket



On Saturday, November 8th, St. Peter's will continue its tradition with Empty Bowls and United Food Bank & Services! Since 2019, we have been cooking up Virginia-style Brunswick Stew on-site in a 15-gallon cauldron. Plant City has shown up to prove that when art, food, and community collide, hunger loses. For just \$10, guests will receive: A one-of-a-kind bowl handcrafted by local students & artists. Endless soup samplings from Plant City favorites. Live music, balloon artist, auctioned artist bowls & family fun! All proceeds benefit United Food Bank & Services' hunger relief programs, fueling hope and nourishment right here at home. On Sunday, November 9th, whatever stew is left over will be sold for \$10 a quart between services and after the 10:30 service. All proceeds will go to the Food Bank.

Laundry Love
BBQ
Fundraiser

Pre-Order Now
813-752-5061

Join us for a delicious BBQ fundraiser
supporting Laundry Love
on Sunday, November 9,
immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Meals are \$12 each and include
pork, chicken, and vegetarian options,
all prepared by Burning Bush BBQ.

Please RSVP to the church office or Christy Lyle
by November 5 to reserve your plate. Come
enjoy great food and fellowship for a great
cause!

Share God's Love with the World

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



Laundry Love - Monday, November 10th 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.

Our next meeting will be held
November 13, 2025 at 11:30 am. in Bender Hall.
All are welcome to attend!



THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

November has arrived, a perfect time to express gratitude for our blessings and extend a helping hand to those in need. On November 21st, we will distribute 30 food baskets to six families across five local schools.

Items needed for the baskets include:

- Canned sweet potatoes
- Canned pumpkin
- Stuffing mix
- Rice
- Cranberry sauce
- Flour
- Sugar
- Salt boxes
- Pie crust mix
- Canned sweetened condensed milk
- Canned fruits and vegetables

November 21st
baskets delivered to area schools



Cash or check contributions are also needed to buy items and gift cards. The cards are used to purchase milk, eggs, butter, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Please indicate on your check that the donation is for "Thanksgiving Baskets."

*Thank you for your support of this meaningful initiative,
The Altar Guild and Outreach Committee*



Friends in the Park - November 26th, 5 pm Shekinah Glory Cathedral 402 English Street, Plant City

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.**

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



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.

Opportunities for Parish Leadership

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.



Sunday, November 9, 2025 Giving Sunday

Bring your Pledge Cards to church on Sunday, November 9th for a special liturgy in which we offer to God our pledges of support for St. Peter's in the upcoming year. Let us celebrate the provision of God for OUR SHARED PARISH.

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

Marilyn and James Frey 11/18/1961
MaryMargaret and Sean Nolin 11/18/2023

Flowers, Candles, & Wine

Sunday, November 2 - The Flowers in the High Altar are given in Loving Memory of Judy Bunch by John Bunch and Family, Communion Wine is given in Memory of Cecelia Cutshaw and in Thanksgiving for Terri Scher by Darlene Nelson

Sunday, November 9 - Opportunities Available
Sunday, November 16 - Opportunities Available
Sunday, November 23 - Opportunities Available
Sunday, November 23 - Opportunities Available

Happy Birthday

Doris Edison	11/01
Linda(Su)Booher	11/01
Mildred Schaffer	11/04
Evan John Stevens	11/04
Julynn (Jul) Gaed	11/05
Gabrielle Biggs	11/05
Melissa Smith	11/06
Sue Perica	11/09
Cathy Evans-Tombrink	11/09
Cindy Davidson	11/10
Daniel Gaede	11/12
Patricia Linder	11/13
Aden Price	11/16
Hannah Price	11/17
Thomas Prokuski	11/17
William Carr	11/18
Jenny Jelsovsky	11/20
Joyce Ludwick	11/20
Bob Eukovich	11/21
Taylor Ham	11/21
Eleanor Barron	11/21
Emma Kordek	11/22
Nicole Kordek	11/22
Kelli Cummings	11/22
Glenn Mathias	11/24
Sherri Black	11/24
Owen Ouellette	11/24
Ann Stewart	11/25
Reid Schnidt	11/27
Victoria Wilson	11/27
Sara(Sally)Bradley	11/28

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.

DID YOU KNOW ST. PETER'S HAS A HEARING LOOP?

Did you know that our church building has a hearing loop?

What, you may ask, is a hearing loop?

"An induction loop, or hearing loop, is a wire that "loops" around a room or space and connects to a sound system. The wire produces a signal in a magnetic field that is "picked up" by the Telecoil in the user's hearing aids."

This wire sends out a signal directly to your hearing aids - if your aids include a telecoil (the receiver for the hearing loop) . If you have a hearing aid, you know that your hearing is not completely restored and that it is frequently difficult to understand words even when you can hear them. With the hearing loop, voices are crystal clear. If you don't know if your hearing aid has a telecoil, ask your audiologist. If you are in the market for a new hearing aid, consider asking about including one.

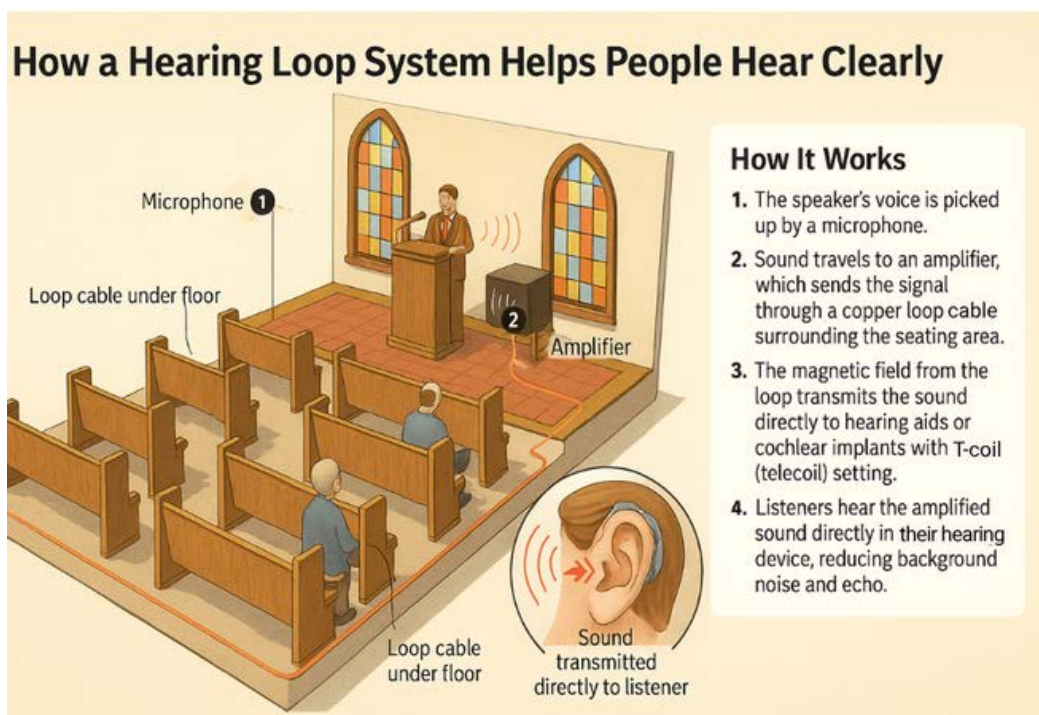
Anyone using a microphone in the church is connected to this loop making the readings, the sermon, and the announcements easy to understand.

My husband and I always connect to the loop when we enter the nave. We connect to the loop through an app on our phones. From there, we can increase or decrease the volume as well as balance the sounds coming from the loop with the sounds that are not transmitted by the loop.

As an aside, many movie theaters and other public spaces are also "looped" . Look for this sign indicating a hearing loop is available.



Many thanks to the Huntsman family for providing this supportive technology for those of us that are hearing impaired. ~Toni Nettles





MONTHLY METRICS REPORT

115

September
ASA

##

Sunday
Visitors

##

YTD New
Members

##

Outreach
Impact

6

Last Year Total:
1

YTD
Baptisms

\$21,764

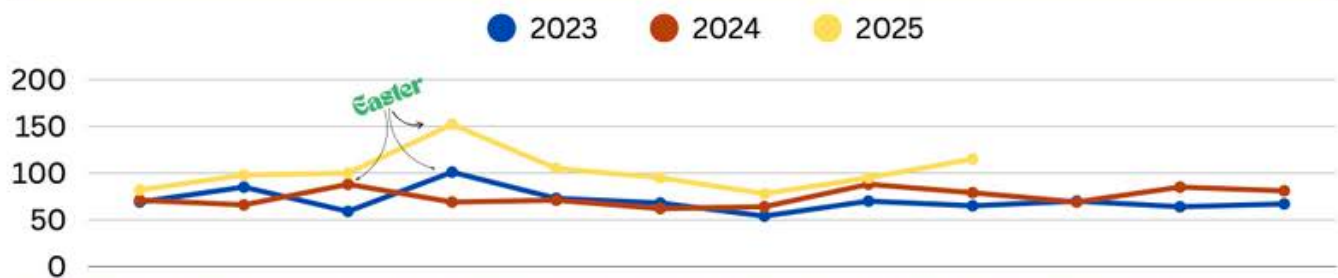
Budgeted:
\$30,691

September
Income

\$28,570

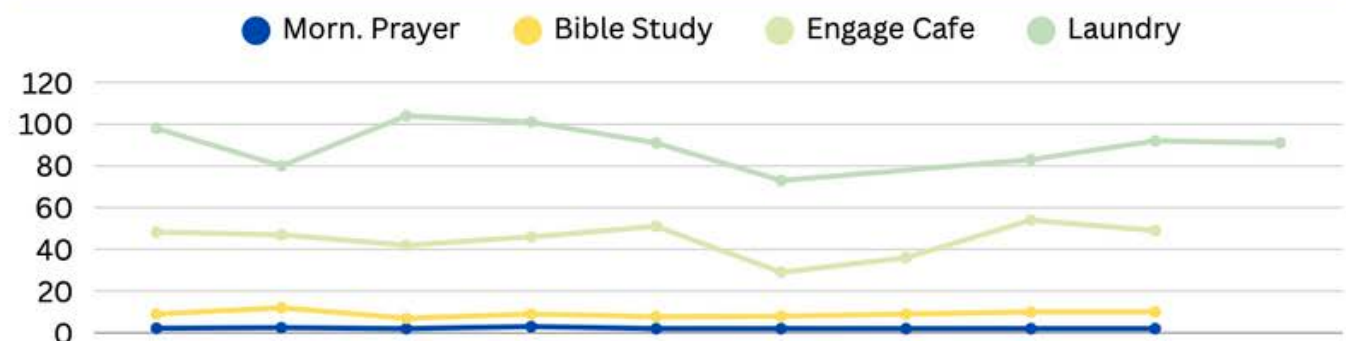
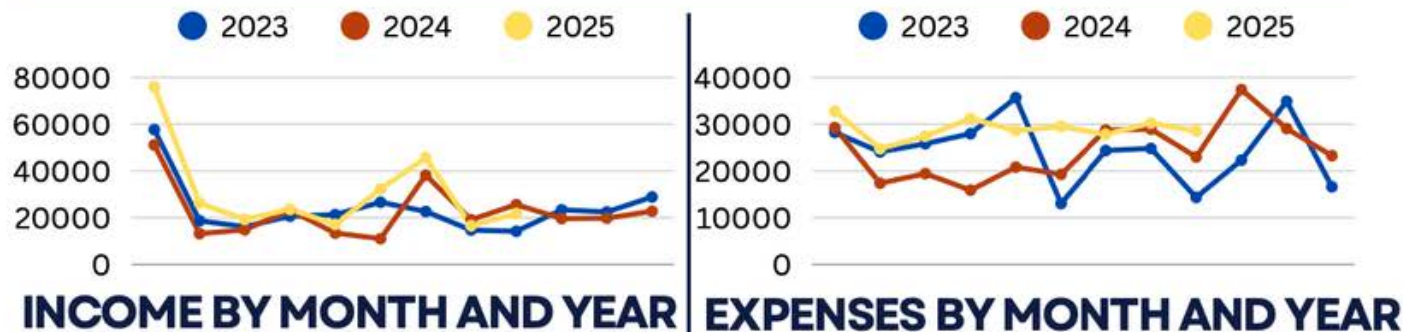
Budgeted:
\$30,691

September
Expenses



AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE BY MONTH AND YEAR*

IN PERSON ONLY



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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



The CrossKeys
November 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