

ST. PETER'S
LAKE MARY

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025



ST. PETER'S
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RECTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Jeremy Bergstrom



When I look at St. Peter's as it is today, I see many signs of life and encouragement. The Lord has brought new individuals and families to us, and most importantly, they are people who want to hear the Word of God and grow in their life in Christ. After many years of drought we're finally seeing engagements and weddings again. Our new faith and family ministry on Wednesday evenings is yet another sign of life, as families with young children gather together for fellowship and the formation of our children. Bethany home groups are reengaged.

What's next for St. Peter's? Many of my colleagues would push for big events and splashy projects in the community. I'm not anti-event, and I'm certainly not against projects in the community, yet my deeply-held conviction is this: our life depends on us gathering around the proclamation of the Gospel and the worship of our great and glorious God. This is like a nuclear reactor that powers every other aspect of the Christian life.

So by all means, let's work in the community! But let this emerge by the power of the Spirit through God's work in us. Be in the Word, meditate on Christ, treasure him and his promises, grow in grace, and rest in his mercy. *The more we grow in God's work in us, the more we will grow in our work in God.* As the grace of God flows in you, you'll do the things which please him such as boldly proclaiming the truth among your families and our community, bringing them to church, and serving others sacrificially. Come speak with me if you'd like help brainstorming and discerning just what the Lord might be calling you to do.

Last year I shared two areas in which we continue to struggle, which remain unchanged: 1) frequency of attendance, and 2) finances. Our attendance overall is steady compared to last year, yet sometimes it seems like we have two or three different congregations depending on who shows up on a given Sunday! This is especially true for our 11am service. For your own good, for the encouragement of your brothers and sisters, and for the glory of God, make the effort to come every Sunday. Your presence encourages us more than you might think.

Giving remains flat year to year as costs go up for utilities, insurance, and repairs on our aging campus. The current situation is not sustainable for the long-term. Many long-term members simply do not give beyond the occasional token. Many have just joined. Our prayer is that as you have fallen in love with our church family, you'll join the rest of us in making sacrificial offerings for the glory of God and the thriving of our beloved parish. Our future together depends on your all-in engagement. There's no reason we can't thrive in every way as a church family.

I've now been your rector for eight years, and my heart is full of gratitude for you; for your encouragement in ministry, for your support and care for my family, and above all for your prayers. Our congregation has such a sweet spirit, and it's my pleasure and privilege to watch your faith in Christ take root and grow. As I face some personal uncertainties over the coming year, please know my confidence in God for St. Peter's, for my family, and for myself has never been more high. Let's walk through this next season together, and I'm sure that when we look back on 2026 we'll see that God will have been faithful just as he has been in 2025, and along with the crowds who were astonished at the work of Jesus, we'll gladly say: "Behold, he has done all things well." All he does is for his glory, and he works all things for our good. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

God bless you, and let's move forward together into all the victories he will bring in 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Bergstrom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MISSION & OUTREACH

The Rev. Nina Bolton



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King, a national women's prayer order, has long had a chapter at St. Peter's. Thirty-one women of St. Peter's have taken vows of intercessory prayer, service, and evangelism. To bolster its vows, our Chapter completed two book studies: *The Daniel Prayer* by Anne Graham Lotz and *The Story of Grace* by Horatius Bonar. A number of women who are not Daughters participated in our studies.

This year, our Chapter donated money to Mountain of Hope. We donate clothing, shoes, and household goods to our Haiti Ministry, provide ongoing support for Wednesday Wash Day, and spent a day volunteering at The Sharing Center. We also attended the Central Florida Diocesan Deanery Annual Meeting and the Spring Retreat.

In January, four women were installed as Daughters, each taking a vow to dedicate their lives to pray, serve, and evangelize.

If you need prayers for yourself or others, you need only ask, and we will bring your prayers to the Throne Room of our Heavenly Father! The Daughters pray on a daily basis for those who ask for prayers. Deacon Nina continues to serve as the Chaplain.

WALK FOR LIFE

Ten men, women, and children of St. Peter's participated in The Pregnancy Center's Walk for Life on October 18 to help raise money for this important ministry, which St. Peter's has supported for many years.

BIBLE STUDY

Deacon Nina continues to lead a weekly Bible Study at Sonata Retirement Community for residents in Independent Living. This year the group has studied Ephesians, Mark, and currently John.

As your Deacon, I am here to pray with, send cards to, and visit any member of St. Peter's who requests a visit. I want to hear from you! Please email me at nina@stpeterslakemary.org.



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Colette Ivanov



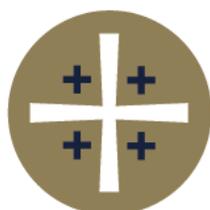
My church family, I am so happy to be here and a part of this church community. I feel honored and grateful to have served as your Senior Warden this past year.

Those who know me know that I am not very outgoing and have to push myself to step out of my comfort zone. I have found it a personal as well as a spiritual blessing to get to know more of my church family, attend both services more often, and get more insights into how engaged, involved, and committed so many of you are to the church.

This has been a strong year for the church in several ways. We have wonderful leadership in Father Jeremy and Deacon Nina Bolton, and have fantastic members of the church that continue to amaze me with the support of our local ministries, Mountain of Hope, church events, children and youth activities, and adult bible study. All these ministries have continued to be strong throughout the year. Some with leadership changes, but all with continued vigor and enthusiasm. Our church membership and giving have remained at the same levels as in 2024 (YTD through October). We currently stand 4% below plate and pledge budget, and will continue to look for ways to offset the gap. Please see our Treasurer's report and Fr Jeremy's encouragement to grow in our financial support. We continue to step out in faith, knowing that by the grace of God, we will have the funds needed to support the church.

Some of the larger projects/changes for 2025 were:

- ◆ Amy Jennings transitioned out as Church Admin, and Carissa Guy took her place and moved the role to a part-time position
- ◆ Major plumbing work done in the men's bathroom (removing tree roots from pipes)
- ◆ ACTS Ministries kicked off this summer (volunteer program to help those in need in our church family)
- ◆ Selling the Church van that was being underutilized (selling for nearly \$19K)
- ◆ Bethany Groups reinvigorated with new members joining existing groups
- ◆ A new Kids program kicked off this fall, bringing both church and preschool families together



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SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT (continued)

There is also a new project on the horizon, creating a greater level of security for the church. Although we have cameras around campus, the church cameras don't have recording capabilities (we do at the pre-school). We are purchasing a completely new camera and recording system. We look forward to getting this project completed in the next few months. This is one area that we are going forward with in faith. Please keep the church in your prayers so that the funds needed come to fruition.

We have a wonderful vestry comprised of members who are diligent, dedicated, thoughtful, and caring. Two of the 4 executive team members are parishioners who are not on the Vestry but have given of their time and talents to help - Judy Deac continued as Treasurer, and Kyle Feldman stepped in as Secretary. Of the Vestry members, Charles Turner served as our Junior Warden, and I as Senior Warden. Charles has been amazing. His knowledge and dedication are to be admired. His boots will be hard to fill next year! Many thanks to Rich Roberts for his dedication over the past three years. As a former junior warden and committed member of the vestry, he will be stepping off at the end of this year (along with me). My other fellow members are Nicole Evans, Brandon Bromwich, Kelly Harle, Hyacinth Kelly Lofton, Keith Ratchford, and Blanca Velazquez. I look forward to seeing the continued leadership and insights that this great group will bring in '26. And it goes without saying, many thanks to Father Jeremy for always being there to guide, give counsel and support.

As the year ends, it is time to leave my role as Sr. Warden, know that I am still available to help in any way I can now or in the future. Thank you for your support and concern, and most of all, thank you for making my family feel like a part of your family. God bless you all!

Church Safety and Security Report

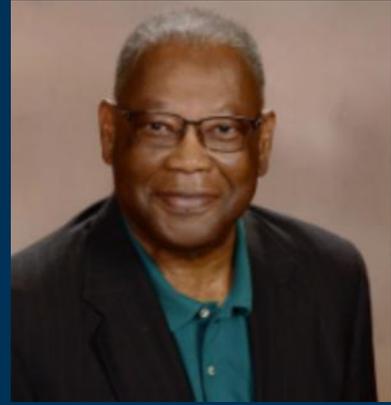
The Vestry approved the creation of the St. Peter's Safety and Security Team in 2023. They recognized that churches, worshippers, and people of faith have been the targets of violence and that churches across the country have developed security programs. The Vestry felt that the church should be prepared and ready in the event of an issue. St. Peter's has not been subject to any security issue of significance in 2025.

Purpose: To maintain a safe and secure environment for worship while facilitating the overall mission of the church and maintaining a friendly, welcoming environment.

The Team consists of 6 volunteer members, 5 armed, 1 unarmed. Team members are vetted by Father Jeremy and the Team Supervisor, Brian Bolton. We serve at Sunday and other worship services, and our members are trained to identify, deter, de-escalate, and resolve church safety and security issues. The Team Supervisor and Father Jeremy liaise with local law enforcement to acquire, share, and discuss risks and concerns on a periodic basis. We serve in plain clothes and carry concealed, if armed. Each Team member is required to undergo annual qualification and training. The last Team member training and qualification was successfully conducted in October, 2025. We're grateful to serve and love to keep our church family secure!

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

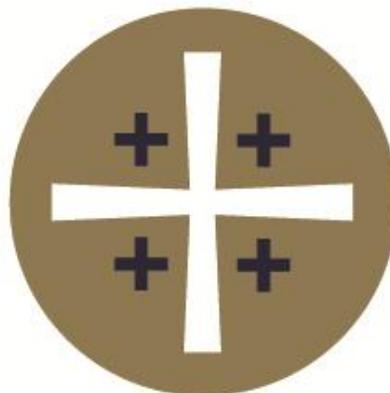
Charles Turner



To everyone who has given of their time, effort, and financial resources to maintain, repair and/or to improve the Facilities and Grounds at St Peter's, the Clergy, Administration, Staff and the Junior Warden thanks you. Your continued support will assure that the infrastructure and grounds will be able to support the mission and ministries of the church.

The 2025 Spring Clean-up was a success. Flower beds received new plantings, the church's cemetery received new mulch, sidewalks pressure washed, and the roof blown off. Thanks to all who took time to show up, rolled up their sleeves, and did what they could to make the church grounds better for all to enjoy.

During 2025 the church focused its maintenance efforts to maintain the infrastructure components for plumbing, lawn irrigation drip lines, HVAC, lightning and electrical, and gutter drainage. Maintenance actions were completed for items in need of repair but not fixed previously and new repair actions as they occur. When the capability to repair existed in-house that capability was used. Much thanks are given out to Mike Ivanov, ceiling light replacement and Keith Ratchford, building protection and ditch digging associated with the sewer line repair. Outside services were used for the repairs that required a skill set not available in-house.



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT (continued)

Charles Turner

Below is a listing of the repairs completed during 2025. Most notable of the repairs completed was the removal of tree roots discovered in the sewer line supporting the men's restroom.

Main Church	Plumbing-Sewer Line	Tree root removal
	Plumbing-Toilets	Replaced Parts
	Plumbing-Urinals	Replaced Parts
	Electrical-Dimmer SW	Replaced Parts
	Lightning-Kitchen Ceiling	Replace Parts
	Irrigation Lines	Replace Parts
	HVAC-Main Unit	Major Cleaning
	Kitchen-Refrigerator	Replaced Parts
Barge Hall	Electrical-Dimmer SW	Replaced Parts
	Plumbing-Toilet	Replace Parts
Family Life Center	Plumbing-Toilets	Replaced Parts
	Electrical-Light SW	Replaced Parts
	Gutters-Roof	Gutter Cleaning
	Landscaping	Tree Trimming
	Lightning-Parking lot	Replaced Parts
	Lightning-Building	Replaced Parts
St Peter's School	HVAC-Classrooms	Major Cleaning
	Lightning-Ceiling Lights	Replaced Parts
	Locksmith-FLC CR	Replaced Parts
	Wall System	Replaced Material
	Carpentry-CR#1 and #3	Door Patch

In conclusion, the state of our campus is STABLE with concerns caused by aging. Within the near future, exterior doors will require replacement, the roof will require wood replacement caused from wood rot, the church exterior walls will need painting, at least one HVAC system will be in need of replacement, and an upgrade to the camera surveillance system is necessary to support replay should something happen and replay is required. Currently, the church has no contingency funds to accommodate these situations should they occur. Thought must be given to increase giving to financially prepare St Peter's to handle these situations.



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PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Shannon Harshbarger



Our preschool & Kindergarten has 107 students enrolled, which serves 91 families. We have (4) 2-year-old classes, (3) 3-year-old classes, (3) VPK classes and (1) Kindergarten class. We are a VPK provider and are overseen by the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole. We also accept the Step-Up scholarship for students 3 and older. Our play-based classrooms are supported by our High Scope Preschool curriculum. We believe children learn through hands-on experiences. This year we will host our 11th annual Cheers for Children fundraiser held at Top Golf where we expect to raise around \$20,000. Throughout the school year we offer events such as the fire trucks visiting, an in-school fall festival, Santa's Workshop, holiday class parties, as well as a Christmas and Spring concerts. Our Wednesday morning chapels, with Fr. Jeremy, are a highlight of our school week!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Heather Gasowski



Leading the children and families ministries of St. Peter's Episcopal Church has been a privilege and an honor. Looking back, there is great gratitude for the dedicated team of volunteers, supportive parents, and most of all for the children who come ready to worship and grow each week. God has moved in the children's lives this year. Continued support is appreciated, as is entrusting the children.

Our Mission and Vision in Action

The mission in the Children's Ministry is to help children know God's love, grow in their faith, and share Jesus with the world. The mission came to life this year through...

Growth and milestones:

Attendance: An average of 12 children in Kids Church and 5 in the Nursery were served each week, ranging from babies to 5th graders.

Volunteers: The "Dream Team" of 12 volunteers grew to include 4 teens.

Baptisms: 3 baptisms were celebrated with children who made the decision to follow Christ.

A Statistical Overview

• **Weekly Lessons:** Throughout the year, unique Bible stories were taught using the Heart's Alive curriculum, mirroring "Big Church."

• **VBS:** The Vacation Bible School themed "Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace, served 65 children. The children made 7 blankets to donate to The Sharing Center.

• **Special Events:** A new event, Faith & Family Night, was launched in October for families with children aged 4-12 years old. We currently have 6 families who are participating.

Stories of Life Change and Community Impact

Beyond the numbers, the true story of the ministry is found in the lives touched by God.

• **Growing in their Faith:** One parent shared, "I love hearing my child sing the worship songs they learned in church. They have been asking more questions about Jesus and started reading the Bible."

• **Finding community:** A new family expressed their gratitude, saying, "Our kids instantly felt at home in Kids Church and the Nursery. They've made friends here, and it's made all the difference for our family."

A Huge Thank You!

This ministry would not be possible without the many hands and hearts they serve. Prayers, service, and financial support are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity and for being a church body that is very alive.



WORSHIP



Traditional Liturgy and Kids' Church Singers by Randy Krum

It is difficult to believe that the Allen Organ, a valuable support for the music of the traditional services, has been a fixture at the back of the church for thirteen years. Built in the 1980s, it was given to St. Peter's in 2012 and has functioned reliably with only minor repairs and adjustments until several weeks ago when it produced puffs of acrid smoke and uncharacteristic sounds. An Allen service technician was called, and he quickly identified the problem. Two major circuit boards in the solid-state electronics were failing. After they were replaced the organ was back to its glorious sound and will likely serve for many more years. Many thanks to our generous donors who covered most of the cost of the repair.

Our Choral Scholars have continued to anchor the music of the traditional liturgies for another year. We have been fortunate to engage highly competent singers to fill Scholar positions when some find it necessary to move on. The full complement of soprano, alto, tenor and bass is essential as we strive to offer choral music that is recognized as mainstream in traditional Anglican liturgy.

The children of Kids Church continue their singing at the 11 o'clock service on the third Sunday of the month, September through May. I am delighted that the joy and energy that we have during Kids Church

Contemporary Worship Music by John Walker

Looking back at 2025 we had some gains and losses, but God is always good and will continue to provide. Our team has remained grounded and consistent, and some beautiful new songs were introduced this year. We have enjoyed matching the songs straight to the lectionary and watching the Lord speak to hungry hearts. To God be all the honor, glory and praise! We're always looking for singers and instrumentalists, so if the Lord has gifted you in these areas and puts it on your heart to serve, please talk with John!





PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer Pillar supports and promotes both corporate and private prayer experiences within St. Peter's church. Intercessory Prayer Teams offer prayer for individual needs during Sunday Worship. A monthly Prayer Team meets with the Church Vestry to pray for their work and the congregation as they conduct the business of the Parish at each Vestry meeting. The Daughters of the King are dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of St. Peter's. The Prayer Pillar conducts special prayer services, vigils and other opportunities in coordination with the Daughters of the King. A daily online prayer presence connects our members with others through both prayer and scripture postings to various sources.

Bible Studies and Classes

The Women of St. Peter's have a strong desire to know the Lord more fully and to join together in supportive study of His Word, in devoted prayer and praise, and in fellowship with each other as the body of Christ. We pore over the Holy Scriptures as they relate to our selected topical studies. We recently finished **an in-depth study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount** and have also dug into the **Book of Hebrews** and **the Gospel of John**. Open to all church women, friends, and mothers from the Preschool, our ladies meet Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 am in the Family Life Center. For info. call Laurie Mealor at 321-228-3483.

Our Tuesday night Bible Studies for men and women continue strong, led by Brandon and Emily Fletcher. Join them in the Family Life Center every Tuesday evening!

Fr Jeremy taught two new, major classes this year.

Ephesians Study (Winter/Spring 2025)

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians is one of the most glorious portrayals of Christ and the Christian life in the whole of the Bible. Many found it extremely helpful in understanding the big picture of God's work in Christ and God's work in us. If you weren't able to attend, we encourage you to watch the video recordings on our YouTube channel.

39 Articles of Religion (Fall/Winter 2025)

What do Anglicans actually believe, anyway? It no longer needs to be a mystery! Find out what makes us distinct from other Christian traditions. Catch up with class recordings and come join us on Sunday mornings at 10am as we continue to make our way through the Reformation teaching of the Anglican tradition.

COMMUNITY

Debbie Long

This past December 2024, the Community Pillar team held a festive Church Christmas Party in the Family Life Center. The festivities included a live nativity and DJ Jorge playing some great music for all ages. As usual, all the children wanted to dance with Father Jeremy!

On Shrove Tuesday, we held our usual pancake supper. It was a great turnout and enjoyed by all.

For a change, our Annual Picnic was held in April to escape the heat and those pesky summer showers. Pulled pork was prepared by our own Brandon Fletcher and was kindly donated by a friend. It was delicious along with all the wonderful sides provided by our members. There were approximately 85 in attendance. It was a beautiful day here at St. Peter's and everyone enjoyed getting together.

August was the Annual Boo Hoo/Woo Hoo Breakfast for the preschool parents hosted by Church Members, with Sandy Robinson providing the continental breakfast. It was a great success with only a few tears from first time parents dropping kiddies off. We also sponsored a back to school drive and collected many needed items to support Tools4Seminole School.

All in all, it was a great year for St. Peter's and the Community Pillar Team. Thanks to the Team for all the hard work and dedication. Looking forward to another great year. We are so blessed here at St. Peter's.



2025 STATISTICAL REPORT

SACRAMENT REPORT



Baptisms

4

Marriages

2

Eucharist Services

105 Sunday

3 Weekday



Deaths

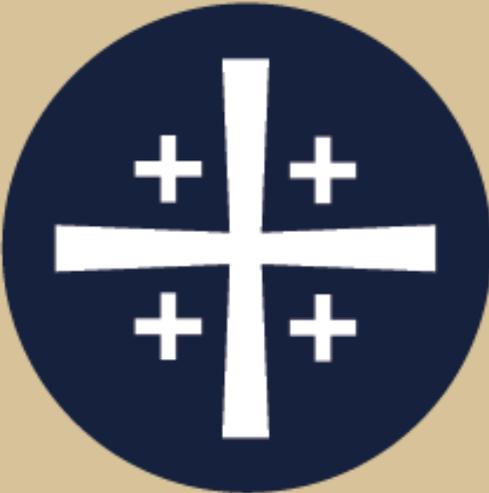
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Pastoral Visits

35

Daily Office

98



2025 VESTRY

Colette Ivanov, Senior Warden
Charles Turner, Junior Warden
Kyle Feldman, Secretary of the Vestry
Judy Deac, Treasurer
Brandon Bromwich
Nicole Evans
Kelly Harle
Hyacinth Kelly Lofton
Keith Ratchford
Rich Roberts
Blanca Velazquez

CLERGY

Fr. Jeremy Bergstrom, Rector
The Rev. Nina Bolton, Deacon

CHURCH STAFF

Randy Krum, Organist-Choirmaster
John Walker, Director of Contemporary Music
Carissa Guy, Parish Administrator
Jennifer Plant, Bookkeeper
Heather Gasowski, Minister to Families
Michael Jennings, Youth Ministry Assistant
Kevin Wright, Sexton
Sherond Wright, Assistant Sexton
Nate Mwangi, Sunday Sexton
Norma Hutchinson, Nursery
Hayden Fellmy, Nursery
Noah M. Gasowski, Nursery

SCHOOL STAFF

Shannon Harshbarger, Director
Sheryl Broomell, Office Manager
Jen Plant, Bookkeeper
Lisa Babitt
Liz Bernard
Kim Briggs
Lindsey Brones
Claudia Dawson
Joan Delesky
Romy Felix
Heather Gasowski
Marlene Gilmore
Jane Hatfield
Carrie Johnson
Geovana Kovalski
Jackie Pepe
Ingrid Perry
Meredith Rice
Tiffany Robinson
Krystal Suarez
Niki Voyles



SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30AM Holy Communion
with Traditional Music
10:00AM Christian Education
11:00AM Holy Communion
with Contemporary Music

WEEKDAY SERVICES

9:30AM Morning Prayer
Mondays Online Only
5:45PM Evening Prayer
Wednesdays In-Person Only



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