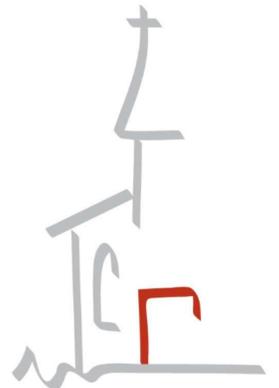


2018

# ANNUAL REPORT

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
North Wales, PA



**ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**FOUNDED 1776**

211 South Main Street North Wales, PA 19454  
 Phone 215-699-4604

Website: [www.stpetersnorthwales.org](http://www.stpetersnorthwales.org)

Worship at 8:30 & 10:00 am

Children's SPARK (Sunday School) Program at 10:00 am

**PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Andreas Wagner	Pastor
Ed Bara	Music Director
Jennifer Bodolus	Director Family Faith Ministries
Lisa Miller	Administrative Assistant
Liz Allen	Handbell Director
Rev. Jonathan Shin	Korean Mission Developer

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Name	Liaisons	3 Year Term Expires January
Charlene Bance	President, Strategic Plan	2020
Michael Quici	Vice President, Property	2019 *
Terry Riesz	Secretary, Communications	2020
John Ledder	Finance, Endowment	2021
Peg McConnell	Worship & Music	2019 *
Paul Staudt	Family Ministry	2019 *
Sharon Baker	Social Ministry	2020
Penny Gerace	Adult Family Faith	2020
Martha Heinze	Hospitality	2021
Erik Nelson	Stewardship	2021
George Wunder	S.P.O.T.	2019 *
Open Position		2021

\* expires in 2019

# ***Church Council Members***



**SHARON BAKER**



**CHARLENE BANCE**



**PENNY GERACE**



**JOHN LEDDER**



**PEG McCONNELL**



**ERIK NELSON**



**MICHAEL QUICI**



**TERRY RIESZ**



**PAUL STAUDT**



**MARTHA HEINZE**



**GEORGE WUNDER**

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**242<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**January 28, 2018**

Council President, Charlene Bance called the 242<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting to order at 11:11 am. She noted that celebrating our 242<sup>nd</sup> year of existence along with our country is pretty amazing. Jamie Nouri led us in an opening prayer with a theme of "thank you."

**Approval of the 241<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, January 29, 2017:** Bernie Heinze moved and Tom Boorse seconded to accept the minutes. Minutes approved.

**Volunteer Acknowledgement:** Poem entitled "Ode to St. Peter's Volunteers" was written and read by Charlene. Everyone present was asked to rise and applaud for themselves and all around them.

**Overview of Plans for 2018 - Pastor Wagner:**

There are three main projects for this coming year:

1. In the aftermath of the recent multiple disasters, we will be focusing on **disaster relief**. This starts with the Puerto Rico Dinner on February 10<sup>th</sup>, a prayer breakfast on March 10<sup>th</sup> and a mission trip to Puerto Rico in May.
2. The Europe Trip - the end of June: 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the group is from St. Peter's and 1/3 from Trinity. They are forming a choir that will sing in various churches in Europe and present a send off concert here on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Strategic Planning:
  - A search committee for filling (or attempting to) Liz Allen's shoes before the end of the year
  - Formation of a committee/group for our social media to underline a policy and to help in the design and upgrades to our website
  - Formation of a volunteer data base

Charlene asked for more people to help with the social media and website group, especially anyone who is familiar with social media or who understands CMS (Content Management Systems) and mobile friendly.

**Staff Appreciation - Judy Jones**

She and Dottie DeStefano have worked for the last 5 years with St. Peter's amazing staff, who routinely work above and beyond their job descriptions. The two of them examine and explore ways to help stretch the staff in their objectives.

1. *Liz Allen* - Judy noted that in one worship service, Liz played the organ, piano, directed Belles, arranged, accompanied and directed the special musical quartet, had cherub rehearsal and provided behind the scenes input for a smooth service. Judy said the applause at the end of any musical offering isn't just for the performers but appreciation for the gift of the music which Liz provides. A round of applause.

2. *Jenn Bodolus* - Judy said that the word SPARK not only was an apt name for our Sunday School program but that Jenn is the SPARK that has ignited our Family Faith ministry. There has been amazing growth in the SPARK program and expanded family faith exploration. A round of applause.
3. *Lorraine Daniels* - In Lorraine's absence, Judy praised her ability to keep the church running on a daily basis. She runs a tight ship and has the savvy to how best use the talents of her many volunteers. A round of applause.
4. *Pastor Wagner* - Judy was quick to point out that instead of looking at what he accomplished in the past year, Pastor was already looking forward to what was to come. Even though last year had some great accomplishments, we know with his leadership our congregational ship will continue to make waves. A round of applause.

Judy congratulated the staff for working well together and encouraged the congregation to show their appreciation during the year with "well done" and hugs.

### **Budget Review**

Charlene noted that just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village of volunteers to manage the finances of our church: finance committee, Monday morning counters, financial posting, check writing, account reconciliation, audit, endowment, non-cash gift, budget presentation and treasurer. Then she called on John Ledder to present the budget.

**John Ledder:** Reviewed the 4 page finance report. The largest increase was 3% staff (Pastor's increase is not in the salary item, but for tax purposes are in the other reimbursements). Also increases for the Youth attendance at the National convention this summer and benevolence. The budget process starts in Sept/Oct with input from committees, comparison between proposed budget and actual past year expenses. Council votes in December and then it is sent to the congregation before the meeting.

John MacInnes moved to accept the finance report as presented and Bernie Heinze seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### **Election of new council members:**

Charlene had the present council members stand for recognition and applause. She thanked outgoing members: Rob Strauss, Evy Hayes, Jamie Nouri and Jennifer Trippetti for their past service. Nominations are: Martha Heinze, Erik Nelson and John Ledder. Keith Bance moved to close the nominations and accept the slate of new council members. John MacInnes seconded. Motion approved.

Terry Riesz acknowledged that Charlene has done an outstanding job as council president this past year. A round of applause.

Linda Hubler moved to adjourn the meeting and Ruth Ann Kolb seconded. Approved.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Terry Riesz*, Council Secretary

# 243rd ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 27, 2019



**Our 243rd annual congregational meeting and celebration will be held in the church sanctuary, immediately following the 10:00 am service on January 27th. We are counting on the presence and input of all our members.**

- Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- Approval of Minutes: 242nd Annual Meeting, January 29, 2018
- Staff and Volunteer Acknowledgments
- St. Peter's Overview and Plans
- Finance Report & Adoption of 2019 Budget
- Election of New Council Members
- Other Business
- Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13**

December 2018

Dear People of St. Peter's,

What a year! When I think about these last 12 months at St. Peter's, two wonderful travel experiences stand out. I was just so happy we could send a quality team of 16 people to Puerto Rico last May to repair a number of roofs and home exteriors after Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc on the island in October of 2017. The physical work we accomplished in the course of a single week far exceeded my expectations. What's even more important: we found new friends, brothers and sisters in Christ at the local church in Dorado. It was a very positive and rewarding experience, so much so that we decided, almost immediately, to return in 2019. Our next mission trip will be in June of 2019. And this time we expect to send a group of more than 30 volunteers. The other trip was our Europe 2018 tour with a total of 35 participants. We traveled through Germany, Italy, Switzerland and France with a choir formed just for this purpose. We sang in the monastery that Luther entered as a young man, we performed in "his" Castle Church in Wittenberg where the Reformation began and in the Protestant Cathedral St. Thomas in Strasbourg, France. It was a privilege to see so many special places, creating indelible memories of places, people and experiences.

Our church set out in 2018 to find a new Music Director after Liz's retirement at the end of this year. We knew that this could be a tricky task. There are fewer schools for traditional church musicians and organists than there used to be, shrinking the pool of available candidates. We managed to find a highly qualified, experienced, dedicated church musician and choral director in Mr. Ed Bara from Perkasio. He will begin his work at St. Peter's on January 3. We also welcomed Lisa Miller (formerly Graham) to our staff earlier this year, and she has been a wonderful addition who combines competence with personal warmth and flexibility.

When I look back at this year I am particularly pleased with the development of our youth ministry, which was down to a few teenagers just a few years ago. I know that Youth Ministry fluctuates by nature, but I also think the additional "spark" provided by the leadership of Jennifer Bodolus and now James Miller have made a difference. It makes me very happy indeed to see that our current confirmation/youth group has that important "critical mass," which makes those times spent together a lot of fun and allows for relationships to deepen and a sense of community to develop. Finally, I would like to thank Liz Allen for her many years of dedication as Music Director of St. Peter's and her openness to continue her work as Director of our Hand Bell Choirs.

We have made a lot of progress this year, and we will move forward in faith, not resting on our laurels, instead seeking ways that allow all of us to grow and the church to be the servant community envisioned by Christ. May God lead us in this new year! I am filled with joy and peace and hope...

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Andreas Wagner*



## Greetings and Message from Council President

I sit here writing this report having just completed reviewing final functionality and content of our new website, which is LIVE as you read this! Reviewing the new site gave me time to review all of the ministries, activities and celebration of God's gifts that are part of our church community. I've listed a few highlights of the past year below (in no particular order):

- ◆ Our Financial health is good and thanks to all of you we will be presenting for the straight 3<sup>rd</sup> year a balanced budget for approval!
- ◆ We welcomed Lisa Miller to our staff. She is so much more than our administrative assistant. We are blessed with the enthusiasm and skills she brings for her work and her church.
- ◆ We gave Liz Allen a beautiful retirement send off with a lovely dinner and celebration of her service recognizing her loving dedication to our music programs. Luckily for us (and me!) she is staying on with our bell choirs and, of course, as a member of our church family.
- ◆ Our Strategic Plan was approved focusing on Technology (a Social Media policy and new Website) and a new Music Director (we welcome Ed Bara in January). We hired IQnections to work with us on the website which should be newly turned on as you read this. This was a big project and thank you Lisa, Mary Ann, Jenn, and Eric for all your contributions and time! The Volunteer database piece of our plan will be looked at in 2019.
- ◆ Adult Faith Formation became an active force with a newly dedicated committee. Adult Forum, BASIC, Bible Study and additional special programs are ongoing. Our women, along with some friends, "rocked" the church with laughter at our *Laugh Out Loud* Women's Retreat. St. Peter's Readers completed their 10<sup>th</sup> year reading together.
- ◆ Family Ministry, SPARK and Youth continue to grow and thrive nourished with Jenn's enthusiasm and leadership. James Miller became our new volunteer Youth leader and brings his great personal combination of guiding adult and playful kid.
- ◆ Pastor continues to lead us in thoughtful worship as well as Global Outreach which took St. Peter's to flood ravished Puerto Rico and established an ongoing relationship there. Our local community Social Ministry continues to be active in many areas and added social advocacy for hunger to their mission.
- ◆ Pastor with his volunteer teams led us to our most successful Oktoberfest.
- ◆ Council approved new cushions to dress up our sanctuary and new parlor technology to bring us 21<sup>st</sup> century tools of learning.
- ◆ As we end 2018 and enter into 2019 Council is reevaluating committees and task structures to make it more efficient and best meet the needs of our church community going forward.

There is so much more to read about our various ministries in this annual report and on our new website.

Church Council thanks each of you for your participation with your talents, your time, and your finances. We are a "family" congregation that worships together, learns together, serves together, and plays together.... All in service and reverence to God! I am grateful every day that I can be part of this!

Peace and Blessings to each of you,  
*Charlene*

## New Members



## Outdoor Baptism



## Blessing our Newest Members



## First Holy Communion



"You can give without loving.  
But you cannot love without giving." — Amy Carmichael



5K Run for Laurel House



Lutheran Day at the Capitol



Backpacks for the North Penn School District



Oktoberfest



Annual Women's Retreat



Our Youth: A year of fun and faith. Travel too!  
Box City, Bear Creek, Trappe, Philadelphia &  
Houston, to name just a few.

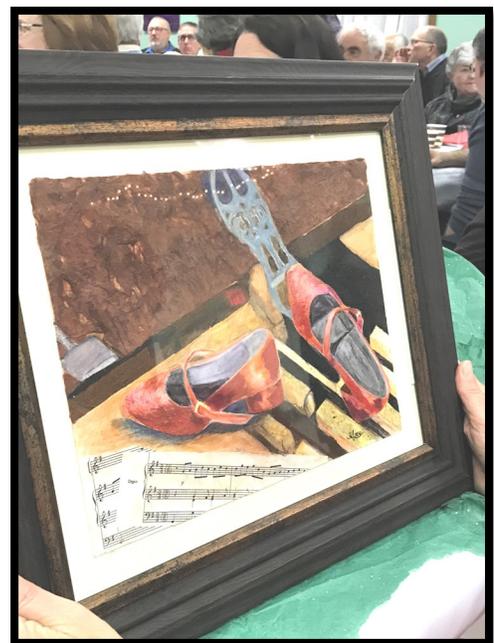


"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us. — Martin Luther



“Little things done over and over again add up to making a difference in a big way.” — Byron Pulsifer

### Happy Semi-Retirement Liz Allen





## The Year Ahead: 2019

### **Transition of Music Director**

After a lengthy search, Mr. Ed Bara will become our next Music Director at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, starting on January 1. He has extensive experience as teacher and conductor of choral music. He has worked as a Voice Teacher and Conductor at Muhlenberg College in Allentown since 2000 and brings 16 years of parish experience as Choral Director at Peace Lutheran Church in Perkasio. We will welcome him on January 6 at a Meet & Greet between services. Liz Allen, having retired and taken on a new role in our church as Director of Bell Music, will play on the first Sunday of each month, our designated "Bell Sunday." It is a big change and we are embracing it as a church that welcomes fresh ideas and, literally, new voices.

### **Saltando a la Fe II, Mission Trip to Puerto Rico**

Following our wonderful experience in May of 2018, more than 30 adults and youth from our church are expected to join us on this trip in June. We will stay at the Lutheran Disaster Response Camp in Dorado, work on several post-Maria restoration projects in the community and also forge closer ties with our friends at the Lutheran Church in Dorado. The relationships became very close and very important to us last year and we felt that God is calling us to build on that.

### **Regional Stephen Ministry Conference**

Stephen Ministry has been at St. Peter's since 2013. This year in March, our fearless Stephen Ministry leaders and ministers will host a Regional Conference for Stephen Ministry at our church. Stephen Ministry was founded by a Lutheran Pastor in St. Louis in the 1970's and has since grown into a huge nationwide and interdenominational ministry. Stephen ministers serve people who are dealing with crisis and provide them with emotional and spiritual support.

### **Easter Vigil Service**

We are planning our first Easter Vigil Service for 2019. It is an ancient tradition, observed on the night before Easter. In the early church, catechumens who were prepared for Baptism over a long period of time would be baptized on the night before Easter. The Easter Vigil service is rich in symbols and rituals and is a wonderful pathway to Easter.

### **Youth Ministry**

Our Youth Ministry was in transition for several years. We are now looking forward to our first youth/confirmation retreat with more than 20 youth participants. The youth group sessions on Sunday morning are also much better attended and James Miller has done a really nice job as adult youth group leader. We are looking forward to growing this ministry further.

### **150 Years North Wales**

Our town is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, and we will be part of the celebrations. The groundbreaking for our current church building occurred in the same year as when North Wales was incorporated, 1869.

## Membership 2018

### New Members:

- Risa and Stephen Aaronson
- Steven Frescatore
- Karen Sayuk and Elton Hopkins
- James Miller
- Paul, Suzanne, Jackson, Noah and Lilly Shaffer
- Jeffrey and Krystyn Streckfus
- Vicky and Lilian Turner
- Dong Kim
- Sin Hwa Kang



### Baptisms:

- Nathan David Heilman, April 8, 2018
- Madeleine Dunn Adams, August 5, 2018
- Geneva Grace Wunder, September 23, 2018



### First Holy Communion:

- Abigail Clark
- Emmalee Henderson
- Ella Blue Meyer
- Madeline Morrow
- Noah Shaffer



### Weddings:

- Jonathan D. Cotton and Allison L.. Hannigan, March 31, 2018
- Lisa Graham and James Miller, August 4, 2018
- Brynne Gallagher and Kyle Manger, October 6, 2018



### Funerals:

- Dorothy Reinert, February 6, 2018
- Inge Fuss, June 1, 2018
- Linda Cahoone, September 21, 2018 \*
- Robert Sands Jr., October 31, 2018 \*
- Leon Tschepikiewski, November 16, 2018 \*
- JoAnn Evelyn McGarrity, December 22, 2018 \*
- John Walter Erb, December 26, 2018



\*Non-Members of the church



## Our Committees and Ministries in 2018

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE**

*Thank you Anita Bailey, Linda and Bill Hubler, Jamie Nouri, Amy Smith, Rob Strauss, Pastor Wagner, Penny Gerace (chair)*

The Adult Faith Formation Committee is a newly formed committee which facilitates learning, discussion and contemplation in a group learning environment. The committee considers topics for our Basic sessions, Adult Forums, Bible Studies, the Annual Prayer Breakfast, and other learning opportunities as they arise. The committee also coordinates as needed with other committees such as Hospitality, Church Council, and others to ensure optimal outcomes for each planned event. We are always looking for ways and opportunities to include the congregation in the planning and participation of all events and ideas. In 2018 we offered a great variety of topics, including sessions about Dorothy Day and Richard Rohr, various mini Bible studies and more than 10 Adult Forum sessions. We invited Quaker speaker Eileen Flanagan and a Penn Foundation expert on the opioid crisis as special speakers.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

*Thank you Ted Riesz, Mary Ann Landmesser, Mike Cipriano, Brian Brenfleck, Jennifer Bodolus, Bernie Heinze, Terry Riesz (chair)*

Communications remains a very active group with all of the special events, such as camps, Oktoberfest, special music programs and the surprising weekly activities needing advertising in-house and the community. Jennifer Bodolus posts weekly on St. Peter's Facebook page, while Bernie Heinze posts on Twitter, to help cover our social media. Mary Ann worked closely with Lisa (administrative assistant), Charlene, and the website developer designing our new mobile friendly website. Ted maintains the computer network, the church email and installed the parlor TV system. Brian and Ted, with a crew, repaired the sanctuary projector. Terry publishes the bi-monthly newsletter and supplies The Reporter with weekly Sunday blurbs. Mike Cipriano updates the announcement board in front of the church every Monday. We maintain the on-line directory and on-line calendar.

A huge thank you to Lisa Miller! She coordinates, assists, and prepares our communication on all levels; website, bulletins and weekly events, PowerPoints for narthex and worship services, photo pages for the newsletter, sign-up sheets and posters for events, advertising for camps, coordination of the attendance, and updates Church Windows database. Thank you to her faithful crew who collates, folds, staples, and mails the weekly bulletin and the newsletter.

## **DEACONS**

*Thank you Brooke Alderfer, Judy Jones, Mary Ann Landmesser, Peg McConnell, John MacInnes, Dave Smith, Martha Heinze, Cindy Hoagey, Terry Riesz (coordinator), Judy Coates (chair)*

Deacons serve as worship assistants on Sundays and take Communion to our homebound members when they visit monthly. Some serve in both capacities, some only in one. They also assist the Social Ministry team and the SPARK program by delivering cookies and cards for holidays and birthdays to our homebound. Since our deacons serve our members in the last phase of their lives, the reality of death is often very tangible. We lost several elderly church members who had visitation deacons in 2018.

Thanks to all the deacons for their dedication and service! Brooke Alderfer, John MacInnes, Terry Riesz, Peg McConnell, Judy Jones, and Mary Ann Landmesser assist the pastor in worship and provide communion to our homebound members once a month. Judy Coates and Martha Heinze serve as worship assistants, and Cindy Hoagey joined us this year as a new visitation deacon. In January we welcomed four new worship assistants: Erik Nelson, Brian Brenfleck, Bethany Coover, and Sharon Baker.

## **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

*Thank you James and Lisa Miller, Gretchen Flanagan, Daren Gross, Suzanne Shaffer, Karin Clark, Bethany Coover*

It always amazes me how time flies as I am sitting here writing another annual report. We had a tremendous year in our ministries for children, youth and families. This can't happen without God, and it can't happen without the church faithfully showing up to share the gifts of faith that we have been given in Jesus Christ. It is wonderful to see the many connections across generations of faith-filled people. Our Family Faith Formation has four different components: our youngest children and their families (ages 0-4); the SPARK children and Christian Education K-6<sup>th</sup> grade; youth and confirmation ministries; intergenerational and family events.

### **Nursery Age Children (Ages 0 to 4)**

In 2018 I took some time to figure out how we can best minister to our youngest church members and their parents. We polled all of the families with children of nursery age to see how we could better meet their needs and preferences for worship. Some like to come to the 8:30 am service, others to the 10:00 am service; some like to keep their children with them; some need a nursery.

I am pleased to announce that we have hired a regular paid nursery attendant, Belle Miller. She will be here each Sunday from 9:30-11:30 am. She has a lot of experience with children and works professionally with kids on the autism spectrum. We encourage parents to start bringing their children to church at an early age, and we always have parents who are able to do that on a regular basis. We are here to make it as easy for parents as possible. In addition to the staffed nursery at the later church service, we provide busy bags and a toy cart just outside of the sanctuary for parents who come to the early church services.

### **SPARK Program (K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

I am continually grateful for those who teach in our SPARK program. We could not do it without them! Our regular teachers are Daren Gross (Preschool Program), Gretchen Flanagan, Karin Clark, Suzanne Shaffer and Bethany Coover. A big thank you to them!

Our SPARK children meet each Sunday in the sanctuary at the 10:00 am service. They leave the sanctuary after a blessing to receive their age-appropriate education. This year we changed the curriculum to match the lessons of the liturgical calendar and we also included more music and singing. Attendance at the SPARK program has soared to an average of 22 children in 2018 (compared to 10 last year). Our children sang the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month in church.

We hope to get more parishioners to volunteer to teach occasionally (everything's provided) so that our core volunteers can get more breaks.

### **Youth and Confirmation Ministry**

The biggest leap in attendance this year was in our Youth Ministries, thanks to a mixture of new leadership, more frequent activities, and more youth joining our church. We are grateful for James and Lisa Miller who have taken a leadership role in our Youth Ministry. Their creativity, faith and love for our youth is evident. James especially has a knack for getting our teenagers to talk about things that matter to them. Youth group now meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday during the 10:00 am service.

The highlights in our Youth Ministry this year were: Bear Creek Winter Retreat; the Box City event to raise money and awareness for homelessness; a number of social outings; the Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. For the 2019 winter youth retreat we expect more than 20 youth and more than 10 youth are planning to join us on our second mission service trip to Puerto Rico this summer.

### **Intergenerational and Family Ministry**

Our Faith and Family programs here at St. Peter's are continually growing and are well attended. They are also a result of many leaders, volunteers, and ministries working together.

We had a Bingo Night, a Bowling night, a Prayer Breakfast, the second annual Easter Egg Hunt, Oktoberfest, Christmas Caroling, and our annual Christmas Eve service. It is hard for me to pick a favorite because there is something that I love and find faith in each one.

My heart is truly full and I love what I do, what a gift that is to be able to say that. When I see a child fold their hands and say their prayers or serve as lector during worship, I am at my happiest. Thank you all for allowing me to help your children and youth grow in their faith!

I thank God for parents, teachers, youth volunteers, the executive committee, and all our well-wishers for your prayers and support. Above all, I thank God for all His blessings showered upon us. May His abounding mercies continue to touch all of our families!

Blessings,  
*Jennifer Bodolus*

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Thank you Charlene Bance, David Smith, Brooke Alderfer, Bill Gutsche, Roy Jones, John Ledder (chair)*

The committee meets roughly every other month with special meetings added as needed. We analyze income and expenses, make recommendations for spending, address financial concerns, and develop the annual budget. For 2018, we again set a goal of balancing the budget and thanks to your generous giving, we succeeded! The total annual budget is around \$300,000 and we'll finish the year with several thousand dollars more than we started with. The income from Maintenance Fund exceeded expenses, however some maintenance was deferred to 2019. The Capital Reserve Fund which is designed to prevent the need to borrow in the future is growing slowly. A portion of the Family Faith Director salary will continue to be paid out of the Capital Campaign funds designated for that for the next few years. We are phasing this in over an extended period of time to decrease the budget impact.

The proposed 2019 budget is again balanced, meaning that the planned expenses equal the planned income. We were able to propose increases to the staff salaries. We expect that the significant exterior woodwork painting project that was originally planned for 2018 will be completed in 2019.

The year 2018 was up and down for investments and the Endowment Account balance was up slightly through November.

## **OKTOBERFEST**

*Thank you Bill and Pam Paraskewik, Andrew Hill, Katie Kratz, Tim Caum, Dottie DeStefano, Mark Ferrence, Jason Gutekunst, Cindy Heist, Doug and Jennifer Mahan, John MacInnes, Dave Smith, Steve and Eileen Wright, Pastor Wagner (chair)*

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Peter's Oktoberfest was a rousing success, attended by a steady crowd of visitors and raising close to \$12,000 in net revenue for the church. We are thankful to several donors who helped us purchase smaller tents and new signs for the changed date (last Saturday in September). This eliminated the expenses for tent rental this year and also in the future. A beautiful Oktoberfest entrance arch was constructed by Paul Shaffer and installed on a parking lot entry spot from Main Street. A German-style brass band and the contemporary group *Flashback* (Bob and Carol McGilloway) provided great entertainment. Special thanks go to the leaders of our subcommittees: Bill Paraskewik (Main Event), Andrew Hill (Home Brewers) and Katie Kratz (Silent Auction and Sales). Thanks to our teams who worked hard and gave us another beautiful showing as part of North Wales Community Day. Finally, thanks to more than 60 volunteers who all worked hard on that day and before to make it happen!

## **PROPERTY**

*Thank you Keith Bance, Mike and Linda Cipriano, Bill and Linda Hubler, Bill Johnson, Bill Kesack, Cathy Simcox, Dave Smith, Scott Zenker, Bob Coates, Joanne and Mike Quici*

The Thursday Gang continues their good works; saving the need to hire outside services to deal with the continual upkeep of our property and aging buildings. We logged almost 100 hours this year. The list of tasks completed is extensive and is posted on the bulletin board.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

*Thank you Mark Baker, Sharon Baker, Bill and Linda Hubler, Joy Jacobson, Brian Brenfleck, Anita Bailey, Steve and Eileen Wright, Robin Alderfer (chair)*

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. - Matthew 25:40*

Our web site states that social ministry is not a political agenda but a faith priority. Social Ministry here at St. Peter's includes support of the following missions: Manna on Main Street, Philabundance, Good Gifts, Silver Springs Martin Luther School, Caring Chefs, North Wales Day of Service, Habitat for Humanity, Laurel House, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of PA (LAMPa), ELCA Blanket Appeal, and Lutheran Disaster Relief.

In 2018 we focused heavily on food insecurity issues. We visited Philabundance, donated 2,500 pounds of food (400 lbs more than in 2017) to Manna on Main Street in Lansdale, and hosted the SEPA Synod's first Food 101 Class. Also, a small group traveled to Harrisburg to attend the Lutheran Day at the Capital event. This group, in conjunction with Lutheran Advocacy PA (LAMPa), initiated a letter writing campaign to voice concerns to our representatives regarding food insecurity in the state.

In addition to hunger initiatives, we were also able to contribute to other missions as well. We changed from Heifer International to Good Gifts and collected enough funds to buy 2 cows, 6 goats, 34 chicks, a rooster, a beehive, 4 pigs and a piglet, farm tools, seeds and training. *Undy Sunday* was a new initiative we started for Silver Spring Martin Luther School. We collected new socks and underwear for the children at the school. We also supported the ministry there with Pie Days (April and October) and gifts at Christmas. We continue to collect Box Tops for Education. Caring Chefs continued to prepare meals for family with a short-term need for help with food preparation. Teams spread out throughout the area in a very successful North Wales Day of Service in September. Donations were also given to ELCA Blanket Appeal, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Disaster Relief, and Laurel House.

In 2019, we are looking forward to working with Habitat for Humanity on a Faith Build in Bridgeport, PA and we hope to construct a Little Library to our reach our neighbors in the North Wales community.

Thank you for your support of this ministry. We could not do it without you.

## **S.P.O.T - ST. PETER'S OUTREACH TEAM**

*Thank you Stephanie and Jeremy Heilman, Patricia Pardoski, Martha Pope, Jean Prindle, Bernie Heinze, Rebecca Schell, James and Lisa Miller, Pastor Wagner, George Wunder (chair)*

A great year of fundraising, networking and planting seeds for the future!

Puerto Rico: Fundraising dinners and merchandise, culminating in the "Leaping Into Faith" mission trip to Iglesia Ascencion in Puerto Rico in May. Results: relationship building with Ascencion, donations including disaster kits assembled at our Prayer Breakfast in March, joint work projects in Puerto Rico in May, and ambitious plans for 2019, including an adult volunteer group and youth camp.

Haiti: First harvest reports are in! These harvests from our sponsored farm have been abundant – 98% of the expected yield was actually attained, generating \$7,618 in revenue for the local farmers. Next for 2019 is a small group mission to build partnerships, assess a second farm or expansion of the first, and scoping for future projects similar to those done in Belize and Puerto Rico in the last two years.

Philadelphia: Pastor and team connected with Nueva Creation Lutheran in Kensington regarding revitalization projects and partnership for Puerto Rico. Our focus in 2019 will include neighborhood ministry and joint activities.

Special thanks to Pastor and Bernie Heinz.

## **STAFF SUPPORT TEAM**

*Thank you Judy Jones, Dottie DeStefano*

For the sixth consecutive year, Judy Jones and Dottie DeStefano have served as our Staff Support Committee. They ensure that all staff members receive necessary support, fair assessment and reasonable growth objectives that are aligned with the church's growth goals. Staff reviews were held at year-end (October 2018).

## **STEWARDSHIP**

*Thank you Pastor Wagner, Peg McConnell, Sharon Skrzat, Maryann Gerhart, Erik Nelson (chair)*

This year our Stewardship theme was "I'm In" whereby the congregation was asked to reflect on the assets and strengths of St. Peter's and what they have meant to each member and their family as well as how each member may have benefited from them. The program consisted of 3 Temple Talks and 3 email meditations focusing on the Stewardship theme of "I'm in because I'm inspired, I'm in because I'm included, and I'm in because I'm indebted." Parishioners filled out cards with their thoughts and pinned them to the art wall in the Narthex.

Our goal was 100 returned pledges and we reached 103. The receipt of the pledge cards is

designed to help the Budget committee to prepare the budget for 2019 so it is an important process each year.

Thanks to the Stewardship Committee for working this past year on the fall program and also to all those who offered to give Temple Talks and meditations, as well as members of the congregation who returned their pledge cards in November.

## **STEPHEN MINISTERS**

*Thank you Diana Blum, Meg Matlack, Nancy Simons, Sharon Skrzat, Diane Zenker, Rebecca Ledder and Laurie Kane (co-chair)*

To date our St. Peter's church Stephen Ministry, which has been in service since 2013, has trained 16 ministers and provided Christian care to more than 20 individuals. We currently have 6 active ministers on our roster. The Stephen Ministers have been busy continuing to regularly visit and provide listening support to their care receivers. They also continue to attend regular peer group supervision meetings which are scheduled for the third Monday of every month. Mason, the certified therapy dog, has joined the group and you will find her at group supervision... she needs it more than most! Although 2018 was a quiet year for our ministry, this was only because our roster of ministers was sufficient to meet the expressed needs of our church and community. For this reason we did not hold new minister training.

The year 2019 is looking to be a very exciting and busy year. On March 30th St. Peter's Ministers will be hosting the national Stephen Ministry home office as they visit us to present an "Introduction to the Stephen Ministry" workshop. This will be an event open to all churches in and around our area who are interested in learning about and experiencing what the Stephen Ministry can do for their congregations. Members of St. Peter's can attend for free! If you are considering a calling to this ministry, this workshop is the chance to get a little taste of what could be a very uplifting and rewarding opportunity to serve others. Following this workshop we will begin the recruiting and training process for a new group of ministers to grow our active roster. If you feel the call to be a part of this important outreach ministry please do not hesitate to get in touch with Pastor Wagner or either of the leaders, Rebecca Ledder or Laurie Kane. Additionally, if you know of someone who would benefit from the gift of having a Stephen Minister, please let us know. Our Ministers are trained to work with people of all faiths and traditions. Care receivers do not need to be members of St. Peter's to receive support. Read more about the Stephen Ministry on our website or <http://www.stephenministries.org/>.

As always, we ask for your continued prayers for our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers and may you enjoy the peace of Christ throughout the new year.

## **THRIFT SHOP**

*Thank you Lois Kesack, Ginny Benner, Amy Gillan, Inge Coleman, Judy Coates, Kay Mulhall, JoAnn Rittenhouse (chair)*

The Thrift Shop had a very good year with almost \$20,000 of income and donations of \$19,950. In addition to the committee members listed, there are many more volunteers who work at the Thrift Shop. We thank them all for their dedicated efforts in supporting this ministry.

<b>Receipts for 2017 were:</b>	<b>\$19,685.77</b>
<b>Contributions and expenses in 2018 were:</b>	<b>\$19,946.54</b>
Nehemiah's Way	\$7,500
Silver Springs	3,900
Ken Crest	3,900
Manna on Main Street	3,900
St. Peter's Youth Group	300
Blanket Drive	0
Supplies	0
Luncheon	446.54

The checkbook had a balance of \$2,738.81 at the beginning of 2018 and now stands at \$2,478.39. We expect \$2,500 to be contributed in January, 2019.

Excess clothing was donated to and picked up by the Salvation Army, and we thank them.

The Thrift Shop Total Contributions since start up in 1994 thru 2018 (with no data for the first three years 1994, 1995, 1996): **\$340,249.00**

This is a remarkable accomplishment by volunteer ladies. St. Peter's should be very proud of the hard work needed to do this.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

*Thank you Liz Allen, Peg McConnell, Jamie Nouri, Linda Hubler, Helen Nelson*

As I sit down to write my last report as St. Peter's Director of Music, I realize how truly blessed I have been to be able to serve you all these years as your music leader. When my family and I joined this church thirty-three years ago, I had no idea what journey I would travel. It has been a time of learning, growing musically and sharing the joys and sorrows of my extended family at St. Peter's. It has been a great trip.

As I look back on this last year, some of my favorite highlights were the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Handbell Concert, the visit of the North Wales Elementary School Select Choir, Handbell Sunday with all the handbell choirs participating, working with Jenn Bodolus and the Youth for the Youth-led service, Psalm Sunday and Rally Day with Faithful Noise and Friends. I'm sure there are more that I have forgotten.

As always I need to thank many people for their dedication to the program. My adult choir, all three handbell choirs, SPARK singers and all the specials (brass group, men's and women's quartets, men's chorale, soloists) and all those people I haven't mentioned. I couldn't have done it without you and I will miss the opportunity to work with you, but I know you will be in good hands going forward.

I do believe the magic moment for me was the Retirement Dinner held in my honor on December 1. It was an evening filled with love and laughter (and wonderful food), and one I will remember always. Having all my friends and family there, the fabulous dinner with all my favorite foods, the picture of my organ shoes by Barbara Moss, Pastor's kind and funny words, the tributes by the choir and Belles, the surprise performance by the Doucette family and generosity of the congregation made it an evening I will never forget. Thank you to everyone involved in the evening. Finally, I would like to thank Pastor Wagner, Jenn Bodolus and Lisa Miller for the opportunity to work with a wonderful staff. We worked hard, laughed hard, shared our joys and sorrows and made many special worship services together. I will miss being part of that team (but hope they let me come back and visit every now and then).

As I begin the next chapter in my journey, I wish only the best for my family at St. Peter's and will be looking forward to what comes next for all of us!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Liz Allen*

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KOREAN MINISTRY AT ST. PETER'S**

*The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!*

Pastor Shin serves the Korean-speaking part of our congregation. They meet every Sunday for worship in the Christian Education Gathering Room and join us on every last Sunday of the month at the 10:00 am service.

As time goes by, another year passed. Thank God for all the support and caring from all our brothers and sisters. This year some of our church members left our side. But we had few new members joining our Sunday worship. Our hands were even shortened. But thank God for His providence at the right time. We pray that new members will continue to join our services and that the old members will return after their rest.

In Christ, *Pr. Jonathan Shin*

### **Korean Ministry at St. Peter's:**

Register member = 32

Active member = 15

Remove member = 10

Sunday average attending = 13

### **Meetings:**

Sunday worship: Sunday 10:00 am

Church Leader's meeting: 1/month every 2nd Sunday

Citizenship class (for naturalization interview): every Thursday 10:00 am - 11:30 am

### **Events:**

Summer Picnic = 1/yr.

Thanksgiving party = 1/yr.

Church member's Birthday party: each month

Basic Theological Study: 3/yr.

**Sunday collection: \$36,446**

### **Expense: \$35,950**

Office operating        \$1,200

Fellowship                5,000

Pianist                     2,000

Pastoral care             1,500

Equipment                1,250

Outreach ministry        2,500

Worship supply            500

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO THE BUDGET FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## **ST. PETER'S PROPOSED BUDGET 2019**

On behalf of the Church Council and the Finance Committee, I'm happy to present the attached proposed budget for 2019. We once again are recommending a balanced budget. The way the process works is as follows:

1. The finance committee develops a draft budget using data from the current year, the recent past, staff and committee inputs, and pledge information.
2. The church council reviews the draft and makes changes as needed.
3. The recommended council budget is sent to the congregation for review with an invitation to attend the start of the January council meeting.
4. The budget is finalized and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in late January.

The council encourages feedback and questions prior to the annual meeting. This allows more time to provide thoughtful responses and to make any needed adjustments. It's challenging to do this during the Annual Meeting. If you have questions, please let me (John Ledder) or Charlene Bance know. Also, please let us know by January 11th if you plan to attend the January 14th Council Meeting at 7 pm. Letting us know will allow us to incorporate it into the agenda and also let you know if there is a weather cancellation.

The budget can be confusing so here are some of the highlights and key points:

- ◆ "Plate" income is expected to be lower in 2019 than 2018 because several of these givers have pledged which shows up in the increased General Fund Offerings.
- ◆ The Fundraising income estimate is lower than 2018 actual since this is largely Oktoberfest. The 2018 event was excellent partly due to the weather.
- ◆ We propose a 3% salary increase for Pastor Wagner, Jenn Bodolus, and Lisa Miller.
- ◆ The Music Director position is split between the Director of Music and the Bell Choir Director.
- ◆ Communications expenses are projected to be much lower than 2018 actual because most of the 2018 amount was related to the new website which is a one-time expense.

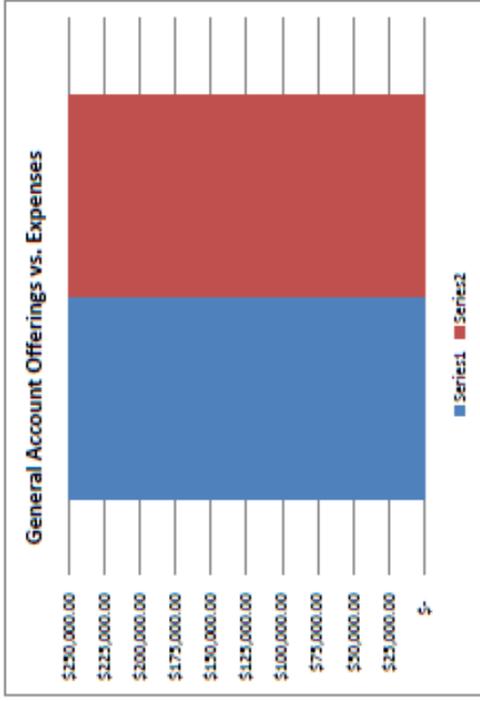
**ST. PETERS BUDGET – COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Through 11/30</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
General Fund Offerings	249,695	224,228	257,663
Plate Offerings	5,500	8,788	5,500
Initial Offerings	500	460	500
Holiday Offerings	6,500	3,999	6,500
Sunday School	100	102	100
Flowers & Altar Decorations	600	620	700
Building Rental	7,000	6,333	7,000
Fund Raising	5,000	11,554	7,500
Family Faith from Campaign	11,360	10,417	6,000
Miscellaneous Donations	3,500	5,101	3,500
Miscellaneous Income	5,000	3,143	4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294,755</b>	<b>274,745</b>	<b>298,963</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Pastor Salary/Housing/Social Security	61,812	56,661	62,888
Pastor Pension/Auto/Edcuation/Medical	40,344	36,866	42,334
Director of Music Salary	38,160	34,980	28,000
Bell Choir	0	0	8,500
Christian Ed Director	13,368	12,981	13,769
Secretary Salary	21,970	22,316	22,629
Employer Staff Taxes	7,200	6,551	7,416
Family Faith Director	17,551	15,360	18,077
Office Expense	7,600	6,707	7,600
Postage Expense	1,000	494	1,000
Telephone & Internet	1,900	1,856	2,000
Gas & Electricity	14,500	13,837	15,000
Cleaning Service	10,000	9,816	10,500
Trash Removal	1,200	990	1,200
Water & Sewer	1,400	1,744	1,500
Landscaping	5,200	4,844	5,200
Adult Education	500	400	500
Family Faith Expense	3,000	2,345	3,000
Convention Exp	500	90	500
Continuing Education	500	0	250
Hospitality Outreach	1,600	346	1,000
Communication	2,500	5,379	1,000
Music Expense	1,600	1,284	1,500
Worship Exp	2,500	1,977	2,500
Nursery (6 month trial)	0	0	1,000
Flowers & Altar	100	0	100
Social Ministry	50	0	50
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	0	0	250
Stewardship	2,000	1,397	1,300
Youth Ministry	4,500	3,162	4,500
Stephen Ministry	200	0	200
Music Workshop	500	613	1,500
Worship Guest Musicians	300	250	1,500
Worship Supply Pastor/Organist	1,200	1,450	1,200
Insurance Exp	9,000	7,766	10,000
Benevolence	21,000	19,250	21,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294,755</b>	<b>271,712</b>	<b>298,963</b>
<b>DEFICIT/SURPLUS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE FUND</b>			
Maintenance Income	15,000	16,395	15,000
Maintenance Expense	15,000	11,175	15,000
<b>CAPITAL RESERVE FUND</b>			
Capital Reserve Income			25,000
Capital Reserve Expenses			As Required

## General Operating Account Summary

	Actual	Budget	Delta
General Operating Account Offerings:	\$ 274,748.00	\$ 263,964.00	\$ 10,784.00
Expenses:	\$ 271,725.00	\$ 271,635.00	\$ 90.00
<b>Operating Surplus or (Deficit):</b>	<b>\$ 3,023.00</b>	<b>\$ (7,651.00)</b>	<b>\$ 10,674.00</b>

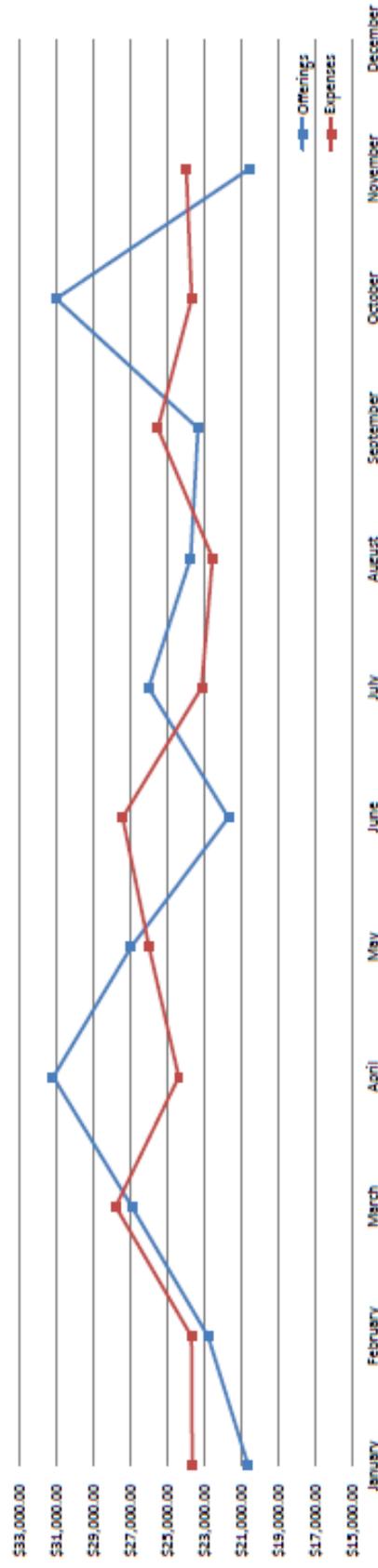
General Operating Account Income Includes:	
Envelopes (General Fund)	Fundraising Events (Oktoberfest)
Plate Offerings	Sunday School Contributions
Initial Offerings	Flowers & Altar Contributions
Holiday Offerings	Building Rental Contributions (AA, Aerobics)
	Holiday Offerings
	Miscellaneous Donations
General Operating Account Expenses Include:	
Staff Compensation	Utilities (Phone, Electric, Water, etc.)
Ministry Expenses (Music, Christian Ed, etc.)	Operating Expenses (Postage, Office Supplies, etc.)
Benevolence (giving to the church at large)	



## General Operating Account Trend

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Offerings	\$ 20,603.00	\$ 22,783.00	\$ 26,910.00	\$ 31,156.00	\$ 26,953.00	\$ 21,609.00	\$ 25,997.00	\$ 23,718.00	\$ 23,325.00	\$ 31,004.00	\$ 20,566.00	\$ 20,566.00
Expenses	\$ 23,637.00	\$ 23,679.00	\$ 27,779.00	\$ 24,366.00	\$ 25,969.00	\$ 27,406.00	\$ 23,137.00	\$ 22,537.00	\$ 25,505.00	\$ 23,668.00	\$ 23,962.00	\$ 23,962.00
Offerings (Budget)	\$ 20,729.00	\$ 22,624.00	\$ 23,590.00	\$ 30,552.00	\$ 26,382.00	\$ 21,790.00	\$ 21,822.00	\$ 23,647.00	\$ 20,533.00	\$ 29,778.00	\$ 22,111.00	\$ 22,111.00
Expenses (Budget)	\$ 23,970.00	\$ 22,986.00	\$ 28,171.00	\$ 22,216.00	\$ 26,151.00	\$ 24,751.00	\$ 22,686.00	\$ 25,411.00	\$ 23,486.00	\$ 23,631.00	\$ 25,246.00	\$ 25,246.00

## General Operating Account Trend

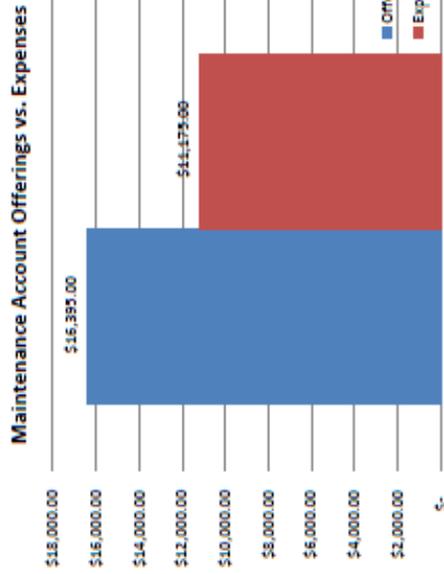


## Maintenance Account Summary

Maintenance Account Offerings Year to Date: \$ 16,395.00  
 Maintenance Account Expenses Year to Date: \$ 11,175.00  
 2018 Maintenance Account Target Giving: \$ 15,000.00

Maintenance Account Income Includes:  
 Envelopes (Maintenance Fund)

Maintenance Account Expenses Include:  
 Property expenses that can't be forecast  
 Major repairs (roof, HVAC, etc.)  
 Snow removal  
 Preventative maintenance



## Maintenance Account Trend

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Offerings	\$ 600.00	\$ 7,157.00	\$ 1,170.00	\$ 830.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 738.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 775.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 0.00
Expenses	\$ 2,831.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 2,816.00	\$ 101.00	\$ 1,956.00	\$ 148.00	\$ 36.00	\$ -	\$ 278.00	\$ 1,238.00	\$ 716.00	\$ 0.00

## Maintenance Account Trend

