

SP30 Report for the Parish

A Status Update for Parishioners

September 2026

1. Introduction and Background:

St. Peter's SP30 is the **long-term vision** for the future of our church through the year 2030. Launched as a Vestry initiative in 2025, the goal is to deepen our spiritual and community vitality. By identifying intentional strategies and practices, SP30 seeks to strengthen our current congregation while warmly inviting new members into our church family.

In 2025, the Vestry adopted this mission statement defining our **Purpose, Vision, and Values** to guide our steps forward:

Purpose

"St. Peter's is a beacon of hope, living the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are a supportive and hospitable faith community where you are included and safe. We equip you to heal and transform (yourself and the world) in your own authentic way and through the love of Jesus Christ."

Vision

"We will have a larger and more diverse population (members and staff). We will focus on finding each person's gifts and empowering their use (both on and off campus). Worship will be inspiring, our community will be vibrant, we will have functional spaces to support our needs, people will be engaged and growing in faith."

We will aspire to create a welcoming environment making sure the physical space is clean and comfortable, and that members feel welcomed and valued from the moment they arrive.

We value...

Inclusivity	Individual spiritual growth	Being non-judgmental
Service to others	Innovative ministries	People who are seeking
Care for God's creation	Living the Episcopal tradition	
Compassion	Following the words of Jesus Christ	

2. The Next Step - SP30 Committee Formation

To ensure every voice was heard, a committee of parishioners was established in July 2025 to listen to the congregation and gather input on our current strengths and areas needing attention. Through a parish-wide survey and localized listening sessions, which two-thirds of the parish participated in, the SP30 Committee captured invaluable feedback from across the parish. From these conversations, three clear priority areas emerged that reflect the desires of our congregation and were reported to the Vestry in January 2026.

- **Enhancing our Communication:** Streamlining how we share information and keep the parish connected.
- **Enriching Worship & Music:** Infusing new energy and focus into our sacred music and liturgical life.
- **Strengthening Ministry Leadership:** Developing clear succession plans within our ministries to support future leaders.

While the surveys and listening sessions highlighted important next steps, parishioners also celebrated the core strengths that define our parish family. Church members overwhelmingly expressed gratitude for the unique blessings of our community, including:

- A deep sense of fellowship rooted in **genuine care** for one another within an open, inclusive, and non-judgmental environment.
- A vibrant parish life with **ample opportunities to connect and serve**, from local outreach projects to weekday programs and parish-wide social events.
- The **comfort and rich tradition** of our familiar liturgy, providing a peaceful and grounded worship experience.
- A truly **multigenerational home**, where families of all ages can grow, attend, and share their lives together.

3. Outcomes from Parish-Wide Input

Guided by the three strategic pillars identified by the SP30 Committee—***Communication, Worship and Formation and Succession Planning***—the Vestry moved forward to turn feedback into action. In March 2026, two dedicated working committees were formed of Vestry and parish members to bring the ideas and priorities outlined in our surveys and listening sessions to life. These committees have been meeting regularly ever since to develop and implement positive strategies.

- **Ministry Succession Planning** - The Vestry determined that succession planning is best handled directly within each individual ministry. To support this effort, Vestry liaisons are working alongside current ministry leaders to help them develop ministry-specific succession plans to ensure long-term stability and leadership care across our parish groups.
- **Communications Committee** -
Effective communication is essential for fostering unity, engagement, and ministry effectiveness within the church. The purpose of the Communications Committee is to evaluate the church's current communication methods and implement improvements that ensure timely, clear, and accessible communication for the congregation, ministry leaders, and staff.

The committee will work to:

- Audit current church communication methods (emails, website, social media, etc.)
- Identify gaps and delivery barriers.
- Establish clear communication standards.
- Recommend improved tools and channels.
- Ensure information reaches the congregation.
- Strengthen engagement across all levels including ministries.
- Align strategies with St. Peter's values.

The committee's successes to date include:

1. Adding specific sections to the St. Peter's Press on Sunday for the Vestry, Facilities, Fellowship, Family and Children, Music and Worship, and Celebrations over time to enhance the content.
2. Updating the Parish on SP30 plans and progress with an article in the September newsletter and a brief presentation to the congregations at both services on Sept. 13th.
3. Spreading the word of the need for more photographs and content with quicker delivery to the office for use in our communications in a timely fashion.

The committee's next steps include:

1. Adding a monitor to the Narthex to display Parish events and photographs.
2. Assembling a Parish-wide Communication Assessment Report.

The Communications Committee has been meeting since March 2026 with monthly and twice-monthly meetings. There are seven members on the Committee with Gayle McKee as the chair.

• Worship and Formation Committee -

Worship and spiritual formation are central to the life of the church. Meaningful worship experiences and intentional faith development help deepen the congregation's relationship with God and strengthen the church community.

The purpose of the Worship and Formation Committee is to support the church's mission by evaluating, strengthening, and coordinating worship practices and opportunities for spiritual growth across the congregation. The committee will work collaboratively with church leadership, staff, and ministry teams to ensure worship services and formation opportunities are engaging, spiritually enriching, and aligned with the church's values and traditions.

The committee will work to:

- Support the planning of worship services.
- Promote meaningful and spiritually enriching worship experiences.
- Encourage congregational participation in worship.
- Strengthen opportunities for faith formation for all ages.
- Coordinate with ministry leaders to support spiritual growth initiatives.
- Ensure worship and formation activities align with the St Peter's Purpose, Vision, & Values.

The committee's successes include:

1. Meeting with Mother Sarah regarding some changes to the worship service music. Changes were slowly implemented over the summer and have been well-received by the congregation. Additionally, saying the Psalm instead of singing it while reserving the singing of Psalms for special liturgical days/seasons.
2. Working to fill the 9th–12th grade Sunday School position. At this time, there is a person who would be interested in volunteering.

3. Working with Thom Long to reduce the number of acolytes scheduled each week from 4 to 3. This plan was implemented this summer, and acolyte attendance has improved. A reward system for acolytes will be reinstated beginning in September after the next training session.

The committee's next steps include:

1. Continue to focus the worship music.
2. Continue acting as liaisons between ministries and the vestry.
3. Continue working on improving the environment while maintaining the specific qualities that make St. Peter's unique and special.

The Worship and Formation Committee has been meeting since March 2026 with monthly meetings. There are four members on the Committee with Gina Pelino and Todd LaFrance as co-chairs.

Our Hope:

As our community leans into the strategic plan that creates positive and welcoming changes, we will see a growing and vibrant community. This success happens when everyone works with a shared purpose toward common goals.