



ST. PETER'S EST 1880 EPISCOPAL CHURCH THE CROSSKEYS

September 2025

From the Rector

I've been in the market for a new cassock.

The one I use each morning for prayer is a bit shabby and doesn't quite fit right, so I've been shopping around. I ordered one online, but I sent it back. I didn't like it.

The other day after Morning Prayer I happened to be looking through the closet of the vesting room and noticed a cassock at the very back with a plastic covering over the top of it. I pulled it and out and saw that it was quite beautiful. It was simple with no frills, but it had some great little details to it. I tried it on. It fit almost perfectly; it just needed an ever so slight adjustment. I wondered, "Where did this cassock come from? Whose is it?" It was then that I noticed the tag on the inside seam, "The Rev. Grayson Garvin, 1978." Fr. Garvin was the rector of St. Peter's from 1975-1989 and is responsible for leading the congregation through the expansion of the church with the adding of the transepts, the bell tower, and the organ. He was liturgically strict but wonderfully beloved. He died just a few years ago and his cremains are buried in our Memorial Garden under the altar.

There was something quite moving about taking up Fr. Garvin's cassock. It reminded me of the history of our community, which turned 136 years old this past week. It reminded me of all the clergy and lay people that have come before us, shepherding the mission of this congregation in Plant City and the world. We have inherited quite a history.

It also reminded me that sometimes in our search for something new in the church, we need only to look to our history and make a few contextual adjustments. We are, of course, called to be creative and innovative and courageous as we step out in faith to do things out of our comfort zone. And yet at the same time, we are rooted in over a century of tradition at St. Peter's and an ancient faith in Christianity. Sometimes what is innovative is simply applying the wisdom of the past to the context of the present. Like making a few adjustments to a cassock.

We are experiencing an exciting new chapter at St. Peter's: an increase in attendance and energy, new opportunities for community partnerships, an emerging vision for the future. I wonder what wisdom from our past experiences in this parish and in our ancient tradition speak to the moment we are living. I wonder what cassocks are simply sitting in the back of the closet, ready for us to take up again. Do you have any ideas?

Peace,
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)

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. Our Shared Faith series will be featured on Sundays from August 17 to September 21. In this series, we explore the history, theology, and practice of our faith as Episcopalians in the Anglican and Catholic traditions. It culminates with the visit of our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Doug Scharf, on September 21. The series also serves as preparation for those who would like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. 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, from August to May, 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.

Upcoming in September (please note schedule may change):

Sunday, Sept. 7 – "Circle of Calendar Year" Godly Play Lesson

Sunday, Sept. 14 – Instructional Class on Vestments in Sanctuary with Deacon Denise

Sunday, Sept. 21 – "Baptism" Godly Play Lesson; Bishop's Visitation to St. Peter's

Sunday, Sept. 28 – Intergenerational Sunday School in Bender Hall; 10:30 Family Service; Parish Family Lunch after service

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.

Youth Gathering (SPY)

Every second Sunday, students in middle and high school gather in Bender Hall from 5-7pm for food, friendship, games, and worship. Some who gather are members of St. Peter's and some who gather are from other communities. All are welcome. For more information, contact Fr. Derek.

New Beginnings

A fun middle school weekend retreat put on by the Diocese of Southwest FL, called New Beginnings, will be held September 26-28 at DaySpring Camp & Conference Center. Middle schoolers from Episcopal Churches in the area will join together for music, games, activities, reflection, food, and fun. It's sort of a mini-summer camp for September! For more information, reach out to Fr. Derek.

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.

Attention Theater Folk!

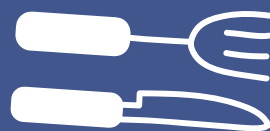


St. Peter's is planning a Eucharist Service of the Transitus of St. Francis on October 3, 2025. Transitus means passing, as in Francis' passing from earthly life to eternal life. This Eucharist will contain some plays about St. Francis, so we need volunteer actors to take the parts.

If you are interested in acting, scenery, or costuming, or want some more information, send an email to Fr. Derek at rector@stpetersplantcity.com or Jim Jeffries at jpjeffries02@gmail.com.

Let's Get Social!!

engage cafe



**Returns
Sept. 10th!!**

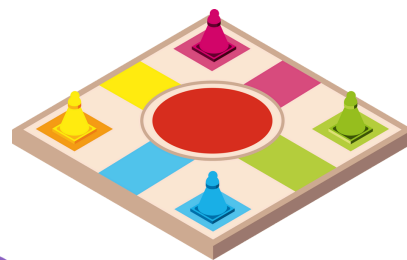
Includes **SOCIAL TIME** (beginning at 5:30pm)
and **SUPPER** (served at 6:00pm) in Bender Hall
and **COMPLINE** (at 6:50pm) in the sanctuary.

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!

**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!



SEPTEMBER
1st and 15th
6:00 pm



Sunday, September 21st **Bishop's Visitation with Confirmations** **and Celebratory Pot Luck Lunch**

Please plan to attend church on Sunday, September 21st for Bishop Scharf's visit to St. Peter's. Bishop Scharf will be with us for both Sunday services and the Pathfinders hour.

There will be a reception/lunch after the 10:30 am services to celebrate our new confirmands as well as Bishop Scharf's birthday. Please bring a generous side dish or dessert to share as we come together to celebrate this joyous occasion.

Share God's Love with the World

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



Laundry Love – Monday, September 8th 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.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.
Hebrews 13:2



**Our next meeting will be held
September 11, 2025 at 11:00 am.**

Friends in the Park – September 24th 5pm

Location – to be determined

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 sanctuary.

SCHOOL SUPPLY REPORT

Thanks to everyone for their donations to the School Supply Drive here at St. Peter's. Your contribution to the collection of items (I understand the desire to shop for school supplies) has been added to the final totals. The monetary donations totaled \$930.00; I spent \$930.90. I had such fun on the treasure hunt.

I'm including a list of what was purchased combined with the items that church members contributed. Though some of the items may seem odd, they were specifically requested by the Cork Administration.

Thanks again for your prayers, support, funding, and trust in my ability to represent St. Peter's' dedication to fulfilling the needs at Cork Elementary for the 25/26 school year.

In Jesus' name,

Betty Roney

28 backpacks, 12 pencil boxes, 36 pkgs pencils, 14 erasers, 40 cap erasers, 10 rulers, 20 scissors, 8 glue, 14 glue sticks, 10 boxes of crayons, 36 stick pens, 1 calculator, 44 post its notes pkgs, 28 spiral notebooks, 21 wide rulers, 2 reams of quad paper, 11 pkgs markers, 14 pkgs colored pencils, 30 prong/pocket folders, 12 binder clips, 1 pkg paper clips, 4 pkgs invisible tape, 22 highlighters, 48 expo markers, 2 reams copy paper, 3 pkgs snack bags, 1 pkg sandwich bags, 3 tablets, 42 headphones, 183 boxes facial tissue, 7 pkgs soap, 62 pkgs wipes, 10 pair boys underwear, 3 cases of 56 pull ups, 1 pair boy shoes, 400 dosage/medicine cups.

To Fr. Derek And Everyone At
St. Peter's:

Thank you for the
lovely picture. I will
treasure it! I am honored
and blessed!

Love,
Beth

Thank
you!



The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

August 5, 2025

The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF, Rector
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
302 Carey Street
Plant City, Florida 33563

Dear Derek,

Thank you for your generous gift to the *One Body & One Spirit Appeal* to assist those directly impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires.

Your contribution will provide much-needed relief to individuals and institutions experiencing the loss of homes, church buildings, schools, employment, and more.

Thank you for being a part of our gospel work of uniting in faith and caring for neighbors in need.

Yours in Christ's love,

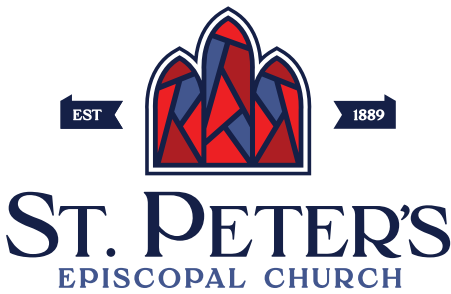
+

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor
VII Bishop of Los Angeles

Thank, & blessing,
colleagues!

No goods or services were provided by the Diocese of Los Angeles in exchange for this \$460.00 contribution. The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles and the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Los Angeles are 501(c)(3) organizations.

The Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor, Seventh Bishop of Los Angeles
St. Paul's Commons • 840 Echo Park Avenue • Los Angeles, California 90026
213.482.2040



*Plant City
Homeschool
Collective*
Homeschooling is Better Together™

A New Partnership- Plant City Homeschool Collective

Saints of St. Peter's,

I am excited to share with you that St. Peter's has entered a new partnership with Plant City Homeschool Collective, a new community of homeschool families in our area. Beginning in September, they will be leasing Bender Hall from us Monday-Wednesday during business hours (9:00am-3:00pm) to offer classes, activities, and community for families with children.

Why this is Exciting News

At St. Peter's, we "celebrate children and youth", as our mission statement affirms. When we say we celebrate children and youth, we don't just mean our own, but all children and youth! By making our campus available to local families, we are providing more opportunities for children and youth to be loved and cared for as they grow into maturity, and we celebrate the gift they bring to this world.

In addition to our emphasis on young people, our vestry has been discerning a call to become more of an active and influential member of Plant City and the wider community. We want people to know about us because of the work we are doing in the community! By opening up our campus to local families, we are fostering deeper relationships with our neighbors and planting seeds for future partnerships that will impact our community for the better.

Finally, we want our beautiful campus to be filled with life, joy, and energy throughout the week, rather than lying quietly dormant between Sundays and Wednesday evenings. This partnership allows our campus to be a blessing to others throughout the week in the spirit of the ancient Benedictine ministry of hospitality. Churches should be not only the place for worship, but the center of community life as they often were in other times and places.

I'm calling this relationship a partnership rather than using landlord-tenant language for a few reasons. First, the physical space we offer will be shared space, and as such it will take the support of both our communities to steward it well for our mutual benefit.

Second, the mission of St. Peter's and the mission of Plant City Homeschool Collective are both centered on the building of community and we have been strategizing how we can do this work together. For example, our parish is full of educators, active and retired, and there are opportunities to offer your passion and experience by leading an activity or class or experience. Please reach out if you are interested. I hope to lead some offerings on faith myself!

Third, like us, Plant City Homeschool Collective is interested in outreach and service for the community. They hope to instill in their children the importance of caring for those in need and they have expressed interest and openness to working with us on various projects of community service.

continued on next page

What this Looks like For Us

Bender Hall will be in use Monday-Wednesday from 9:00am-3:00pm by Plant City Homeschool Collective. This includes the main parish hall, the kitchen, the playground, and the nursery. It does not include the choir room, the altar guild room, the Godly Play room, the church, or the office.

Please refrain from entering the main parish hall, kitchen, nursery, and playground on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:00am-3:00pm.

Midweek Bible Study and Commission meetings will continue to take place at their regularly scheduled days and times in the altar guild room.

The church will remain open weekdays for prayer.

When using Bender Hall, please clean up after every event to ensure the space is prepared for the Homeschool Coop.

Please keep the work of the Plant City Homeschool Collective in your prayers as one of our close partners.

Please be welcoming and friendly to our new friends, especially when you see them on campus or when they join us for worship!

Please also know that our lease with the Plant City Homeschool Collective is carefully detailed about how the space will be used to ensure the campus is honored and does not negatively impact our regular ministries. As this is a new community and we are new to sharing our campus, this lease is currently month-to-month through December as we try things out.

If you have ideas about how to support this partnership and the work that Plant City Homeschool Collective is doing, please reach out to the rector or the vestry. If you would like to learn more about the Plant City Homeschool Collective, you can find their website here: <https://www.plantcityhomeschool.org/>

Here's to a new, budding relationship! May it be filled with grace, love, and support.

Peace,

Derek

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'" Matthew 19:14

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/>

Are you receiving the weekly "This week at St. Peter's" email?

If you would like to receive this email, with important reminders and announcements each week, please call or email the church office to be added to the list. 813-752-5061 or st.peterspc@verizon.net


Did you know???

When you use a debit or credit card to make your pledge or pay for activities such as Engage Cafe, St. Peter's incurs a processing fee. Here are a few ways to help St. Peter's avoid these charges!

- You can choose to cover the fee yourself, and our online payment system will notify you of this option.
- Additionally, many banks provide a "Bill Pay" service that is typically free of charge. Your bank will send a check directly to St. Peter's, free from fees! You can even set up automatic payments through your bank, allowing you to ensure that your pledge is paid each month without any hassle.

Act Justly
 LOVE MERCY
 Walk Humbly
 WITH GOD

MICAH 6:8


GLORY TO GOD
 WHOSE POWER, WORKING IN US,
 CAN DO **INFINITELY**
 MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE:
GLORY TO HIM FROM
GENERATION TO
GENERATION
 IN THE CHURCH, AND IN CHRIST
JESUS FOR EVER AND
AMEN.
 EPHESIANS 3:20,21

TIME TO Celebrate

Happy Anniversary

Sherri-Lyn and Chris Black 09/01
 Diana and Brian Weeks 09/05
 Sally and Linda Fuhrman 09/17
 Jill Jeffries and Neal Ward 09/22
 Tammy and Fred Johnson 09/26

Flowers, Candles, & Wine

Sunday, September 7 - Opportunities Available
 Sunday, September 14 - Opportunities Available
 Sunday, September 21 - Opportunities Available
 Sunday, September 28 - 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

Ronald Everett	09/02
Jayson Holtane	09/02
Jayden Holtane	09/02
Priscilla Barnes	09/03
Tracy Everett	09/03
Rev. Derek Larson	09/03
Sean Nolin	09/03
Wayne Parrish	09/03
David Price	09/03
Rev. Barry Kubler	09/04
Carla Kordek	09/04
Evelyn Johnson	09/04
Stephanie Galloway	09/06
C.J. Thomas	09/06
Bruce Nichols	09/09
Maddie Docobo	09/09
Fred Speaks	09/10
Ashley Stevens	09/11
Meredith Prokuski	09/13
LaneyGrace Nolin	09/14
Vicky Conner	09/15
Sandy Colein	09/15
Sandy Black	09/16
Presley Stevens	09/16
Amanda Alvarez	09/18
Glenn Vasterling	09/22
Lucas Jones	09/22
Jimmer Moody	09/23
Simon Rawlins	09/24
Carter Lopez	09/26
Hayes Hunt	09/27
Pamela Miller	09/28
Brian Alderman	09/28
Allison Schmidt	09/29
Joshua Brown	09/30



MONTHLY METRICS REPORT

78

July
ASA

##

Sunday
Visitors

##

YTD New
Members

##

Outreach
Impact

5

Last Year Total:
1

YTD
Baptisms

\$45,701

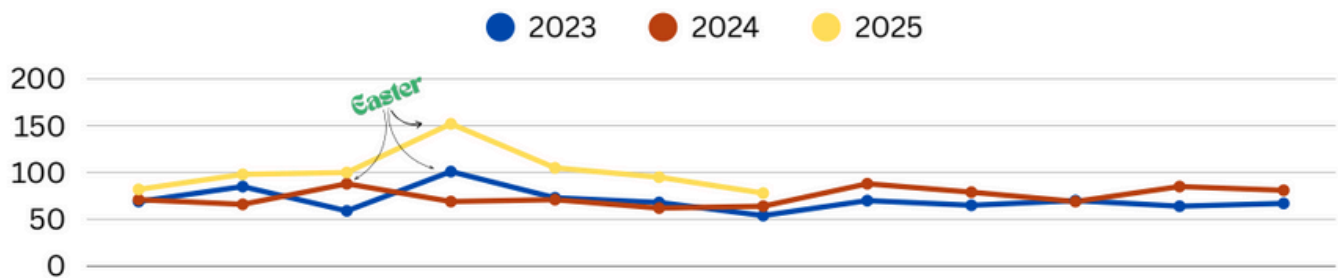
Budgeted:
\$30,691

July
Income

\$27,835

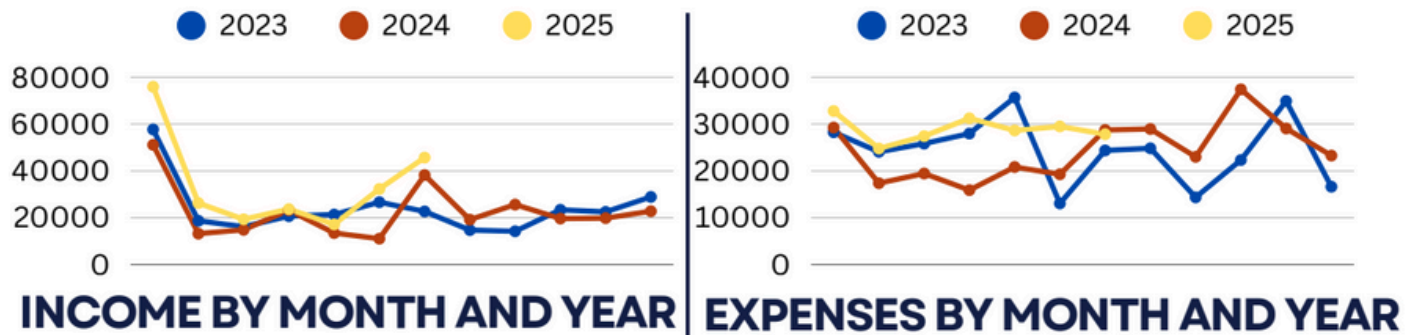
Budgeted:
\$30,691

July
Expenses



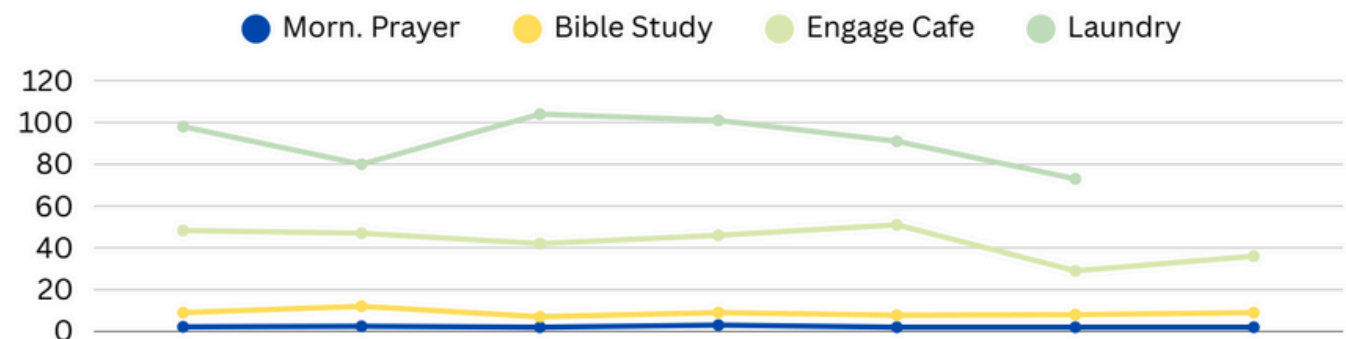
AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE BY MONTH AND YEAR*

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
U.S. Postage Paid
Tampa, FL
Permit No. 6263

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



The CrossKeys
September 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